



Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Commission Meeting Minutes –  
Pending Approval  
March 10, 2022  
Michigan Public Health Institute - Zoom

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**COMMISSIONERS:** Dr. Alexis Travis, Sean Dunleavy, Nick Derusha, Orlando Todd, Dr. Wayne McCullough, Tom Matthew, Ken Bowen, Dr. Angelique Outlaw, Dan Hale, Vaughn Begick

**GUESTS:** Laura de la Rambelje, Jessie Jones, Haley David, Jennifer Schuette, Jon Gonzalez, Jeremy Hoeh, Shane Green, Molly Cotant, Jennifer Bonksy

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Meeting convened at 9:32 AM, chaired by Dr. Alexis Travis.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – ALL MEMBERS**

Dr. Travis shared with the group with Carol Austerberry has left the Commission.

**AGENDA APPROVAL – ALL MEMBERS**

Dunleavy moved to accept the agenda as written. Derusha supported. The motion passed unanimously.

**Organizational – All Members**

Todd nominated Derusha for Vice Chair. Dunleavy supported. All in favor. Motion passed. Nick Derusha is appointed as the Vice Chair for the Commission for 2022.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – ALL MEMBERS**

Begick moved to accept the Minutes from the previous meeting as written. Hale supported. The motion passed unanimously.

**UPDATE OF ON-SITE REVIEWS AND CORRECTIVE PLANS OF ACTION STATUS – JESSIE JONES**

There are no On-Site Reviews or Corrective Plans of Action to approve or discuss due to the Accreditation Pause

**CORRESPONDENCE – JESSIE JONES**

There are no letters to share due to the Accreditation Pause.

**ACCREDITATION DATA REPORTS – JESSIE JONES**

**Cumulative Accreditation Cycle 7 Missed Indicators Report**

There is nothing to share due to the Accreditation Pause.

**Cumulative Quality Improvement Supplement (QIS)**

There is nothing to share due to the Accreditation Pause.

**Review Evaluation Summary**

There is nothing to share due to the Accreditation Pause.

### **MEETING NATIONAL STANDARDS: CAPACITY BUILDING – JONES**

Jones updated the Commission on the current activities for capacity building in public health. Jones shared the activities are ongoing. Three accreditation readiness grants have been awarded for fiscal year 22. Jones shared that technical assistance bank hours are ongoing and MPHI is working with health departments on strategic planning and organizational quality improvement plan. Jones also shared that this summer MPHI will have a Quality Improvement Train-the-Trainer for state, local, and tribal public health agency staff. Jones shared that there is an invitation going out soon for State Health Assessment Listening Sessions and some commission members can expect to receive the invitation.

### **ACCREDITATION PAUSE DISCUSSION:**

De La Rambelje shared that Accreditation has been paused for almost exactly two years as of this week. There has been work going on in the background both at the state and local health departments. There are plans to discuss a restart of Accreditation with MALPH and state programs. These discussions will be ongoing and will focus on relationship building and technical assistance for the Local Health Departments. De La Rambelje shared that a large number of Local Health Department staff are new and in need of training.

Jones shared we are currently in a listening phase. Listening to Local Health Departments and the State Programs about what is going on and their experiences. Jones shared that we will next have a discussion to hear about current activities and needs from both the state and local level.

Jones asked the group what programs or services have been least affected by pandemic response, if any? Bowen shared that all programs have been devastated at his health department. All are struggling, some more than others. Derusha agreed and also shared it is particularly hard for smaller departments, but larger departments are struggling as well. Begick shared that the health director he works with almost resigned because of pushback. Matthew shared that Branch Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties that the pandemic has impacted the environmental health department. Todd shared that on the state side, with program staff who conduct reviews, programs have been disrupted and it is an all-hands-on deck situation.

Jones asked the group where they see the greatest needs for training and technical assistance? Dunleavy shared that his program has been receiving requests for technical assistance. Derusha shared that assistance with septic and wells services would be greatly appreciated. Todd shared that the Hearing and Vision Programs have experienced high turnover with technicians. Begick shared that his county is using the pandemic funding to purchase a new building for the health department and to increase staff numbers and help the health department. Derusha shared that there needs to be a significant investment into workforce. Dr. Travis shared that she is glad to hear that Begick's county is investing in the health department in a long-term way.

Jones asked how accreditation can be used to best support local health departments? Derusha stated there is a lot of anxiety about Accreditation restarting. He shared that his opinion is to tell LHDs to not focus on Accreditation at all and to instead focus on the business at hand and start doing what they can to get back on track. Bowen agreed with Derusha. Bowen also shared that a resolution for Cycle 7 needs to be made and shared with LHDs to give them peace of mind.

Dunleavy shared that he had a discussion with his staff about what a restart could look like. Their team came up with an idea of the restart occurring in phases. Derusha shared that for the next few years the Accreditation start up should not focus on reviews but rather technical assistance. Hale asked how many empty positions there are and if there is a number for the new staff starting in local health departments. De La Rambelje does not know the specific number but has asked health departments. Some LHDs have been fortunate and have not lost many, other LHDs expect to lose more staff once the pandemic ends, other LHDs have lost half of their staff and have half new staff starting this year.

Dr. Travis spoke on the workforce development challenges. The impact of the pandemic attrition is going to be much more impactful on workforce development. There are many people ready for retirement and preparedness for this turnover needs happen. McCullough shared that it may be helpful to combine the efforts of Public Health Training programs in a concentrated way to put before students at the bachelors and master's level for opportunities for serving Michigan. Bowen shared workforce recovery also needs to be focused on. He shared that they are not equipped to focus on anything else right now but recovery. Todd shared he agrees with everyone on workforce development and recovery. He also shared it is the same for the State Programs and agrees that there needs to be an update on Cycle 7. De La Rambelje shared that she and Jones will work on sending out an update that Cycle 7 will not be continuing. De La Rambelje shared that some federal programs were unable to stop reviews and services.

Dr. Travis thanked the group for the discuss and acknowledged the requests for a formal message to programs and health departments that Cycle 7 is stopped and will not be finished. Jones agreed and shared that the three departments that oversee Accreditation at the state level have formally made the decision to end Cycle 7.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dunleavy shared this will be his last meeting as he plans to retire in April. He thanked the Commission and the other commissioners shared their congratulations and thanks for his work on the Commission and his support for public health in Michigan over the years.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by McCullough, seconded by Dunleavy. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am by Nick Derusha.