



Ad Hoc Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting

**May 20, 10:00am - 12:30pm
100 Europa Drive, Chapel Hill**

Summary:

On Wednesday, May 20, approximately twenty lead and healthy homes professionals met at the UNC Institute for the Environment for the quarterly NC Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force meeting. Attendees who represent local, state and federal environmental health and housing programs provided brief program updates and participated in a discussion about enforcement of current federal lead and pregnancy guidelines. Two representatives from the CDC attended this meeting. Research associate Megan Hughes in the UNC IE Environmental Resource Program coordinates meetings of the task force, and this meeting was supported by funding awarded to the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NC CLPPP) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Local Updates:

Chatham County Health Department

- Campaign with bus and billboard signage (English and Spanish)
- Spring into Safety event
- 2 canvassing events (about 56 people, sewage and wells)

Durham County Health Department

- Get the Lead Out Training
- Working on sustainability in terms of keeping the program running even when funding is tight
- Expanding testing at schools
- Planning to coordinate interventions with the Housing Authority, following an incident with a child living in Section 8 housing

Reinvestment Partners (Durham area housing program)

- Have begun coordinating local coalition meetings
- Working on education/ interventions for children with BLLs at 5-9 μ g/dL
- Getting applications started to help people remediate homes

PEACH (Durham area nonprofit with a housing focus)

- PEACH is focused on economic development

- Working closely with Mayor's Poverty Reduction Initiative, with a focus on the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule
- Developing brochure about lead safe practices
- Working on a proclamation for October to be designated as lead awareness month in the city
- Working with Lorisa Seibel (at Reinvestment Partners) to collect dust samples pre and post cleaning
- Offering RRP initial and fresher courses

Guilford County Health Department

- Registered environmental health specialist Luke Van Eyk is also dealing with pool sanitation, so staffing has been limited lately. For the time being, the HD is dealing with cases as they come up.
- Continuing to work with school nurses on healthy homes issues; recently worked with Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) nurses on a case with a young child already diagnosed with asthma. CC4C nurses have received HH training.

Greensboro Housing Coalition

- GHC doesn't currently have lead funding, and most of their work is around asthma.
- Getting ready to start 300 healthy homes for asthma; 27401, 405, 406, 407 zip codes (eastern edge of Greensboro); areas where they are seeing highest count of asthma cases

City of Charlotte

- Recently requested one-year no cost extension on its HUD grant
- Did Safe at Home vendor fair and YMCA event
- Sherry trained as supervisor through Greenville Tech, and 2 people trained for RRP
- 38 homes enrolled in remediation process; 75 cleared
- Get very few referrals from health department in Mecklenburg

Forsyth County Health Department

- 3 children with level of concern investigation (5-7 BLL); seems to be a drop in cases, including as low as 5µg/dL
- Also childcare investigations for daycares going into older buildings
- Doing health fairs and parent nights
- Did healthy recipe flyer in Spanish and English; Neasha Graves requested a copy of it to send to the task force listserv.
- Community garden providing produce to low-income families
- Attended National Lead and HH conference in Orlando (focus on partnering, networking)
- Many investigations are happening in Section 8 homes; seem to be recommending just "repaint this area" and not following compliance for investigations.

Craven County Health Department

- Huge upswing in EBLs and confirmed leads; last year it was 7 EBLs and 2 cases were confirmed 20 and above; most cases are related to parents' work and housing conditions; even found lead in car booster seats; also daycare investigation
- Craven, Pamlico, Lenoir, Jones county partnership has been in place for years to provide assistance with EBL investigations; hired new nurse for the lead program; would like in-service with care providers in terms of how to follow children; Did health fair and set up the NC CLPPP Healthy Homes dollhouse
- Working on getting Medicaid reimbursement

- Charge from Salvation Army that said that anyone that they are placing in a home should be tested for lead
- Accredited to teach Lead RRP and refresher course (each month)
- Pediatric asthma in-services (assessments) with CC4C and providers
- Also provides asthma management classes for families of children with asthma; partnered with respiratory therapist and he is helpful in the parenting classes.
- Discussing with ECU the possibility of piloting a hospital based asthma program; patients get identified in the hospital, get a little hospital training and get a home assessment (Pitt – only for pediatrics). Vidant's Pediatric Asthma program in Greenville was recommended as a resource.
- Also working with City of New Bern Inspections Department to make sure that anyone working on a lead home is a certified renovator with a RRP permit card to verify qualification to work on pre-1978 properties; program in place for 6 months

