



**Ad Hoc Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy
Homes Outreach Task Force**

February 13, 2018

Quarterly Meeting – Summary Notes

Summary:

On Tuesday, February 13, thirty lead and healthy homes professionals met at the UNC Institute for the Environment for the quarterly NC Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force meeting. Attendees provided brief program updates and participated in a discussion about current lead guidelines. Kim Gaetz, MSPH, PhD, public health epidemiologist at the NC Department of Public Health, presented on the prevalence of lead in spices, herbal remedies and ceremonial powders discovered in North Carolina homes. Environmental Research Assistant, Megan Rodgers 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 Program Updates:

Wake County Department of Environmental Service – Christy Klaus and Daryl Beasley

- Six daycare and school lead investigations, including four locations have lead in water: One of these childcare centers has a well with first draw above 15 ppb. Lead spigot was replaced with lead free-spigot. Recommended to replace copper lines and lead soldered joints and elbows with lead-free components – 90% remediated. Another case of school with lead in water - hand sink in kindergarten boys' bathroom drew 58 ppb, contained copper pipes with lead soldered joints. Another case of a proposed childcare with well found to lead, decided to abandon well and hook up to city water.
- Ten confirmed lead poisonings: One confirmed lead poisoning case went through chelation therapy, with porch renovation at a supplementary address as the source. Family is renting and having to work with county attorney and police to continue with the investigation.
- Two children consumed or handled lead BBs in window trough of mobile home; resulted in one confirmed EBL case.
- Case with family using kumkum and turmeric, kumkum dumped on floor, lead concentrations of 1300 mg/square foot. Interest in outreach with Indian community regarding ceremonial powders and spices.

Chatham County Health Department – Elizabeth Fridley

- Following one lead case for 2 years involving child who has Down syndrome; the child's BLL has been fluctuating but is down from 20 to 6. Child has a known thyroid issue and Kim Gaetz notes that thyroid problems can affect metabolism of heavy metals.
- Working with Rebuilding Together to help family renovate home but they are hesitant because the house is in foreclosure. Lorisa Seibel says NC HFA can help with funding, Gina Uresti says GHC has mortgage counselors that can help.
- One other case that started at 13 and is down to 6.8.
- Wondering if anyone has an XRF for rent or for sale. Several suggestions were shared.

Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel and Peter Skillern

- Continuing home visits for lead and going through list of 5-9 cases in Durham County
- Request: Mobile home in Orange County just over county line - 7200 mg of lead in mini-blinds, 1975 trailer, possibly in water. Having trouble confirming age of trailer through tax records. Victoria Hudson says the trailer will have VIN number, and a pitched roof usually indicates the trailer is newer than 1978.
- Request: Lead hazards in very old home in East Durham. Lots of mold issues and a baby with respiratory issues and child with DS. List of repairs are too extensive so family was given an eviction notice. Wants to know how to protect family from lead hazards while they are still occupying the home.

- Looking at social determinants of health and how Medicaid reform has included money for interventions. Research shows that address asthma and lead is a huge cost saver for tax payers, but has not translated to policy. There is no funding to remediate once a problem has been identified. Ideas?

Orange County Health Department – Victoria Hudson and Donna King

- New health director brought on in December. Hoping she will test more children, increase robustness of Healthy Homes and lead programs, and review files for childcare centers that predate lead paint rules
- Looking at partnerships with UNC Horizons.
- Wants to look at pre-kindergarten families, many of whom are from underserved population. Pre-K instructors are making home visits as part of outreach, children have asthma plans.
- Would like to see more local epidemiology to work with local health system and culture - Orange County needs to set goals for addressing lead like neighboring counties.
- Healthy Homes: Referrals still trickling in slowly. Met with Early Head Start and did a Healthy Homes training with them. Asthma night for Orange County, postponed. Chapel Hill schools asthma night still successful, HH program invited to participate

Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti

- Continuing with schools and daycare outreach
- New Healthy Homes coordinator will be taking referrals that providers have so they can do assessments
- Community outreach: Presentation at trailer park in Greensboro, and trying to get HH kits to families.

