Dear Public Health Policy Institute:

I would like you to consider our proposal for the Public Health Policy Institute (PHPI.)

Environmental Health Specialist throughout Oregon are tasked with inspections of Tourist Facility and Travelers Accommodations. This duty is defined in the current Rules and Regulations in OAR 333, Division 29 and in ORS 446.310.

A recent phenomenon has been occurring in the United States and throughout the world where individual home owners are renting out their homes or rooms in their homes in a similar manner a hotel might rent a room to a traveler or individual.  This phenomenon, predominantly run through such operations as Air B&B and Vacation Rental by Owner, has caused some concern among Public Health communities in that these facilities are rentals but are not under licensure or inspection by the Health Authority.  San Francisco and New York City have recently passed some new laws addressing this subject. The current OAR and ORS do not discuss this type of rental specifically, or, if this rental meets the definitions in these rules and laws, clear policy needs to be developed on how these entities are regulated. The Conference of Local Environmental Health Supervisors, CLEHS, has had this issue brought to it by its members.  In an effort to evaluate this issue and determine need for law, rule, or policy, CLHES would like to participate in the PHPI.  The following individuals are interested in participating in the PHPI pertaining to this topic:

1.       Frank A. Brown, REHS, MBA, Environmental Health Licensure Supervisor, Washington County Environmental Health Program

2.       Rick Hallmark, EHS, Master of Public Administration, Environmental Health Program Manager, Coos Health & Wellness, Coos County.

3.   Brett Sherry, Program Manager, Food, Pool and Lodging Program, Environmental Public Health, Oregon Health Authority, Bachelors of Arts

4.       Eric Mone, Deschutes County Env. Health Supervisor

5.       Jeff Martin, Env. Health Supervisor, Multnomah County Health Department, BS

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.  If you have any questions, I can be reached at the information in this email’s closing.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Brown, REHS, MBA

Environmental Health Licensing Supervisor

Washington County Dept. of Health and Human Services

Environmental Health Program

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