Duke Children's Primary Care

- Nurse clinician in private clinic attended the meeting – located in Durham
- Serves newborns up to young adults
- Works closely with clinicians to make sure that they know CDC guidelines
- Doctors do screenings for all children 0-2; also test older children if there is a concern

State Program Updates:

UNC Environmental Resource Program/NC CLPPP contractor

- Continue to work with Durham and Chatham; 2-3 hour pilot lead training; subset of these slides is useful for community audiences
- Conducted 6 hour HH training for the Asthma Summit and in Asheville at Mission Children's Hospital
- Continue NIEHS-funded environmental health outreach work; currently in no-cost extension

NC CLPPP Program Manager and Staff

- Focused almost full time on renewal application for CDC grant; still trying to hire a second epidemiologist who will work with NC CLPPP data manager Tena Hand to get clinics to report data, use equipment, and use NC LEAD properly
- Some are saying that there are fewer NC cases; this could be a data management issue instead of a decline in EBLLs
- Ed Norman is participating in meetings of the NC DHHS Asthma Sustainability committee, which are coordinated under NC DHHS Tobacco Prevention Branch because NC DHHS lost federal asthma grant; funding dries up at the end of May; Tobacco Branch head Sally Herndon is also pursuing Medicaid reimbursement as a revenue for asthma home assessments.
- Hoping to set up interviews for new NC CLPPP epidemiologist position very soon
- Kimly Blount announced the State of Practice (SOP) training in Asheboro at the NC Zoo on Nov 4, 5,6 for folks who need to be reauthorized; NC Division of Child Development is now changing their procedure to require remediation if the facility has a hazard; to acquire authorization for a remediation plan, applicants should contact NC DHHS; older cases should be revisited and finalized through regional environmental health specialists in NC DHHS; REHS Warren Richardson will be retiring Sept 1; NC DHHS regional staff will cover his territory until someone can be hired.
- David Brown described some cases involving hobbies (such as projectile reloading) in Alamance and other counties; properties that are on the maintenance standard (NC Preventive Maintenance Program) need to be re-inspected and David can assist with those inspections.

- Jeff Dellinger mentioned that lead abatement permits are declining (because more people are doing RRP); number of renovation firms are up; trying to figure out how many renovators we will lose in NC because this is the end of a 5 year cycle; examples of problems include Asheville and Wilmington where renovations were done very poorly; cited monetary fine; penalties are being levied through RRP program; Ed Norman has tallies of how much has been levied.
- Tena Hand announced that NC WIC has moved to new web-based system called Crossroads; hope to be testing soon so that BLL results will appear in their system; if child appears in their system, they can refer them for follow-up; last year's lead testing results include 435 confirmed in 5-9µg/dL range; 107 in 10-19 µg/dL range; 25 confirmed poisonings (122 required mandated environmental follow up).

State Laboratory

- Kate Mason mentioned that her office is exploring how to provide more technical expertise and support around prenatal lead testing for all potentially tested pregnant women; have not gotten firm commitment that they will get reimbursed through Medicaid; wants to know who is using prenatal assessment as a standard practice; she requested additional information from meeting participants to help her assess need; working with NC CLPPP and UNC staff to coordinate clinical lead training; recently went to Chatham County lead training, and she is open to come to other counties to discuss how the State Lab can provide technical expertise.

CDC Updates:

Elise Lockamy

- Emphasized her office's primary foci on getting surveillance done and targeting high risk areas.

Kimball Credle

- Provided historic perspective of CDC Lead/Healthy Homes grant – allocated \$15 M to do lead poisoning prevention; \$11 M was targeted for implementation; 40 applicants applied needing \$16 M; NC was awarded \$300,000+;
- CDC Lead/HH Program is outcome-oriented; CDC has resources to help us do this; need to show that funding is being utilized in a manner that is producing positive results; screening and testing children and reducing total cases. Would like to see NC become national model among lead/HH initiatives.

Discussion Notes: Enhancing efforts around federal lead/pregnancy guidelines

- Neasha presented briefly on the type of information shared during lead trainings about the CDC Lead and Pregnancy Guidelines. She then asked local programs how they address lead and pregnancy.
 - o Chatham – 40 total maternal health patients; if questionnaire is positive, they do a blood test; only needed to do this once
 - o Craven- has pregnancy program and USED to deal with lead; mostly Medicaid mothers, and see most of Medicaid mothers in the county
 - o Forsyth – a Baptist Hospital clinic absorbs the cost and tests all levels; they notify HD nurses if there is a patient with an EBL; Lynn doesn't know what their protocol is
 - o Guilford – Centering in Pregnancy; Spanish-speaking community; if a woman tests above 15, they would do an investigation
 - o NC CLPPP – never had a regional environmental health specialist/health dept. participate in an investigation for a pregnant woman
 - o Kimball (CDC program manager) – many providers are not aware of this problem

