



Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board

NOTES

March 11, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

[MS Teams](#)

Phone: 248-509-0316 / Access: 519 435 234

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ann Marie Rocha Lupita Perales

GUESTS:

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

NOTE TAKER:

Sheila McCulloch/Heather Throne

Welcome

The Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board opened at 1:00 p.m. with welcome comments from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director McDowell, noting the establishment of board structure and welcomed the new Board Chairperson, Joann Hoganson.

Board Chair Welcome & Roll Call

Joanne welcomed members to the meeting and conducted a board roll call of members in attendance.

Industry Informational Presentations

Overview of Housing Requirements – Part 2

Board members discussed temporary labor camp farm labor housing requirements, specifically competitive interests in placing new housing with land preservation, rental housing, and blight. Board members referenced regulatory structures in other states (i.e., California, Oregon, and Washington).

Migrant Labor Healthcare Update

Board members reviewed Great Lakes Bay Health Centers partnership and coordination with the Saginaw County Health Department, mobile healthcare services available and current planning to address vaccine inoculations for workers. Board members discussed the importance of being able to communicate with workers, the use of translation technology.

Board members reviewed MLH inspection process and protocol, noting the importance of being able to communicate with migrant workers and the use of translation technology services (Spanish and Haitian or Creole) during inspections.

MLH Emergency Rules

Board members reviewed MLH Emergency Rules applicable to the current health pandemic and required health measures in migrant labor housing. The emergency rules require licensed migrant labor housing providers to develop and implement a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan to prevent exposure to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, to care for individuals-with COVID-19, and to take measures to help prevent the spread of disease among agricultural workers and consequently the larger community they live in. These emergency rules were created using the same framework as last year, which aimed to protect the health of workers and the public in a practical and effective manner for licensed housing providers. One update to the emergency rules is the option for licensed housing providers to include temporary barriers between migrants' beds when six feet of social distancing is not possible. The MDARD's MLH Inspector review the plans at the time of inspection.

Migrant & Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Study

Board members reviewed the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profile Study and the Concentration of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and Dependent Nonworkers by County fact sheet.

A Request for Proposal for an updated study in early Spring 2020 was placed on hold due to the evolving health pandemic, it is now open for bidding. Board members discussed items that should be included in the updated study (i.e., expanded demographics, cost-share metrics, mapping, housing versus work locations, etc.).

Public Comment

Members discussed MLH Advisory Board Council structure (e.g., Chair appointments, quorum rules, decision methods, etc.).

Initial meetings, coordinated by MDARD, are intended as educational and reference resource meetings for Board members to identify actionable items. Michigan State University staff will facilitate a meeting on April 8, 2021 to discuss the identified issues to create sub-workgroups to create recommendations for the Board to consider. Recommendations sent to MDARD Director without consensus will include dissenting opinions, if needed.

Members discussed additional topics of discussion that may be beneficial to the Board (e.g., farmer perspectives, longitudinal health, migrant labor housing structural and living requirements).

Chairperson Hoganson adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

The next Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.