



Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Commission Meeting Minutes –  
Approved  
January 11th, 2023  
Michigan Public Health Institute - Zoom

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**COMMISSIONERS:** Orlando Todd, Tom Matthew, Nicholas Derusha, Adenike Shoyinka, Vaughn Begick, Dana DeBruyn, Danielle Persky, Kathryn McComber, Andrew Cox, Joe Coyle, Sarah Lyon-Callo, Katie Macomber, Nike Shoyinka, Wayne McCullough, Andrew Cox, Dan Hayle, Jennifer Bonsky, Angulique Outlaw

**GUESTS:** Laura de la Rabelje, Jessie Jones, Molly Cotant, Adrian Zeh, Maddy Davies, Jessica Nash, Tanya Rule

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Meeting convened at 9:30 AM, Chaired by Dr. Sarah Lyon-Callo.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – ALL MEMBERS**

DeBruyn formally introduced Tanya Rule as new On-Site Wastewater Director for EGLE. EGLE is also near launching an onsite septic replacement loan as part of the MiSaves program.

Begick mentioned Bay County will be gaining a new health department facility this year.

Bonsky shared the new departments of MDARD:  
Bureau of Food Safety and Animal Health Director - Tim Slawinski  
Human Food Division Director: Jennifer Bonsky  
Dairy, Feed and Produce Division Director: Amber Matulis  
Animal Industry Division Director: Dr. Jennifer Calogero

Jones asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Persky nominated Derusha, and McCullough supported. The appointment of Derusha as Vice Chair was approved by the group unanimously.

**AGENDA APPROVAL – ALL MEMBERS**

DeBruyn moved to accept the agenda as written. McCullough supported. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – ALL MEMBERS**

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

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

Jones provided an overview of the Cycle Spreadsheets/Update of CPA Status for Cycle 7, which has not changed since the last meeting. Two local health departments, Saginaw and Ingham, are still in the process of their Corrective Plans of Action. Ten health departments, Calhoun County through Wayne County, were not reviewed through Cycle 7 due to the Accreditation pause.

Davies shared the Cycle 8 Site Visit Summary Report for the 17 local health departments that have completed a Cycle 8 Review thus far. Sixteen (16) reports have been sent out to the health departments, and Mid-Michigan report is currently being processed. Fifteen local health departments will be reviewed in 2024, and we will be starting off with the City of Detroit.

### **CYCLE 8 COMMISSION REPORT**

Davies shared the Cycle 8 Commission Report document for all health departments who have had a Site Visit thus far, including Kalamazoo through St. Clair County. Bay and Mid-Michigan are not included in this data, those sites will be included in the next quarterly report. Overall findings were that the local health departments are appreciative of the way Cycle 8 has been formatted and are please the programs are focusing on capacity building as well as hearing from the program areas about how they can improve. Local health departments have urged Reviewers to indicate whether the health department would have the MPRs/indicators in a typical Accreditation cycle. The Reviewers have been asked to include this item in the reports so that local health departments know whether there are issues to address. Davies continued on to share previous themes as well as any new emerging themes presented regarding Areas of Strength, Needs, and Supports since the last meeting. McCullough asked if there are themes for the staffing changes? Davies confirmed this issue is present within the needs of the health departments. Along with funding, staffing, training, resources, and guidance, there have been requests for support for salaries, flexible and unrestricted funding streams, staff turnover, etc. Requests for training have been seen across programs and local health departments along with resources and guidance, such as TA, best practices, community outreach, and collaborations.

Dr. Lyon-Callo commented on the report showing the resiliency seen in public health in Cycle 8 and the common themes of the flexibility of funding and up-to-date policies, as well as modernization of equipment, which are all very helpful to know.

