



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2013

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MDCH Launches Public Health Code Advisory Committee
Director Haveman Names Lawrence Burns of Varnum LLP in Grand Rapids as Chairman

LANSING – In his 2011 special Health and Wellness Message, Governor Rick Snyder called on the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to perform a comprehensive review of the Michigan Public Health Code. MDCH is pleased to announce that it recently formed the Public Health Code Advisory Committee and appointed Lawrence Burns, JD of Varnum LLP in Grand Rapids, Mich. as chairman of the effort to review the Public Health Code.

“The appointment of Lawrence Burns as chairman of this important advisory committee was a natural fit,” said James K. Haveman, Director of the MDCH. “MDCH has been tasked with the important responsibility of reviewing a code that protects the health and wellness of our residents. Mr. Burns’ track record makes him an ideal candidate to lead this group and we’re eager to see the results of their work.”

Burns is the chair of the Varnum's health care law practice, a multidisciplinary group within the firm serving clients in the health care and life sciences industry including acute care hospitals, nursing homes, DME providers, behavioral health agencies, psychiatric facilities, numerous professional corporations and individual practitioners.

"The health care environment has changed dramatically since the Public Health Code was enacted 35 years ago," said Burns. "This is an opportunity to better align the Code's requirements with the way in which health care services are delivered today, as well as in the future. The MDCH has selected an excellent committee of professionals, each with a unique perspective on how the Code affects public health in Michigan, and I am honored to serve as chair in this important endeavor."

The Michigan Public Health Code was enacted in 1978, creating the regulatory framework for health care in Michigan. Over time, a significant number of amendments have altered the Public Health Code but a number of them are now outdated, and many new issues have arisen since then that are not addressed in the Code. Governor Snyder has charged MDCH and the newly-appointed Public Health Code Advisory Committee with conducting a systematic review of the Code and submitting recommendations for regulatory changes.

Other members of the committee include Melanie Brim and Brenda Lawson with the MDCH, Renee Canady with the Ingham County Health Department, Dianne Conrad, a family nurse practitioner in Cadillac, Loretta Davis with the Institute for Population Health in Detroit, Phyllis Davis with the Tribal Council, James Falahee, Jr. with Bronson Healthcare Group, Kathleen Forzley with the Oakland County Health Division, Mona Hanna-Attisha with Hurley Children's

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Hospital in Flint, Nurse Consultant Grace Kreulen, Jean Nagelkerk with Grand Valley State University, Kevin Piggott with Marquette General Health System, Kim Sibilsy with the Michigan Primary Care Association, Lisa Stefanovsky with the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, and Madiha Tariq with the ACCESS Community Health & Research Center.

The Public Health Code Advisory Committee will begin meeting in August 2013 to review the code and plans to involve an electronic process for input from stakeholders and the public. The Committee is aiming to have a comprehensive report of recommendations to the MDCH Director by early 2014. MDCH will share more information about the input process as it becomes available.

To view Governor Snyder's 2011 special Health and Wellness Message, visit http://michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-61409_61526-262254--,00.html.

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