



## Summary

On Tuesday, November 13, thirty-eight 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 Dr. Jacqueline MacDonald Gibson, Associate Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill, presented on *Increased Risk of Lead in Household Tap Water in NC Minority Communities Excluded from Community Water Supplies*. Environmental Research Assistant, Megan Rodgers, 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

### Forsyth County HD - Doris Hogan

- Addressing supplemental addresses, including 2 investigations with pregnant women (one spent time in Mexico and could have exposure from anise star; another may have exposure from pica/dirt); also has a mini-blind exposure case. Toys from BATTAT critter clinic have tested with high levels of lead. (Gaetz confirms). Chamomile tea elevated. CANDO Mexican spice, 2.09 lead level - barbacoa & iguana
- Question on details about pica exposure. Response: High lead level most of her life, and anemia. Has stopped eating dirt, has had discussion about why she is eating dirt due to anemia.

### Greensboro Housing Coalition - Krishnaveni Balakrishnan and Gina Uresti

- GHC is working to provide tenant education in apartment complexes in Greensboro and schools; Spanish, Arabic, and Swahili speaking families. The Cone Health referral system is building to include asthma related illness. Also working with UNCG asthma and lead project and upcoming work on healthy homes assessments. GHC is moving tenants living in condemned homes.

### Orange County HD – Victoria Hudson, Donna King, Doris Hill, and Joan Church

- OCHD is expanding include bilingual staff person to work with lead assessors. They continue to advocate to improve screening rates in Orange County. Finally got print order of lead educational materials from NC DHHS this week; in addition to using the brochures, they will use the spice questionnaire - to show that lead exposure is behavior related and not just lead-based paint.
- County is recruiting for open healthy homes coordinator position. (Kiana Redd was in this position)
- Doris Hill introduced herself as the county's lead nurse; she is following children to increase lead testing and work toward lower levels. Joan Church introduced herself as newcomer, too.

**Rebuilding Together the Triangle - Katie Heineman** – Introduced herself as a new employee.

### NC Child - Fawn Pattison

- Agency is hiring an EH advocacy associate; encouraged applicants. Developing the NC DHHS early childhood action plan - children's EH not in the plan as is. NC Child is pushing for it to be included.

### Reinvestment Partners –Lorisa Seibel

- Town hall meeting in Durham was a success in October– agencies in the community (RP and PEACH) are working hard to get doable action steps in next 6 months, particularly around renovation work.
- Advocating with the County Board of Health to approve new lead rule, and/or in the city working toward an ordinance similar to New Bern's. RP is working with kids below 5 and also 5-9, to get the



kids back in for confirmation blood test; also working to get referral system with phone numbers of families included.

**Alamance County HD - Elizabeth Ellmore**

- Cleared lead case: property cleared though BLL went up. Another case - child's BLL is going down.

**Iredell County HD – Diana Blue**

- Actively monitoring CLPPP case, in which the family has moved to 3rd home location; may need to offer investigation. BLL was 30 and decreased to 23. EBL investigation declined – County will try again to reeducate. Investigation of another case in which the home entrance may be the lead source.

**Chatham County HD - Elizabeth Fridley and Nellie Benitez**

- Question for Orange County HD - to increase screening rates, what did you have in mind? – Victoria answered that medical providers do not sufficiently test children because the health dept does not administer WIC program to help capture these kids and the zip code list does not accurately reflect at-risk communities. Working to change minds about that dilemma.
- Question for NCDHHS about NC Lead: Event ID does not show up – call Tena or Kim, may have been moved to another county.
- Update - one lead poisoning case 33 to 32...Crucifix sold by Catholic church, with medallion/Jesus on it.

**Guilford County HD - Luke Van Eyk**

- One lead investigation case, 2 cases with child daycare, OB/GYN clinic outreach about pregnant women and lead investigations - they had one where son went to Mexico and bought mugs that tested high for lead content; pregnant women used the mug twice a day.

**City of Charlotte - Hannah Kirlin**

- Still testing multiple houses and apartments for lead based paint hazards; working with community partners (2 pediatric offices) to identify children with asthma and then addressing issues with homeowner to fix IAQ issues.

**Duke Children's Primary Care – Barbara Donadio**

- Clinic is continuing to screen and follow-up with people in low ranges. She had a need for additional lead brochures.
- She mentioned concern about old Pyrex dishes as a concern for lead exposure. NC CLPPP will seek information on it and provide insight on best way to warn people about potential exposure.

**State Updates**

**NC CLPPP, NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health Branch - Ed Norman**

- NC Child, DEQ, DCDEE collaboration - Drafted rule drafted a rule on child care sanitation to require testing for lead in water on a periodic basis; excited that they get to write the language and not a legislative assistant; will monitor it the way they steam clean carpets (the documentation); RTI is interested in testing for the entire child care community (at least 5,000 centers). They would mail out kits at small price; the State Lab would still have to do the confirmation testing. RTI would only be eligible to do the initial test; not certified to give confirmation. NCDHHS has more authority over child



care than schools. EPA will provide certain amount of money to each state to test water in child care centers and schools (WIIN grant totaling \$2 million nationwide), which will help with the periodic testing. Eventually there will be a time for public opinion on the rule. Will present the rule to commission of public health.

- There are 2 grants related to mitigation that DEQ would be interested in.

