



**Ad Hoc Lead Advisory Committee and  
Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force  
August 31, 2016  
Quarterly Meeting – Summary Notes**

**Summary:**

On Wednesday, August 31, twenty-four lead and healthy homes professionals met at the UNC Institute for the Environment for the quarterly NC Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force meeting. Attendees provided brief program updates and participated in a discussion about current lead guidelines. After these updates, attendees participated in a webinar titled, *Educational Interventions for Children Affected by Lead*. Research associate Megan Hoert Hughes in the UNC IE Environmental Resource Program coordinates meetings of the task force, and this meeting was supported by funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**Local Updates:**

**Wake County – Christy Klaus**

- Presented at NEHA/HUD HH Conference in San Antonio in July with Neasha Graves – communicated with participants about working with families to solve problems with lead (spices, rituals, emerging issues)
- Creating spice survey with Kim Gaetz to determine frequency of spices (portion size and applicable dishes) – people were really receptive because they weren't familiar with lead and spices issue
- NC doesn't have standards (NY does) so it's difficult – two recalls on turmeric and curry (July 2016) were announced to get the products off the shelves, state lab is only testing 1 ppm instead of .10 ppm (1 ppm seems to be a problem according to CDC and State of NY)
- Another issue is that the spices aren't kept in original containers, people typically transfer them to Tupperware which makes it difficult to determine where it came from.
- She explained the emergence of lead in kumkum – typically red and used for ceremonial activities, put on children's foreheads and on tables for worship (has turmeric in it too) found up to 5000 ppm, working with family from Pakistan, youngest child was born in Pakistan but has not been eating food, mother is breastfeeding baby and she has consumed food with spices from Pakistan and ate dirt during pregnancy
- Active investigations are ongoing with some other families of Indian descent; at least one has traveled back and forth to India recently; she is also looking at coriander and kumkum with these families

**Forsyth County – Lynn Stone**

- 5 level of concern investigations mostly related to housing, 1 related to Johnson Controls, 3 of these cases were offered investigations but haven't been accepted yet, 1 rejected investigation
- Completed a maintenance visit for elementary school with chipping paint on doors and siding, chips came back between 2-4% and they are currently notifying parents
- Working with Safe Kids Northwest Piedmont to do car seat checks, while parents are waiting they are giving out bags with lead safety info
- Question from Ed (status of Johnson Control?), answer: 1 family with 3 children all with high lead levels and 4th child on the way, they were scheduled to come to clinic but they no showed; from what we know, it has been over a year since they have been to a doctor's office

#### **Alamance County – Elizabeth Ellmore, Kenneth Greene, and Vicki Ashworth**

- Ongoing case with father who makes bullets

#### **Chatham County – Nellie Benitez, Elizabeth Fridley, and Ann Lowry**

- Continuing home visits through NC LEAD with 44 children
- Summit in May of this year
- Visited medical providers, took sample of buckets they provide during home visits
- Hosted lead training in July with Neasha Graves and Megan Hughes

#### **Cumberland County – Daniel Ortiz and Diana Blue**

- 2 more environmental specialists authorized in lead, that makes a total of 4 authorized
- Neasha offered training opportunities because Cumberland is new to the group, she advised that they look at programs from Craven and Guilford
- Completed inspection at elementary school, issues have been addressed and kids are back in school with help from Beverly Baldinger and Kimly
- Question from Megan Hughes (how lead was found at school?) answer: Bev was at school looking at a sink and she noticed chipping paint on outside of school
- Ed mentioned commissioners meeting and asked if it was resolved because of school, on September 12th they are bringing nurses to the school to provide free lead testing for students, it is a low hazard project but they are being proactive, Question from Kim Gaetz (how will tests will be coming in?) answer: they will come through state lab, working with Kate Mason, they should come through on the same day
- Deborah mentioned educating the children (she has developed a puppet show appropriate for younger audiences) and asked if that's something they could do at this school, answer: Daniel likes idea and said they are in planning phase, he wants to do a hand washing class, and provide pamphlets to bring home to parents since its likely lead could also be coming from their homes, also a good opportunity to educate teachers about hand washing instead of hand sanitizer, lots of calls from teachers because they were worried about themselves