### **SITE VISIT EVALUATION REPORT**

Jones shared the Site Visit Evaluation Reports for each program. Out of 14 health departments, 11 have completed their surveys for a total of 100 evaluations submitted. Overall, the themes have not changed much since the previous meeting, and responses consistently agree or strongly agree across the board. Jones shared the Cycle 8 Site Visit Summary document containing qualitative report data from the evaluation. Overall, the findings were that this process was helpful for health departments to go through to gain feedback, have their staff acknowledged for their hard work, and for new staff to gain knowledge and experience. Themes for Areas of Strengths were that services are continuing through the pandemic with high quality. Needs seen overall were staffing shortages, high turnover, and increased funding to hire new staff. Overall, staff have good knowledge of the MPRs, and the majority of hypothetical “met” or “not met” designations were due to circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Persky brought up a concern regarding their Site Visit reviews occurring outside of their review week (over a month and a half span), which she was not able to share on the evaluation. Per Jones, it is not typical for the review to be spread across an entire month, but the dates must be made an agreement between the health department and the Reviewers and typically can happen either the week before or after if agreed upon.

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

Jones discussed the request for proposals for the three Accreditation Readiness mini-grants available to help build capacity to meet national standards. These \$10,000 grants are open to all local and tribal health departments in the state, and proposals are due by January 26th. Additionally, there will be a Quality Improvement Train-the-Trainer virtual class offered in February and again in August. The TA Bank of Hours is available for local and tribal health departments to apply online for virtual assistance related to the standards. The application is located online at the following link: <https://miophi.org/resources/technical-assistance-request/>.

## **FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING UPDATES:**

De la Rambelje reviewed the process for Accreditation Cycle 8 and that the LHS has created a log that contains questions/concerns from the local health departments requesting during their Powers and Duties Site Visit. The LHS team meets weekly to catalog this. There have been 203 total supports brought up during the Powers and Duties Site Visits (St Clair and Mid-Michigan not included in these numbers). The LHS team has followed up with the programs where they have received requests. Overall, the themes were nutrition, health education, environmental health, communicable disease, clinical, administrative, and all (funding needs, etc.). A majority of the concerns were related to administrative needs. The types of support were Training, Technology, Technical Assistance, Staffing, Quality Improvement, Physical Infrastructure, Governance, Funding, Data, and Communication. The majority of the support was related to Funding, Technical Assistance, and Training. De la Rambelje mentioned the Public Health Infrastructure Grant from the CDC, which is a broad-based and flexible four-year grant and funds have been distributed to local health departments. These grants have been able to meet some of the needs of those health departments. De la Rambelje shared the steps LHS takes to follow up on each of the questions/concerns, 141 requests have been completed and several are still in progress.

Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS) legislature appropriated an additional \$25 million. LHS convened the funding committee of the state (MDHHS, EGLE, MDARD) and local representatives to develop a plan on how to allocate the funds. Majority of this new funding has been rolled out to the local health departments.

De la Rambelje provided an overview of the Strengthening Public Health Workforce and Infrastructure in Michigan (PHIG) Grant. The purpose is flexible funding for state and local public health to invest in workforce, foundational capabilities, and data modernization to be used over the next four years. This grant is being used to hire new staff, switch part-time to full-time employees, and to overall improve their infrastructure. Dr. Lyon-Callo mentioned most grants have been appropriated by now, and hopefully, we will see the impact in future cycles. With the PHIG grant, MDHHS will be hiring a workforce development director to work with MALPH and LHD to ensure resources are flowing and allowing their public health systems to transform.

Cox mentioned the need to have the funding dollars go towards DMI, MICR, and MDSS capacity and data integration. It would be very beneficial to integrate these systems. Dr. Lyon-Callo agreed modernization activities need to happen in these areas as well. Dr. Lyon-Callo also mentioned that we do need to ensure we capture anything related to this that comes up during the Site Visits.

**OTHER:**

DeBruyn shared that EGLE just wrapped up the 72<sup>nd</sup> On-Site Wastewater conference at Michigan State University campus. Local health departments presented and were well received. Over 260 people were in attendance, and about 30 participated in a soils lab during the conference. Another local health training will be provided in Grand Traverse Resort in partnership with Michigan Ground Water Association in March for a two-day Fundamentals in Water Well Construction. Partnerships have been created with the Well Drillers Association to sponsor well drillers and sanitarians to attend this training.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am by Chair Lyon-Callo.