



Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators MALEHA

Representing Local Environmental Public Health Departments in Michigan

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Forum Report June 2019

For June, additional progress has been made on MALEHA's top three priorities - the statewide onsite sewage disposal code, cannabis products as they intersects local health department programs and updates to the food law/food code. I also wanted to share that the MALEHA board has approved some updated bylaws. These clarifications will help engage our board and direct their work to be more effective for our organization. These will be reviewed at our June meeting for discussion and a vote.

Statewide Onsite Sewage Disposal Workgroup: After MALEHA passed the core principles document at our May meeting, MALPH approved the document at their June meeting. We now have an updated and shared core principles document to work from and be able to speak with a united voice. Kudos to Matt Boland and the entire workgroup. The next step for the joint MALPH/MALEHA workgroup is to begin working on a document that details some code language. Matt plans to reconvene the workgroup in another month or so.

Cannabis Workgroup: No update this month. This workgroup plans to meet quarterly.

Food Code/Food Law: MDARD hosted a large group meeting for the stakeholders on Friday May 31. At this meeting, several MALEHA members, including Tony Drautz, Addie Hambley, Vern Johnson, and myself. Steve Hall and Ken Bowen were also in attendance and represented MALPH. MDARD included additional stakeholders, such as those organizations representing restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores/gas stations, etc. Each stakeholder was given a "clicker" to vote in support, against or neutral on a variety of items. Most items were generally supported by the stakeholders, with the exception of a food handler certification. Items generally supported included dropping the "Specialized" in "Specialized Transitory Food Units", having a certified manager during all hours of operation for both grocery stores and restaurants, allowing local health departments to charge local fees for TFU licenses and inspections, and consider dual licensure by MDARD and local health for restaurants doing complex food processing. MDARD took this feedback and will work on some wordsmithing of various items.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Schweighoefer, June 18, 2019