\*\*discussion about testing onsite verses bringing kids to clinic – onsite seems to have better turnout, good to send permission slips ahead of time, Kim wants to ensure that residential address is collected to enable environmental follow up

### **Guilford County – Luke**

- 7 pending cases so far this year, working on 7 investigations
- Loaned out lead home dollhouse to Forsyth county to celebrate 100 year anniversary and they are gearing up for lead week in October (Neasha added that there are several dollhouses floating around the state, they are designed to show lead, healthy homes, and mold, good for sharing information with a whole family)
- Since Flint, MI they are getting more calls from pediatricians
- Attended Aug 30 NC LEAD webinar, hosted by NC CLPPP partners

### **Craven County – Deb Yarborough**

- Last year 15 children identified in Craven with elevated BLL, 17 in partner county, 11 investigations plus 2 child care centers, 2 are refugee children (Karen families from Burma)
- The refugee families live in mobile home and she has taken dust samples, parents say that children don't eat spices
- 1 house requires remediation for child with >20 BLL; as a temporary measure, she encouraged that owner to put duct tape over the paint and child's BLL is going down, she will remind owner about remediation
- Question from David Brown (taping method?) answer: She provided duct tape to tenant/owner and advised that they tape lead paint surfaces until permanent measure can be made, she also mentioned repositioning furniture to make it harder for children to access, duct tape can cause some damage when removed but it sticks better than painters tape
- She and Coby gave a presentation about healthy homes and meth at recent refugee conference
- Deborah explains how puppet show works for education tool, she has a pdf write up of how to execute

\*\*discussion: emerging issues photo directory, could be made on ipad or flip book, Megan Hughes mentioned that UNC IE could use some images of natural and holistic medicines that are testing high for lead; it is difficult to find good images of these products

### **Durham – Barbara Donadio**

- She deals with high volume childcare and illness management (400 kids/day at one site; she manages 3 sites), lots of lead screening required by Medicare at 12 and 24 month checks and they need help with parent education for kids in <5 category
- Barbara manages about 100 providers;

- She needs to do an update with medical providers to come up with effective ways to do this education, not a huge turnover in staff and they want to be updated in standards, interested meeting with Lorisa

\*\*David suggested having someone from child protective services come speak to Task Force

#### **PEACH – Beatrice**

- PEACH participated in a block party on Saturday, showing children the relationship between behavior issues/neurological disorders with lead, used a brain (inside a child size mannequin with hat on) with little strips inside that show side effects of exposure, kids ask how do they know if they've been exposed to lead, it shows that kids get interested in things that kids could get involved in, also had coloring books for younger children
- Goal is to create an educational books to increase knowledge base in 3rd and 4th grade
- Trying to identify every contractor who works in Durham to inform them about RRP; she wants to get in touch with renovation services to see if they need educational materials about certified renovation brochures, Megan H asked when a contractor goes through RRP training do they get something that shows this certification, answer: if they do it through EPA they get a sign or they are allowed to write it on their signs or trucks
- Neasha suggested sorting sources for lead as a good activity for middle aged children, David said that he has a double sash window good for demonstrating friction surfaces and how lead dust occurs

#### **Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel**

- Learned that 2 year olds are tested at half the rate of 1 year olds, what can we do about this and why is it happening?
- She thinks screenings should be increased at childcare centers, would like to see more referrals in interventions, she really wants to focus on 5-9 BLL; would love for providers to refer patients to them as soon as they test between 5 and 9
- She is continuing to do dust sampling, really needs PEACH to get to 200 home visits, 27701 in Durham every child is supposed to be tested for lead, this area also needs more lead education, lots of outreach with PEACH, educating on cleaning but now need funding for remediation, if neighbor does illegal renovations they are not required to clean up contaminated neighbor's yards only their own

#### **State Program Updates:**

##### **DHHS Health Hazards Control Unit – Don Chaney**

- Working on new training courses; these are specific to the insurance industry for CE credit through Dept. of Insurance for Asbestos and Lead (pending). The intention of the training is for the insurance industry to only refer qualified contractors when asbestos or lead-based paint are involved with claims renovation or repairs.