- Staff turnover in clinics/HDs is an issue; information needs to be shared over and over again
- Kate Mason (State Lab): questions pump and dump recommendation (seems high); need some lactation consultants in this discussion; what is the science behind the “pump and dump” recommendation?
- Are we being consistent across the state in implementing the questionnaire and testing?
- Ed Norman says that the state would do assessments if they got referrals; physician would need to screen in a targeted way and, if the BLL is high, physician could say it is medically necessary.
- Some debate over whether Medicaid would pay for follow-up test, particularly if it is part of a well-child visit.
- Local HD comment: It appears that lead in utero is more likely pathway than breastmilk
- Suggestion to amend lead/pregnancy questionnaire: UNC will work with Ed Norman and Women’s Health Branch connection; send comments to NG; include hobbies (bullets, projectiles, firing ranges); Some discussion about the possibility of making it part of the electronic medical record (one local program has had some success getting some asthma tools electronic)
- Lenora: organizations like PEACH are trying to address the community needs so that the communities are not vulnerable to breaks in funding from time-to-time. They are able and can volunteer to assist in asking the questions in communities like Durham.
- **Action steps:**
 - Neasha/Ed: Explore possible revisions to questionnaire with key NC DHHS contact.
 - Follow-up with Kate Mason (State Lab) about her work getting pregnant women screened; she is planning beta testing with Chatham (likely community with sample size the State Lab can handle). Other points to address: Will physician get reimbursed for visits with pregnant women? Will initial and follow-up test be covered? She emphasized that input from counties is essential in understanding the need: How many patients? Who is getting asked the questionnaire? Who is Medicaid eligible?
 - UNC will work on a survey for providers, to determine needs around addressing lead and pregnancy. Specific recommendations included: health department clinics, Women and Children’s Health employees

Handouts:

- English/Spanish questionnaire to determine if she should get a BL test
- Green and black CDC chart
- Lead and pregnancy webinar handout

Announcements:

- Proposed next meeting date: August 26, 2015 at 100 Europa Drive, Chapel Hill, NC

In Person Attendees:

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|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Nellie Benitez | Lead Outreach Worker | Chatham Co. Public | nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org |
| Kimly Blount | Field Supervisor | DHHS - Children's Env. Health | kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov |
| David Brown | Surveillance Coordinator | DHHS - Children's Env. Health | w.david.brown@dhhs.gov |
| Kimball Credle | Public Health | Centers for Disease Control | KFC2@CDC.GOV |

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| Barbara Donadio | RN Nurse Clinician | Duke Children's Primary Care | Barbara.donadio@duke.edu |
| Elizabeth Fridley | PHNII | Chatham Co. Public HD | elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org |
| Kim Gaetz | ORISE Post Doc/Env Epid | ORISE/EPA | kangelon@email.unc.edu/gaetz.kim@epa.gov |
| Neasha Graves | Community Outreach and Education Manager | UNC Institute for the Environment/Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility | neasha.graves@unc.edu |
| Tena Hand | Data Manager | NC CLPPP; DHHS - Children's Env. Health | Tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Megan Hughes | Educator & Research Associate | UNC Institute for the Environment/Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility | meganhughes@unc.edu |
| Jan Jackson | Env. Health Prog Specialist | Durham Department of Public Health | jjackson@dconc.gov |
| Elise Lockamy | Health Scientist/Project Officer | Centers for Disease Control | VTS8@CDC.GOV |
| Kate Mason | Chem. Supervisor | NC State Lab | Kate.mason@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Ed Norman | Manager/DHHS | Division of Public Health | ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov |
| April Richard | Healthy Homes Team Mgr. | Greensboro Housing Coalition | april@greensborohousingcoalition.com |
| Lorisa Seibel | Director of Housing Programs | Reinvestment Partners | loris@reinvestmentpartners.org |
| Deb Yarbrough | Env Health Program Specialist | Craven County | dyarbrough@cravencountync.gov |

On the Phone Attendees:

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| Jeff Dellinger | Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor | DHHS – Health Hazards Control Unit | Jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Sherry Rathod | | City of Charlotte | srathod@ci.charlotte.nc.us |
| Lenora Smith | Director | PEACH | peachlead@aol.com |
| Paula Cox | Env Health Manager | Guilford Public Health | pcox@co.guilford.nc.us |
| Lynn Stone | Childhood Lead Program | Forsyth County | |