#### NC CLPPP, NC DHHS Regional EH Specialists

- **Robert Hunt** - Recent investigation, includes workers who bitten by dogs; serves as lesson to be aware of surroundings when conducting an investigation.
- **Rob Pearsall** - Hurricane Florence has delayed things by 3-4 weeks; 5 confirmed cases; 10 EBLs. People evacuated, and this has delayed investigations. One home that had child living in it and home was flooded to child was moved. 2 houses under remediation order that were also flooded beyond repair. Mini-blinds still keep popping up, including 2 recent lead cases.
- **David Brown** – NC CLPPP completed Lead SOP training in Asheboro. Randolph County HD has old house with lots of lead hazards, so they conduct simulation/field trip; this year's tropical storm Michael prevented simulation. They still conducted simulation in conference area. Favorable feedback from workshop participants. Gina Uresti came to speak, to help give mother's perspective; very valuable. Made a change with water sampling protocol with exceedance notification. Previously, first draw 5 min, 15 min. Now 3T (under EPA) first draw, 30 seconds, different protocol. **Point from Ed Norman:** NC DHHS decided to change to EPA recommendations; encouraged everyone to follow EPA protocol; will be sent out. Testing methodology is the same, but sampling has changed.
- **Tonya Zimmerman** - 5 new lead cases investigated, one for poisoning. 15 different spice samples from Pakistan. Child is returning to Pakistan for 2 months - he is two years old. All children under 6.
- **Carissa Moore** - Common findings, including gun, hobby, and occupational exposures (airplane hangar, shooting range owner, wildlife ranger). One case of child playing with and mouthing fidget spinner and keys. Tested sumac, came back .75 mg/kg. Old Pyrex dish. **UNC IE will help look for any evidence of lead recalls/warnings involving lead in old Pyrex dishes.**
- **Brenda** - Counties affected by hurricane. Seeing a lot of occupation lead exposure in children
- **Donna** - Waiting to hear back about one case in Craven County. EBL in one county, doesn't think that parents will agree to investigation.

#### NC State Lab of Public Health - Kate Koehler and Karen Mersinger

- Question for group: With home investigations now being offered at 5 µg/dL, do you see more? Yes. Currently state lab retests samples of any number over ten. Retesting will be lowered to anything over 5. Reason why they haven't already instituted this rule is because of understaffing.
- Kate asked meeting attendees how long it takes to receive results of the environmental samples - group notes that samples take too long - 1 month. Website is not working properly, not displaying correctly. Kate will relay information to State Lab officials.

#### NC DHHS Children and Youth Branch - Stephanie Fisher

- Annual child health conference in Greensboro on Nov 27-28. Neasha Graves and David Brown will have exhibit. Preparing for Medicaid transformation, changed documentation system.



**NC CLPPP, NC DHHS Epidemiologist - Melanie Napier**

- Encouraged participants who have problems finding children or not sure where to place information in NC Lead system to contact her.
- NC CLPPP is trying to establish connection to NC DMA; linking Medicaid data to childhood lead level data has not been finished yet; this will help re-institute the Medicaid report card system that garnered its best response from providers a decade ago.

**NC CLPPP, NC DHHS Epidemiologist - Kim Gaetz**

- Completed surveillance tables and updated old surveillance tables. Will have new tables out soon from 2013 - 2017 on website under data. Have also had requests from NCDHHS secretary for data.
- Spice manuscript from CDC's MMWR should be coming out next week. FDA has cut levels in half of maximum permissible limit for lead exposure for children and adults. Have had reports from other states of pressure cooker's lead weight, esp. those found online. Comes in contact with food usually on lid of pressure cooker. Found to be source of lead exposure in some children. Lichen - used in Indian cooking to thicken food, and for flavor/aroma...called stone flower in English. Found to be high in lead, especially in one case in eastern NC, testing at 35 ppm.

**NC CLPPP, NC DHHS Data Manager - Tena Hand**

- She is working to get case processor updated so that they are routed appropriately in the NC Lead work flows. Doing final testing in of the environmental data work flow so hoping that by end of the week, the update will be complete.

**NC DHHS Health Hazards Control Unit – Jeff Frank**

- Numbers for certified firms are holding up, with a slight surge. HHCU sent out some emergency guidance to 1,200 firms in September following Hurricane Florence. About 200 homes are getting lead risk assessments because of the hurricane; 7 inspectors called into the state to help.

**NC CLPPP, UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS – Neasha Graves**

- Team is conducting HH trainings. Planning to ramp up the lead trainings for community audiences in this new funding year. Advised that agencies are welcome to send their staff to upcoming trainings in Wake/Johnston and Charlotte areas (May 22 in Charlotte; Dates TBD for Wake/Johnston CCNC).
- She encouraged use of the [NC Disaster Response and Recovery: EH Resources website](#) as people seek environmental health resources after the hurricanes and even beyond hurricane season.
- She gave a plug to participate/join/forward to others the lead online training module, as a great resource for people who need an intro to sources and solutions. Gave another plug for asthma online training module, which will be released in the coming weeks.
- Megan Rodgers will distribute annual program survey to listserv.
- Presenting at NCPHA fall conference on December 12-13 (e-cigs and presenting healthy homes).

**NC CLPPP, UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS – Megan Rodgers**

- Lead stickers with slogan to get kids tested at age 1 and 2 have been completed, approved by NCDHHS and printed. Partnership with Oral Health. Stickers can be edited to include your health department contact information; just let Megan know what you want it to say.
- Gina Uresti (Greensboro Housing Coalition) mentioned that Imagination Library to partner to include stickers on their books.



## Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

November 13, 2018

### Presentation

**Increased Risk of Lead in Household Tap Water in NC Minority Communities Excluded from Community Water Supplies | Dr. Jacqueline MacDonald Gibson**, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

### In Person Attendees

Krishnaveni Balakrishnan	Healthy Homes Coordinator	Greensboro Housing Coalition	<a href="mailto:krishnaveni@gsohc.org">krishnaveni@gsohc.org</a>
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### On the Phone Attendees

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