

## APPENDIX C

### Linkages between Environmental Health and Public Health

Washtenaw County Public Health and Environmental Health have maintained linkages since the separation in the early 1990's. Some of the more formalized structures include the following:

1. An Interagency Agreement exists that outlines respective responsibilities of the Health Officer and the Environmental Health Director, particularly as it relates to programmatic changes, staffing, budget and authority for action and policy development.
2. Outbreak Team – The Outbreak Team consists of members of Public Health and Environmental Health for the purpose of responding to large or highly visible communicable diseases within the community. Included in the membership are the Medical Officer, Communicable Disease Coordinator, Public Health Epidemiologist, Environmental Health Director, Urban Division Director and sanitarian who acts as the lead investigator for food borne illnesses.
3. Fiscal Team – The Fiscal Team is a group of Public Health, Environmental Health and Washtenaw County Finance members that meets monthly to review budgetary matters in Environmental Health and Public Health. Included on the team is the Health Officer, the Public Health Finance Manager, Public Health Accountant, Environmental Health Director, Environmental Health Senior Account Clerk, the Budget Analyst for the respective departments, and the Washtenaw County Senior Accountant/Auditor.
4. Public Health Emergency Response Team – Environmental Health is a component of the overall Public Health Emergency Response Team. There is currently a contract between Public Health and Environmental Health in the amount of \$25,000 to develop the Emergency Response Plan for Environmental Health. Environmental Health participates as necessary in table-top exercises and real events. The Environmental Health Director is one of the backup designees for the Health Officer/Medical Officer in the event of an emergency. This team coordinates with the County Emergency Management Department and is part of the Bioterrorism Subcommittee.
5. West Nile Virus Prevention Team – Public Health and Environmental Health are leaders of the West Nile Virus Prevention Team. In that role, appropriate strategies are determined for the prevention of West Nile Virus educational materials, press releases and public outreach activities are coordinated. Other members include MSU Extension, the U-M, and a volunteer entomologist.
6. Health Improvement Plan – Environmental Health participates in the Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan. Environmental Health helps determine the appropriate indicators dealing with matters of the environment for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive health plan.  
Asthma Coalition – Environmental Health and Public Health provide leadership roles in Washtenaw County Asthma Coalition. Community participation includes representation from area hospitals and the U-M.
7. Food Service Hearing Board – The Health Officer acts as the Hearing Officer for the Food Service Hearing Board. Members include a member of the Board of Commissioners, a member of the food service industry appointed by the Board of Commissioners and the Health Officer. Cases for enforcement are prepared by Environmental Health staff and presented by the Division or Department Director.

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### Linkages between Environmental Health and Public Health (cont.)

8. Public Health/Environmental Health Management Team – Senior management of Public Health and Environmental Health meet on a monthly basis to review common issues and assure consistent policy development and application.
9. Gelman County Policy Group – Environmental Health and Public Health are represented on the Gelman Policy Group.
10. Intergovernmental Policy Committee (IPC) – Environmental Health and Public Health are represented on the IPC.
11. Public Health Advisory Committee/Environmental Appeals Board – The Health Officer attends and makes presentations at the PHAC/EAB meeting as does the Environmental Health Director. Environmental Health staff presents background information and staffs the committee for the purpose of hearing appeals regarding onsite water, onsite sewage and pollution prevention issues.

In addition to these teams and committees, frequent communication occurs between Environmental Health and Public Health over a variety of issues.

1. Enforcement Action – Prior to taking any enforcement action, Environmental Health consults and receives concurrence from the Health Officer. Examples of such action include: closing of swimming pools, food service closures, housing condemnations, and issuance of public health advisories.
2. State Contracts/Accreditation – Environmental Health and Public Health receive State cost-sharing, and have other contracts that obligate the County to perform certain activities to receive monies. The Dept of Agriculture funding for food service activities is included with the State Comprehensive Planning and Budget Contract (CPBC – check with STef) which is adopted annually by the WC BOC. These obligations are audited every three (3) years as part of the overall accreditation of the County Health Department. For purposes of this accreditation and State contracts, Environmental Health is considered a part of Public Health.
3. Environmental Epidemiology – Environmental Health and Public Health work cooperatively in the event of any environmental epidemiology investigations. Examples include investigations of alleged legionnaire's disease, rabies, indoor air quality issues, swimmers' itch, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Saint Louis Encephalitis, and other arbor-borne viruses as well as any environmentally induced illnesses.
4. Joint Training – Environmental Health and Public Health participated in joint training in the investigation of foodborne illnesses.