NC Child – Nwanne Agada

- Exploring a regulatory approach for testing water for lead in childcare centers; hoping to have rules in place by August 2018. Focusing on childcare centers because schools and school boards tend to push back with testing regulations. Childcare centers service higher risk populations, need to notify parents.
- Recommendation to put in lead filters as a more economical approach to preventing poisoning, in addition to remediation of plumbing. Christy Klaus: limitations include lead build-up in filters that causes water to backflow and contaminate water supply. Maintenance (and longer term cost) of filters is also an issue to consider. Researching Maryland's policy of requiring disclosure as a model. Meeting with staff in UNC Environmental Finance Center to discuss funding opportunities for remediation.

Duke Children's – Barbara Donadio

- Trying to make more 5-9 group referrals to Reinvestment Partners.
- Has child living in Granville-Vance area – BLL started in 30s and is down slowly to 12, only potential source of lead is spices (turmeric), family stopped with spices immediately upon learning. Younger parents appear willing to take action.
- Not familiar on how to make sense with state testing on spices, and determining what is a risk factor. Response: there is no current NC level for spices, but other states are set at 1 ppm.
- New memo for program that EH is rolling out this year did go through the NC Pediatric Society so pediatricians are aware of the change to lower the action level for lead investigations.

Alamance County Environmental Health – Elizabeth Ellmore

- Two active CLPPP cases. 1) One has been ongoing for long time; scheduled clearance inspection, owner-occupied, trying to remediate but not doing a good job. Child's BLL started in the 30s, then went down to 11, now 12. 2) Other case is newer, is tenant-occupied. Need landlord to submit remediation plan.
- Has gone into two childcare centers and saw flaking paint which was found to be non-hazardous.
- Case for universal testing: fraternal twin siblings where sister is lead-poisoned and brother is thriving; at first doctors did not consider lead poisoning as a cause for her stunted development. Universal testing would have caught elevated BLL sooner.

UNC Hospitals - Carol Sockman

- Robeson, Alamance, and Guilford identified in last year with higher rates of asthma. Pursuing asthma education outreach for families in those areas.
- Nurses and respiratory therapists willing to go to any county to do Asthma Night, 5-6 physicians come talk with families and review meds etc. Email Carol to set one up.

Duke University - Allison Phillips is a PhD student studying child exposure to semi-volatiles

Forsyth County Health Department - Doris Hogan

- Two investigations at 5-7 level, seven investigations of 8-19, two of greater than 20, and one daycare.
- Finding that spices and keys are sources of lead in these cases, as is occupational exposure especially from battery manufacturing companies
- Working with Winston Salem-Forsyth County schools psychology department to educate families of affected children, because early exposure of lead can lead to long-term disabilities.

Guilford County Health Department - Paula Cox

- School nurses and CC4C trained in Healthy Homes; county covered at all levels with asthma education.
- If anyone is interested in doing presentations, recommend to go through school staff.
- Guilford County Schools decided to do lead and copper survey of all public schools on municipal water; includes schools in Greensboro, Highpoint, Alamance, and Forsyth. Results ready by mid-April.
- Concerns with new legislation changing the ability for any pregnant women to be tested for free for lead. Sending letters to OB/GYNs to let them know how they are going to handle this.
- Still finding lead in mini-blinds, spices, and home remedies.
- Lead case numbers unchanged, possibly due to reduction in refugee arrivals.

City of Charlotte – Diane Adams

- In process of interviewing a new lead and healthy homes coordinator.
- Piloting project with local hospitals: physicians identify asthma patients in need of housing assistance.
- Implemented Healthy Homes inspections all rehabilitated units.

