

Minneapolis Health Department
Food, Lodging and Pools
Program Self-Assessment Summary

July 2014

Overview

Using the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Evaluation Protocol for Environmental Health Services Programs, the City of Minneapolis unit of Food, Lodging and Pools (aka “the Board”) conducted a self-assessment January 2014 – July 2014. The purpose of the assessment was to review the Board’s standing compared to the 2010 Program Evaluation completed by MDH and to complete the Board’s annual self-assessment as recommended by MDH.

The assessment included file reviews of randomly selected pools, food establishments and lodging establishments from March 2011 April 1, 2014. Field evaluations were conducted for three lodging establishments as well. The assessment requires review and scoring of eight different standards for each program. Each standard is made up of several components that are considered *essential to the program, required to the program or value-added to the program*. These components are scored as *little or no improvement needed, needs improvement or unacceptable*. The scores are combines to arrive at an overall score for each program area.

This summary provides an overview of the 2010 Program Evaluation and current findings from the 2014 self-assessment. The complete evaluation and assessment are attached, as is a summary of the actions taken and recommendations for future actions. Due to space, reference documents have not been included but can be provided upon request.

The City of Minneapolis unit of Food, Lodging and Pools (aka “the Board”) has made significant improvements to its program since the 2010 Program Evaluation by MDH. The self-assessment findings indicate the overall program moved up three ratings, while two program areas moved up two and the third remained the same. Scores are included below followed by key finding in each standard.

Overall Performance:

2010 MDH Program Evaluation Rating:	2014 Self-Assessment Rating:
Unacceptable	Acceptable with Improvements Needed

Program Area Performance:

2010 MDH Program Evaluation Rating:		2014 Self-Assessment Rating:	
Food:	Needs Improvement	Food:	Acceptable, Exceeds Standards
Lodging:	Subject to Termination	Lodging:	Needs Improvement
Pools:	Needs Improvement	Pools:	Needs Improvement

Standard 1, Regulatory Foundation:

In 2010, some of the Board's ordinances did not reference or were not consistent with statutes and rules, as required by the MDH Delegation Agreement. Ordinances have been revised, but this review indicates additional revisions are still needed to meet the requirement.

Standard 2, Trained Regulatory Staff:

All required Standard components were met in the 2010 Evaluation. MDH did recommend implementing Standardization for more staff, and enrollment in the FDA's Program Standards. The 2014 Self-Assessment of this standard had the same findings.

Standard 3, Risk Based Inspection Program:

In 2010 the Board was not meeting the required inspection frequency in both the food program and lodging program. The 2014 self-assessment found that inspection frequencies have been met in both the food program and lodging program, but the pool program frequencies have not been met. This is due to the seasonality of pools and inspections completed by interns instead of "qualified staff." Other areas of concern in 2010 included establishment risk designation, procedures to address corrective action and variance procedures. The 2014 Self-Assessment indicates improvements have been made in all areas.

Standard 4, Uniform Inspection Program:

The Board had deductions in 2010 for allowing food establishments to have open air dining/cooking areas, and for not licensing day cares and schools with food service. Both of these areas have been addressed and are currently in good standing. Report writing and accurate interpretation of statutes, rules and ordinances also needed improvement. Progress has been made in these areas, but additional improvements are needed.

Standard 5, Illness & Injury Investigation & Response:

All three program areas were rated well with only one point deducted in this standard in 2010. Current findings indicate the Board is meeting all areas in this standard.

Standard 6, Compliance & Enforcement:

The 2010 Evaluation indicated the Board needed improvement in accurate interpretation and documentation of statutes, rules and ordinances, resolving identified violations, and meeting the Board's reinspection policy. These components were found satisfactory in 2014 in the food program and pool program, but improvements are still needed in the lodging program.

Standard 7, Industry & Community Relations:

All components in standard 7 were met in 2010 and 2014.

Standard 8, Program Resources:

In 2010 no deductions were made in standard 8. The ratio of inspectors to establishments was to be monitored to ensure inspection frequency was met. Current findings indicate the Board is below the FDA recommended level of inspectors per establishments.

Summary

The 2014 Self-Assessment has confirmed that the Board is moving towards its program goals. The 2014 Self-Assessment identified areas of improvement that must be implemented to reach an “Acceptable” rating in all program areas. This report will be submitted to MDH to request a status change from the 2010 Program Evaluation.