- Other presentations are conducted routinely for interested groups, they just need to contact the HHCU. These are NOT presentations for certification purposes, they are designed to promote understanding of the regulatory requirements.
- Beatrice Jackson is interested in getting addresses of contractors due for recertification – are these accessible? Don: The HHCU already mails reminder letters directly to all NC certified Renovators 60 days before their certification expires explaining to them the need for refresher training and re-certification with the state in the event they continue to do applicable work. The Firms are also sent a reminder letter 30 days before they expire, should they continue to do applicable work.
- Megan Hughes asked if a contractor goes through RRP training and gets something that shows this certification, answer: if they do it through EPA they get a sign or they are allowed to write it on their signs or trucks. Don also noted: In NC the Firm gets a certification letter and certificate issued from the HHCU. The Renovators, after completing a training course, must apply for certification and they also get a certification letter. Each of these documents should be asked for by consumers to show they are properly certified in NC to do applicable renovation work (these documents are required by state law to be on-site when renovation activities are occurring. Each document has an expiration date. The public can also go to the HHCU lead website and search for certified renovation firms.

#### **DHHS Children and Youth Branch – Stephanie Fisher**

- Offering child health provider trainings in October 2016

#### **Tobacco Branch – Sally Herndon**

- NC Forum on Sustainable In-Home Asthma Management: In-home asthma management event at Friday Center (Chapel Hill) on Sept 13; free event; designed to educate and build support for evidence based home intervention to help move toward reimbursement for these interventions by Medicaid and other payers
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QXNC3SX>

#### **NC CLPPP Program – Ed Norman, David Brown, Tena Hand, Kim Gaetz, Melanie Napier, Megan Hughes, Neasha Graves**

- We've conducted several lead and healthy homes trainings in various regions of the state this summer – Union, Lenoir and Chatham County programs hosted them. Trainings were for local health department staff in various counties and child care center employees (Lenoir Co).
- UNC was accepted by the American Public Health Association to present information on trainings to programs developing/coordinating their own local healthy homes initiatives. We'll be highlighting some of the work with task force member organizations.
- National Lead Awareness Week is October 23-29, 2016. When materials for the federal programs are available, we will send them to the listserv. Until then, please submit information on lead outreach activities you have slated for the entire month of October to Megan Rodgers ([merodgers@unc.edu](mailto:merodgers@unc.edu)), so that they can be posted on the NC Healthy

Homes website calendar. This could be a tool for advertising your activities and a resource for other programs considering similar activities.

- Working on a directory of emerging sources of lead (including holistic and natural medicines)

**Webinar Information:**

*Educational Interventions for Children Affected by Lead*

Phalia McCorkle-Kester, U.S. EPA Region 4

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**Announcements:**

October 23 – October 29: National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

**In Person Attendees:**

David Brown	Surveillance Coordinator	NC DHHS - Children's Environmental Health	<a href="mailto:w.david.brown@dhhs.gov">w.david.brown@dhhs.gov</a>
Barbara Donadio	Nurse Clinician	Duke Children's Hospital and Health Care	<a href="mailto:barbara.donadio@duke.edu">barbara.donadio@duke.edu</a>
Kim Gaetz	Public Health Epidemiologist	NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	<a href="mailto:kim.gaetz@dhhs.nc.gov">kim.gaetz@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Neasha Graves	Community Outreach and Education Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment/Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility	<a href="mailto:neasha.graves@unc.edu">neasha.graves@unc.edu</a>
Sally Herndon	Program Head	NC DHHS, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch	<a href="mailto:sally.herndon@dhhs.nc.gov">sally.herndon@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
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Lorisa Seibel	Director of Housing Programs	Reinvestment Partners	<a href="mailto:loris@reinvestmentpartners.org">loris@reinvestmentpartners.org</a>
Deb Yarbrough	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Craven County	<a href="mailto:dyarbrough@cravencountync.gov">dyarbrough@cravencountync.gov</a>

**On the Phone Attendees:**

Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker	Chatham Co. Public	<a href="mailto:nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org">nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org</a>
Diana Blue	EH Program Specialist	Cumberland County	<a href="mailto:dblue@co.cumberland.nc.us">dblue@co.cumberland.nc.us</a>
Don Chaney	Industrial Hygiene Consultant	DHHS – Health Hazards Control Unit	<a href="mailto:Donald.chaney@dhhs.nc.gov">Donald.chaney@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
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