Cumberland County Health Department - Daniel Ortiz and Diana Blue (in absentia)

- Two confirmed lead poisoning cases (with new expansion rules), two child care centers with lead investigations performed, remediation plans being reviewed, annual monitoring clearance being performed at a child care center 2/13/18 and a possible occupational hazard case.
- Requests that someone share a template for a Healthy Home investigation checklist and sample letter.

State Updates:

NC CLPPP

NC DHHS - David Brown

- Lead SOP workshop: Asheboro, NC on October 10, 11 and 12.
- Follow-up to Elizabeth Ellmore's update: trying to get back to property for clearance inspection. The home is at least 100 years old and property owners need to have a specialized cleaning done. In need of referrals for companies that do specialized cleanings, with Forsyth and Wake Counties sharing information on how expensive it can be.
- Noted a daycare using artificial turf (similar to tire crumb) as indoor flooring, possible source of lead.

NC DHHS - Ann Chelminski

- Would love to work with folks to reach out to physicians in their networks to share BLL schedule
- CCNC data sharing - major network of Medicaid providers, trying to get word out on program expansion and testing of pregnant women.
- Went to Pinehurst with Ed Norman NC Ped Society had meeting. Gave brief details about lead testing and follow-up. Also NC academy of physician assistants.
- Revising Lead Testing and Follow-Up Manual, will be up on NC Healthy Homes and NC CLPPP websites
- Interested in looking into policy aspects and funding for abatement where homeowner cannot make necessary renovations or compensation. UNC will establish link to funding sources on NC Healthy Homes website, if task force members will send the sources.

NC DHHS - Ed Norman

- Legislature allowed for expansion of program, will use Medicaid funding to pay new staff.
- Seven candidates identified for Environmental Health Specialist positions.
- CHIP reauthorized – anticipates using funds for capturing aid-to-county funding.

NC DHHS - Kim Gaetz

- Drafting lead and pregnancy policy template for local health department that includes testing and environmental investigation and follow-up. Will send out as soon as they have final version.
- Ann created referral form for when physicians have pregnant women with two BLL tests greater than 5, they would be faxed to them so that they can order environmental investigation.
- Pei Hamsik from the HUD Lead office wants to know of landlords delinquent on lead abatement. Sending follow-up information on listserv.
- RTI Clean Water for Carolina project requests that interested childcare centers and schools for study to test water and will provide analysis results to center owners. No funding available for remediation, but planning to provide list of resources and action items for each center based on test results.
- Hired new intern Molly Wilson (Meredith College). Helping to enter environmental sample results. If anyone needs help getting caught up on lead investigation entries, send to Molly or attach in NCLEAD.
- Several cases related to guns and bullets: One in mountains, children brought to grandfather's shooting range. One child at BLL of 65 and 66, was immediately hospitalized and chelated. Other child at BLL of 33 and 35. Another case in which a person was making guns in backyard where children are playing.
- Education needed about lead in guns and bullets, spent brass, and kids poisoned from people making fishing weights and bullets. Ann Chelminski referenced The Seattle Times article on lead poisoning in shooting ranges: <http://projects.seattletimes.com/2014/loaded-with-lead/1/>. Donna noted NC Wildlife dealing with animals dying of lead contamination; bald eagle poisoned from eating fish with lead weight.
- Universal testing: research shows that screening questionnaire was not more effective than universal testing. Ann Chelminski willing to reach out to physicians resistant to universal testing if info provided.

NC DHHS - Melanie Napier

- Creating report card for CCNC providers to assess rate of lead testing done in facility in order to motivate clinicians to test, comparing to other providers as they move towards universal testing. They have both network and means to distribute report card. Report will not just be lead, lots of other clinical quality indicators including lead testing rates.

UNC-Chapel Hill - Neasha Graves

- Healthy Homes trainings: Two scheduled in Guilford County and one in Charlotte (see Announcements).
- Developing online training modules in asthma and lead with NC IPH; will update when completed.
- Still have extra Lead Dos and Don'ts brochures in English and in Spanish.
- Two trainings with Lakieta Sanders for Early Head Start and Head Start parents in Durham. Will test kids while holding 1-hour workshop for parents. Planned for March 8 and April 12.

