

**Kalamazoo County
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Present: Francis Bell, Patricia Crowley, Leroy Crabtree, Daniel Moyle, Dawn Potter-Williams, Patricia Randall, Jack Urban, Mike Wetzel, Jim Pearson, David Harn, Erich Zinser.

Absent: Kathleen Buckham, Deborah Cardiff, Jeannie Himmelein, Kristen Rimes, John O'Keefe.

Environmental Health: Tom Dewhirst, Vern Johnson, Heather Nicholas, Kim Steinman, Connie Reese

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
1. Welcome - Introductions			
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes from May's meeting were approved.		
3. Citizens Comments	No Citizen Comments		
4. Mid Year EH Program Updates	<p>Tom Dewhirst announced that the meeting was a semiannual update on programs within Environmental Health. Kim Steinman started by giving an update on Land water & wastewater programs. The LWW team does work with sewage, water, meth, surface water, and the Type II well program. Kim stated the Sewage Code revisions are underway. The 3rd meeting is being held this Friday, June 15, 2012, with help from two of her Environmental Health specialists, Max Bjorkman and Todd Jaranowski.</p> <p>Kim stated that numbers are up this year for sewage permits, including new construction houses and businesses. This is the first time there has been an increase in permits since 2007. Kim was also informed that a subdivision review will be coming in which is the first in several years.</p> <p>The state of Michigan is also currently doing sanitary code criteria revisions for commercial septic systems.</p> <p>Meth is still a problem in Kalamazoo. There have been 710 condemnations since we started counting them in 2004. Out of the 710 condemnations, 50 of those cases are still condemned. The meth regulations will also be</p>		

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	<p>revised, but only changes will be made to the language to help simplify. There will not be any changes in the policies. Kim also stated that the public swimming beaches are in the process of being sampled. Samples are collected every Monday from the beaches. Test results have been good so far. Due to staff cuts, surface water sampling is not being done on a scheduled basis. Samples will be collected randomly when necessary in response to a complaint.</p> <p>Kim informed everyone that Carolyn Hobbs Kreiger left the Environmental Health office to work for the State of Michigan. Heather Nicholas has taken over her duties and is responsible for the Type II water wells; along with her original position as Groundwater Specialist. It has been a very smooth transition and Heather is doing a great job. The only change is she will not be holding the training sessions for Type II Operators, as there are other resources available for them.</p> <p>Vern Johnson gave an update on the Food Safety and Facilities programs. He provided a hand out with 2012 Mid - year statistics. The food program is seeing a slight growth of about 4%. The food program consists of restaurant inspections, temporary events such as Greek Fest, Island Fest, etc. The only food facilities it does not include are Grocery Stores. These inspections are performed by Michigan Department of Agriculture. About 2000 pounds of food has been discarded as results of staff finding temperature abuse or cross contamination in restaurants.</p> <p>Vern also stated that the environmental health specialists hold food safety classes for food managers. There is a new law that requires most food establishments to have a certified manager on staff. We hold about four classes per year.</p> <p>The environmental health specialists are currently performing pre opening inspections for all seasonal outdoor public swimming pools in Kalamazoo. All public</p>		

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	<p>swimming pools are responsible to bring in weekly samples to the laboratory to be tested for bacteria and Ecoli. Staff monitors the results and calls operators as necessary to make corrections or close their pool. Another round of inspections to seasonal pools will be done in July or August. The indoor public swimming pools are also inspected twice yearly.</p> <p>Vern stated that there are currently 19 body art facilities in Kalamazoo County. Fifteen inspections to body art facilities have been performed so far this year.</p> <p>Staff has also performed 17 adult and child care facility inspections. These include adult family homes, child care centers, and children’s foster homes. These inspections are done as requested from Department of Human Services.</p> <p>The healthy homes program is very active. So far this year, we have received one elevated blood lead level. Jennifer does inspections of the home to determine how the child is being exposed to lead. Toys, cookware, paint, blinds, etc are tested with a lead analyzer. Lead assessments are also done for Headstart facilities and other child care facilities built before 1978. EH has also performed 12 full risk assessments as requested by contractors and homeowners, and 25 clearance inspections requested after remediation by a contractor.</p> <p>Staff has been working on a project “voluntary retail program standards” through FDA for about four years. We have currently passed three of the standards, and are working on two more that we should be passing soon.</p> <p>The food enforcement section of the sanitary code is being revised. The changes are mostly terminology to reflect the changes made in the 2009 food code.</p> <p>Vern also stated the housing regulations are being revised.</p> <p>Last update from Vern was regarding an incident with an overturned semi truck carrying food. Vern recently worked alongside the State to inspect all food from a refrigerated</p>		

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	<p>truck and determine what food needed to be destroyed and what food could be kept.</p> <p>Tom Dewhirst gave an update on Household Hazardous Waste. He stated that HHW has been in operation for 25 years. In the first year of operation, 250 households used the facility. In year 25, 9500 households used the facility. Tom stated that during the first six months of 2012, 4500 households used the HHW facility for a total 277,000 pounds of unused materials. Tom contributed a lot of that to businesses bringing in florescent light bulbs. There is also new technology such as cell phones and flat screen TV's, so people bring in their old electronics. HHW continues to accept used motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries, and pesticides, batteries, and cleaning products. Tom stated that one frustration HHW staff has, is the inability to get the Kalamazoo Gazette to cover any collections that they have. Tom stated that if anyone had ideas on how they can advertise, he would love to hear them. Some suggestions mentioned were senior centers, and township newsletters. HHW does have a new flier and If anyone needs a supply, please see him after the meeting. Many members commented that they have received incredible service at the HHW center. Tom was asked if there was anyway HHW would change their hours to accommodate the working population that cannot get to their facility. Tom mentioned that their business has increased 50% over the last five years; however they have had no increase in staffing. There are several part time employees, and HHW has no money to expand their hours.</p> <p>Tom gave an update on the use or the red boxes. There has been 1387 pounds of unwanted medications collected between the four boxes so far. Substance abuse has done a good job with advertisement. The intent is to expand to other locations.</p>		

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5. Member comments	Leroy reminded members that there is no EHAC meeting scheduled for the month of July. Patricia reminded everyone about "Breakfast on the Farm".		