



Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board
NOTES

February 25, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

[MS Teams](#)

Phone: 248-509-0316 / Access: 988 974 140

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eva Alvarez	Adam Dietrich	Trever Meachum	Dorian Slaybod
Craig Anderson	Bill Groenink	Lupita Perales	Beth VanDrie
Jesse Costilla	Joann Hoganson	Jose Roman-Mota	Mark Miezio

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Francisco Posada Ann Marie Rocha

GUESTS:

Hector Arroyo	Elvira Hernandez	Sheila McCulloch	Mark Swartz
Connee Canfield	Poppy Hernandez	Gary McDowell	Heather Throne
Majed Ghussaini	Jim Johnson	Grace Michienzi	Ben Tirrell
Alexis Handal	Fred Leitz	Joseph Rivet	Jamie Zmitko-Somers

NOTE TAKER:

Sheila McCulloch

Welcome/Roll Call

The Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. with welcome comments from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director McDowell and a roll call of Board members.

Subject Matter Expert Introductions

The Subject Matter Experts introduced themselves with a brief professional summary.

Advisory Board Member Professional Biographies

The public facing website will house the Advisory Board member's professional biographies. Board members are asked to review the draft templates for final approval by March 5, 2021.

Housing Statistics

The team reviewed statistical data from MDARD's Environmental Stewardship Division Migrant Labor Housing Program (e.g., living units per camp, occupant capacity, housing types, etc.). The team noted, the MLH program has limited dairy operations involved with migrant housing inspections.

SunRise Apartments

Connee Canfield gave historical background information on the development of SunRise Apartments, the only off-farm housing option available in the United States addressing the need for subsidized seasonal/permanent agricultural housing rental options and obstacles they have encountered maintaining the business (i.e., local, federal, and state policies and regulations). Connee agreed this is not an ideal housing solution for agricultural labor, suggesting the state should offer more subsidized rental properties or housing management options in the local community with rural development funding.

Overview of Housing Requirements

Craig Anderson, of Michigan Farm Bureau, presented the Board with information related to temporary labor camp farm labor housing requirements. Members discussed the US Department of Agriculture Farm Labor and Housing Rural Development Program (Section [514](#)), On-Farm and Off-Farm Housing Programs ([7 CFR 3560.559](#)), Agricultural Recruitment System ([20 CFR 653.501\(c\)\(3\)](#)), Temporary Agricultural Employment ([20 CFR 655.122\(d\)](#)), Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act ([29 CFR Part 500.130](#)), US Department of Labor Wage and Hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards ([29 CFR 500.132](#), [20 CFR 654 Subpart E](#), [29 CFR 1910.142](#), and [29 CFR 1910.142](#)).

Members talked about related State of Michigan housing regulations. Specifically the [MI Public Health Code](#), MDARD Labor Camp [Regulations](#), MIOSHA Temporary Labor Camps [Part OH 511](#), [Standard OH Part 55](#), and local health department and zoning regulations. Under the current health pandemic, there are COVID [Emergency Rules](#) in consideration as well.

H2A Program

Hector Arroyo, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Workforce Development's [Agriculture and Foreign Labor Services](#) Manager, discussed the Foreign Labor services applicable to the federal [H2A Temporary Foreign Labor Certification Program](#). [The Office of Foreign Labor Services](#) reviews all applications for H-2A temporary labor certification of foreign agricultural workers to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, while preventing the displacement of domestic workers.

There is a decline in domestic migrant laborers available in Michigan due to agricultural housing/demographic challenges (i.e., affordable and family housing, childcare needs, population growth/decline, generational differences, etc.), this has increased the number of H2A workers in Michigan. National policy changes are leaning towards requiring family housing options, referencing [Immigration Bill Would Legalize Farm Workers, Accelerate Path to Citizenship](#), an agriculture policy blog post. The Board agreed Michigan should take the lead in providing better housing and family accommodations for migrant laborers.

Public Comment

There were no comments provided by public members.

Open Forum

Members discussed the Advisory Board's reporting timeline and agenda items for future meetings (e.g., USDA grants, updates from other department/agency migrant worker workgroup activities, MLH Advisory Board long-term goals and migrant worker medical conditions/legal requirements). Board members are encouraged to research the background documentation to develop a list of specific migrant labor issues for discussion and consideration for the final recommendation report.

The Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

The next Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled on
March 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.