

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 5, 2007**

Present: Fran Bell, Pat Krause, Mark Miller, Dawn Potter-Williams, Carolyn Rutland, Kyle Smith, John Taylor, Melanie Stout

Environmental Health: Kim Finkbeiner, Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger, Vern Johnson, Jeff Reicherts

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Citizen Comments	None		
2. Review of Minutes	Postponed. Not enough members present for a quorum.	Will review at October 3rd meeting.	
3. Review of Agenda	Mark M. requested that item number 5 be moved to next item for discussion due to time conflict.	Item 5 moved up on Agenda.	Deb to contact Margaret and Kathy.
4. Plug In Partners Resolution	Mark M. organized a committee with Carolyn Rutland, Bryan Bowne, and John Taylor to look at a resolution to take to the county board on encouraging the use of plug in hybrids. A draft resolution was emailed to the committee members, and John informally showed it the county board, and it appears to have been favorably received. The resolution does not require any specific concrete action, just encourages the using of plug in hybrids where possible. The draft resolution was passed out to members to review for next month's meeting. Any changes should be emailed to Mark. John Taylor stated he did not anticipate any problems with the County Board.	Will be added to October Agenda for a vote.	
5. MRSA Outbreak	Dr. Tooker, Kalamazoo County Health Officer gave a presentation regarding the recent outbreaks in Kalamazoo County of Community Associated Methicillen Resistent Staphylococcus Aureus (CA-MRSA). Staphylococcus Aureus is a very common bacterium. A large percentage of any group of people have colonies of this bacteria on their skin. However, some of these bacteria are becoming resistant to antibiotics. Risk groups include Children in day care, early elementary schools and schools for developmentally delayed; Athletes where there is a lot of skin to skin contact; Jails, Prison Inmates, Military Recruits, Homeless; etc. any time when you have settings where hygiene is difficult to maintain. Risk factors include having had a previous episode; anywhere there is skin-to-skin contact; breaks in skin (cuts, abrasions, etc); contaminated items; crowded living conditions; poor hygiene. MRSA can be treated with alternative antibiotics, however, it is expensive to treat and identify. If the infection moves beyond the skin to internal sites, it can be very dangerous and can become life threatening. It is important to educate young people on prevention such as, keeping their hands clean, showering, keeping cuts and abrasions cleaned and covered, discarding used bandages in the trash, avoiding contact with other's	Dr. Tooker passed out a copy of an article he had printed in the Kalamazoo Gazette last year.	

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	<p>wounds, and not sharing personal items such as towels, washcloths, clothing, uniforms and equipment. It is important to clean and disinfect the environment and any shared items. Use the dryer when doing laundry. Report any persistent, draining, non-healing wounds. Kalamazoo County has had outbreaks in local high schools and at WMU among athletes, and at a local business. HCS and EH staff has put together pamphlets, information sheets, and signs to provide information, and promote education regarding environmental cleaning protocols.</p>		
6. Committee Term Expirations	<p>Vern mentioned the term expirations for Kathy Buckham, Margaret O'Brien, and Kyle Smith, inquiring whether they planned on continuing on the committee, and requesting that they advise Deb.</p>	<p>Kyle indicated he intends to remain on the Committee</p>	<p>Deb to contact Margaret and Kathy.</p>
7. Future Topics/Updates	<p>Vern passed out a list of potential agenda topics for 2007, with topics that had been covered crossed out. A review indicated that the Anti-Freeze Recycling Opportunities was previously covered. "Friends of Richland" to discuss gravel pit issue was added to the list. A request was made to look over the list and bring any changes or additions to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Add to Agenda for October for follow up.</p>	
8. Member Comments	<p>Christine left a Meth Update paragraph for Vern to share with the committee. The quarterly report will be out October 15th, it will be covered in the November EHAC Meeting. John Taylor mentioned that the commissioners were putting together an internal energy efficiency committee for county operations. The organizational meeting has been scheduled for September 17th. It will be heavy with commissioner representation, and Dave McCafferty.</p>	<p>Add Meth Update to November Agenda</p>	