



Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Commission Meeting Minutes –
Approved
June 12th, 2025
Michigan Public Health Institute - Zoom

COMMISSIONERS: Nick Derusha, Danielle Persky, Adenike Shoyinka, Angulique Outlaw, Jennifer Bonsky, Dana DeBruyn, Vaughn Begick, Katie Macomber

GUESTS: Jessie Jones, Jess Nash, Madeline Starr, Amanda Garvin, Tanya Rule, Laura De La Rangelje, Molly Cotant, Sahil Bhatia

Meeting convened at 9:33 am, called to order by Co-Chair Nick Derusha.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – ALL MEMBERS

No general announcements were shared.

AGENDA APPROVAL – ALL MEMBERS

Persky moved to accept the agenda as written. Begick supported. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – ALL MEMBERS

Shoyinka moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written. Outlaw supported. The motion passed unanimously.

CYCLE 8 SPREADSHEET:

The health departments who have been through their Site Visit since the last Commission meeting have been updated in the spreadsheet.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Starr shared that no changes to overarching themes are anticipated for the remainder of Cycle 8.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS:

Jones reviewed the evaluations from the 36 health departments who have reached their evaluation date. There were no important updates to findings from the previous report, as respondents continue to express overall satisfaction. A member of the Commission asked what occurs when a program's results are low. Jones replied that the program's manager and staff are informed, asked to identify opportunities for improvement, and have been invited to the Commission to share or ask for additional feedback.

MEETING NATIONAL STANDARDS: CAPACITY BUILDING

Jones shared updates on several different supports being provided via MPH and MDHHS to support Local Health Departments' abilities to meet national accreditation standards. MPH will be providing a Train the Trainer workshop in August of this year. The Save the Date was sent

out to local health departments' health officers, Accreditation Coordinators, and others for whom we have contact information.

Jones reminded the Commission about the rolling bank of technical assistance hours available to provide support and consultation to local and tribal health departments who are working on capacity building. Starr shared the link to the TA request form in the chat (<https://miophi.org/resources/technical-assistance-request/>). Please reach out to Jones or Starr for more information. Persky shared appreciation for the TA her team has received and noted how helpful it is.

A needs assessment survey will be sent out next fiscal year to help us identify what capacity building assistance is needed across local and Tribal health departments in Michigan.

ACCREDITATION UPDATES

Cycle 9 Updates:

Bhatia shared updates from the Standards Review Committee (SRC). He provided an update on the progress to date. Tools were distributed in advance and most have been approved. A few were requested for edits and subsequently approved. He did mention there were a couple still outstanding, and those were Powers and Duties and Onsite Wastewater.

DeBruyn shared updates on Onsite Wastewater. Their team has been meeting with Environmental Health directors through MALEHA. They have been meeting every other Monday to talk about the tool. The group met the Monday prior to the Commission meeting to review the potential changes and reasons behind the changes. The MALEHA group met separately from EGLE and took votes on the changes. The EGLE team had not officially heard back on the result. The next step is for EGLE to meet with the entire organization of MALEHA (next Wednesday), then they will get back to EGLE after that meeting. DeBruyn will be meeting with Bhatia today to provide updates and next steps information. If they can get all the documentation to SRC with enough notice, they would be eager to get it to SRC by the 24th. EGLE is committed to getting information to SRC as soon as possible.

Derusha asked when SRC process should be complete. De La Rambelje stated they were hoping by the end of June. They have another meeting scheduled for June 30th.

Jones and De La Rambelje have been discussing preparedness for the new cycle. De La Rambelje intends that Health Departments will be sent a PDF of the entire tool once it is completed. The MPHI team is ready to upload all documents to the website as quickly as possible. They also provided an update on the updates to be made, and we hope to have all updates available by September 1st. Powers and Duties will be reaching out to all health officers prior to reviews to provide TA before their visits. Derusha asked if there was a drop-dead date for tools to be finalized and what happens if a tool is not ready by that date. De La Rambelje said mid-July, and the previous practice is that the previous tool would stand.

Other:

De la Rambelje shared an update about the state and local funding picture, recognizing the uncertainty and the current difficult situation. A meeting was scheduled this afternoon with the Bureau of Preparedness and Health Officers; the cut is not as large as expected. Cuts are rippling through the system. Not only is the COVID fund impacted, but so are other programs. Some of those Bureau Directors are present in the Commission Meeting. All will need to be flexible and nimble to navigate this time period. The anticipated impact on state funding is not yet known. The Senate has its draft bills; however, draft bills from the House have not been provided. MDHHS provides information to the legislators as requested. MDHHS understands this creates difficulties in presenting budgets to boards and will continue to keep people informed and share information as soon as it is available.

Derusha asked that the team at MDHHS maintain communication with the MALPH executive committee during huddles to discuss information and plans. De La Rambelje mentioned they are connecting with Norm Hess, and she meets weekly with Rebecca Burns to discuss this topic and collect questions. Health officers are calling frequently to get information that impacts and improves communication among all of the health officers. Those are routine meetings. They will call right away to give a heads-up if something hits quickly.

Begick shared that Commissioners are preparing a budget, which is not easy these days with department heads putting in their requests, you must weigh priorities, and sometimes people are not happy.

Next Accreditation Commission Meeting will be held on September 11th, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment by Persky. Supported by Shoyinka. Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am by Chair Dr. Sarah Lyon-Callo.