NC DHHS Health Hazards Control Unit - Jeff Dellinger

- When working with NC Certified Lead-Based Paint Firms and Renovators be aware that these contractors can and have disturbed asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) during their renovation activities. Be sure to address potential asbestos issues before renovation activities will take place to prevent asbestos contamination in the home and exposure to unprotected individuals. When using contractors, only asbestos trained and accredited individuals can address friable/regulated ACBM.
- The HHCU will be sending out a reminder letter to NC asbestos professionals reminding them that the NC Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting regulations can also apply during asbestos abatement activities and that these contractors will have to comply with both the asbestos regulations and the lead-based paint regulations.

Presentation:

- "Lead in Spices, Herbal Remedies and Ceremonial Powders Found in Homes of NC Residents"
Kim Gaetz, MSPH, PhD, public health epidemiologist

Announcements:

- Upcoming Healthy Homes trainings:
 - March 1, 9am-1pm, in Greensboro
 - March 21, 9am-1pm, in High Point
 - May 8, 10am-3pm, Charlotte AHEC
- Lead workshop with Head Start in Durham on March 8 and April 12 – more details to come
- Lead SOP workshop on October 10-12 in Asheboro

In Person Attendees:

Nwanne Agada	Environmental Health Program Manager	NC Child	nwanne@ncchild.org
Daryl Beasley	Environmental Health Specialist	Wake County Department of Environmental Services	Daryl.Beasley@wakegov.com
Cheryl Bono Zehia	Environmental Health Specialist	Orange County Health Department	cbono-zehia@orangecountync.gov
David Brown	Surveillance Coordinator	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Ann Chelminski	Public Health Physician	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	ann.chelminski@dhhs.nc.gov
Barbara Donadio	Pediatric Nurse Clinician	Duke Children's Primary Care	Barbara.donadio@duke.edu
Elizabeth Ellmore	REHS	Alamance County Environmental Health	Elizabeth.ellmore@alamance-nc.com
Elizabeth Fridley	PHNII	Chatham County Public Health Department	elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org
Kim Gaetz	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	Kim.gaetz@dhhs.nc.gov
Neasha Graves	Community Outreach and Education Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	neasha_graves@unc.edu
Victoria Hudson	Food, Lodging & Institutions Supervisor and Innovation Grants Manager	Orange County Health Department	vhudson@orangecountync.gov
Donna King	Director of Health Promotion and Education Services	Orange County Health Department	dking@orangecountync.gov
Peter Skillern	Executive Director	Reinvestment Partners	peter@reinvestmentpartners.org
Christy Klaus	Environmental Health Specialist	Wake County Department of Environmental Services	Christen.Klaus@wakegov.com

Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov
Ed Norman	Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov
Allison Phillips	PhD student	Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment	allison.l.phillips@duke.edu
Megan Rodgers	Environmental Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	merodgers@unc.edu
Lakieta Sanders	Health Educator	Durham County Health Department	ldsanders@dconc.gov
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Housing Programs	Reinvestment Partners	lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org
Carol Sockman	Registered Nurse	UNC Hospitals	Carol.Sockman@unchealth.unc.edu
Victoria Triana	Environmental Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	vtriana@live.unc.edu
Gina Uresti	Rental Team Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	gina@gsohc.org

On the Phone Attendees:

Diane Adams	Project Director	City of Charlotte, Lead and Healthy Homes Program	dadams@ci.charlotte.nc.us
Paula Cox	Environmental Health Manager	Guilford County Dept. of Health and Human Services	pcox@myguilford.com
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	NC DHHS Health Hazards Control Unit	jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov
Stephanie Fisher	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	DHHS – Children & Youth Branch	Stephanie.fisher@dhhs.nc.gov
Tena Hand	Data Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov
Doris Hogan	Environmental Health Specialist	Forsyth County Health Department	hoganda@forsyth.cc
Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov