



## Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

May 14, 2019

### Summary

On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, thirty-one 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 Stephanie Engel, PhD, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, presented on Pesticides and Phthalates. Environmental Research Assistant, Megan Rodgers in the UNC IE Center for Public Engagement with Science coordinates meetings of the task force, and this meeting was supported by funding from the NC DHHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NC CLPPP) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

### Local Program Updates

#### **Durham Children's Primary Care – Barbara Donadio**

- She likes the provider materials that NC CLPPP and UNC are sending to providers to inform and encourage them to test children and conduct appropriate interventions.

#### **Wilson County Health Department – Marian Robertson and Caitlyn Wells \*new participants\***

#### **Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti**

- Nearly all of the GHC staff have participated in recent NCCARE360 trainings to prepare for launch/use. They also continue their healthy homes inspections and education with residents.

#### **NC Child – Ciara Zachary**

- There was a May 8 NC Commission on Health meeting regarding legislation for lead testing in water in child care centers. The public comment period is set for June 3 – August 2. NC Child will be pushing participation in the public comment period very soon with template comments that people can use.
- NC received EPA funding for testing. Rep. Warren's bill to test schools for lead has been in committee for a long while with no action. NC Child is working to lower EPA water level from 15 to 5.

#### **Toxic Free NC – Alexis Luckey and Cheyenne Wagi \*new participants\***

#### **Orange County Health Department – Victoria Hudson, Moira Beck, and Krishnaveni Balakrishnan**

- In recognition of March as Poisoning Prevention Month, Orange County HD put out new materials on lead. They ramped up their outreach efforts with childcare centers, and the EH division is enhancing efforts with clinical staff to merge lead and healthy homes. Also, enhanced efforts with vector control.
- Program description: Healthy Homes is a free program for families that can help you take control of your child's asthma. It has been proven to significantly reduce emergency room visits and improve asthma symptoms. A Healthy Homes team will visit you at home. They will identify things that may be making your child's asthma worse and provide you and your healthcare provider with a report on how to make your home healthier. They will help you with 1. Identifying potential asthma triggers and health hazards, 2. Information and resources to implement low-cost, reliable, and practical methods to reduce health and safety hazards, and 3. Asthma medication management. This program serves families who 1. Have a child under the age of 18 with poorly controlled asthma and 2. Live in Orange County



**Durham County Health Department – Warren Richardson**

- The City of Durham was awarded new HUD lead hazards control grant.
- As a former DHHS regional EH specialist, he mentioned that he has a new perspective on the work of EH staff working on lead and doing other inspections. The difficulty for HD staff to address lead cases is really pronounced, when there are other requirements for their jobs. He asked Ed Norman to explore ways to give direction to HDs on the amount of time they should contribute to addressing lead issues.

**NC Housing Finance Agency – Donna Coleman** \*new participant\*

- She encouraged participants to visit the NC HFA website (<https://www.nchfa.com/>). Among the resources she mentioned, there is a community partners loan pool that could be useful.
- NCHFA is working to improve education on local governments (community development groups) and individuals who apply for down-payment assistance information on lead in pre-1978 housing.
- Donna manages single family housing assistance program, which allows extra funding to remedy lead issues if there is a chance that the child could be exposed to lead. In this case, the child doesn't have to live in the property (could be grandmother's house).

**Chatham County Health Department – Nellie Benitez and Roxanna Sandria**

- Health department is following 22 kids through NC Lead, entering data.
- Elizabeth conducted 4 healthcare provider meetings, and the staff conducted an outreach activity on lead and asthma at local health fair.

**Iredell County Health Department – Diana Blue and Katie Crawford**

- They are following up with investigations at 3 school buildings and 3 childcare centers and have been working on a clearance for a house.

**Forsyth County Health Department – Doris Hogan**

- Providing lead and healthy homes information at monthly car seat checks with Safe Kids NW Piedmont
- Attended two family fun nights at Elementary Schools.
- Conducted two lead presentations to doctors with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center; (with local rule) Conducted two investigations for 5-7, one for 8-19, one for 20 or greater, and one for a pregnant asylee from the Congo; Conducted additional visit to two different properties to try and determine the source of exposure for children who are not having a decrease in their BLLs (still waiting on some spice results).
- Conducted a lead investigation for a child from India and a sample of Turmeric tested with a level of 160 ppm. The family visited India, purchased raw product (root), took it to a local miller and had the root ground, and when finished, the miller adds some additives to help with spoilage. The family purchased and brought back a large amount of this product. After finding out that it was elevated along with other spices (Red Chili 1.7 ppm, Coriander 4.0 ppm) purchased and prepared in India the same way, the family purchased new items in the US, and we are still waiting on the results from the State Lab. The child was also drinking a chocolate nutritional drink mix purchased in the US from the local Indian store that tested 1.2 ppm. It is called Boost, but it is not the normal boost.
- Conducted multiple annual monitoring visits and clearances.



## State Program Updates

### NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health Branch

#### Ed Norman

- Gave a description of House Bill 386. The Commission on Health adopted the rule on lead testing in water at child care centers. A public hearing is set for June 24 in the Cardinal Room on NC DHHS Six Forks Road campus. The comment period June 3 to August 2. The bill requires all licensed child care centers to have their water tested in drinking and food prep areas every 3 years. The earliest effective date that this would go into effect would be October 1, 2019 but it could be as late as summer 2020.
- NC DHHS is trying try to work with one large lab like RTI to analyze the results. For this policy, NC DHHS will continue to follow EPA's current MCL of 15 ppb to determine the water as hazardous, even though they know that NC Child is working on getting the level dropped to 5 ppb through legislation. Initial sampling will be the first draw, taken by the child care administrator/staff. All of the samples tested above the allowable level will be reported to the NC CLPPP. An additional first draw will be taken by NC DHHS or the local HD. Under this rule, the state will pay for the testing of the water.
- Job announcements for two permanent epidemiologists will be released soon, and Ed is hoping to hire at least one of them by late June.

#### David Brown

- Attended the asthma summit on May 1 in Burlington. He emphasized attending the summit each year. Good information and opportunities to interact with vendors about their equipment, etc.

#### Kim Gaetz (*Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch*)

- She is leaving the lead program to work as an epidemiology supervisor in the NC DHHS OEE Branch.
- Introduced Karima Mahmoud, who will be assisting with data entry and maintenance in NC Lead.

#### Karima Mahmoud

- Will be managing data related to children's health in the lead investigations in NC DHHS. People should continue to call Melanie and Tena with questions about the NC Lead investigation data.

#### Rob Pearsall

- He recently conducted 3 investigations involving older mini blinds. Concerned not just about lead but also about older blinds having more hazardous cord. Noticing the differences between older and newer mini blinds may actually make it easy for investigators to detect problem blinds.
- He is also working with a pregnant mother who had pica near the end of her pregnancy.

#### Robert Hunt

- Thanked the HDs for their help with the challenges the regional staff often encounters during investigations. He discussed the issues with getting into homes, particularly if it is difficult to gain trust of parents so that they can conduct investigations.
- He also described some great parent interactions, in which parents acted immediately (taking down mini blinds) when realizing what the lead source was.



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### Melanie Napier

- The NC Lead's IT help desk email address is still down. People should directly contact her or Tena to get things remedied in NC Lead. Problem could be due to a recent system change by the NC DHHS IT office.

### Tena Hand

- Asked everyone to be patient with her and Melanie as they work on Kim's remaining workload.

### Kimly Blount

- Lead SOP Workshop: October 9-11, 2019 in Asheboro; Register at <https://ncehsop.org/cms-sop/>
- Kim Gaetz will be guest speaker for the lead program at the 4<sup>th</sup> Environmental Health Symposium on August 1-2, 2019 in Asheville, NC at the Crown Plaza. She will present on lead and spices.
- We are sponsoring a Supervisor's Abatement 4-day course August 19-20, 2019. We may have 4 slots available if anyone is interested, especially counties with independent lead programs. Contact Kimly at [kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov) if interested. Very Low cost.

### State Lab of Public Health

#### Kate Koehler

- State Lab is submitting a biomonitoring grant to help with analyzing PFAS and coal ash in contaminated sites. Cindy Price and Kate are getting new mass spec devices to upgrade their testing even more.
- She reminded that the State Lab offers free lab tours.
- The State Lab hired 2 new chemists for hemachemical unit and chemical terrorism. Cindy Price is retiring at the end of June. Dr. Lou Turner is the interim until they find a permanent one.

### UNC IE Center for Public Engagement with Science

#### Neasha Graves

- The extreme heat and health online webinar is being developed by CPES and the NC Institute for Health and will be completed by the end of the summer.
- UNC staff presented lead and healthy homes outreach materials at the national CitSci conference.
- In February, UNC epidemiologist Julie Daniels presented on her environmental health sciences research on autism and developmental health.
- Neasha, Dr. Kim Gaetz, and Dr. Ann Chelminski presented at the NC Refugee Health on lead to more than 70 case managers and clinicians of refugee health programs in Greensboro in March; this work is expanding, partnerships with NC Refugee Health and the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project.
- Neasha encouraged participants to seek environmental health sciences research that is being conducted at UNC – Alex Keil (developmental health) and Meghan Rebuli (environmental exposures and respiratory health) are researchers who presented in February to a group of local and state health stakeholders;

#### Megan Hughes

- Inquiry from a Cleveland County man who may need a healthy homes assessment; she asked if anyone had advice to provide for him, since he doesn't have a child in the home. Donna Coleman from NC HFA later suggested that he could reach out to their office for resources in his community.



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### In Person Attendees

Moira Beck	REHS	Orange County Health Department	<a href="mailto:rbeck@orangecountync.gov">rbeck@orangecountync.gov</a>
Lori Brinn	Research Specialist	UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility	<a href="mailto:labrinn@unc.edu">labrinn@unc.edu</a>
David Brown	Surveillance Coordinator	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	<a href="mailto:w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov">w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Donna Coleman	Senior Housing Rehabilitation Officer	NC Housing Finance Agency	<a href="mailto:djcoleman@nchfa.com">djcoleman@nchfa.com</a>
Barbara Donadio	Pediatric Nurse Clinician	Duke Children's Primary Care	<a href="mailto:Barbara.donadio@duke.edu">Barbara.donadio@duke.edu</a>
Kim Gaetz	Epidemiology Supervisor	Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology, NC DHHS	<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, CEHS, NC CLPPP	<a href="mailto:neasha_graves@unc.edu">neasha_graves@unc.edu</a>
Tena Hand	Data Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:Tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov">Tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Victoria Hudson	Director of Environmental Health and Retail Food Inspection Program	Orange County Health Department	<a href="mailto:vHUDSON@orangecountync.gov">vHUDSON@orangecountync.gov</a>
Megan Hughes	Educator and Research Associate	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	<a href="mailto:hugheme@email.unc.edu">hugheme@email.unc.edu</a>
Robert Hunt	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, DHHS	<a href="mailto:robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov">robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Kate Koehler	Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator, Hemachemistry Manager	NC State Laboratory of Public Health, NC Division of Public Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov">kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov</a>



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Alexis Luckey	Executive Director	Toxic Free NC	<a href="mailto:alexis@toxicfreenc.org">alexis@toxicfreenc.org</a>
Karima Mahmoud	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:karima.mahmoud@dhhs.nc.gov">karima.mahmoud@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov">Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Ed Norman	Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	<a href="mailto:ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov">ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Rob Pearsall	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov">robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Warren Richardson	Environmental Health Specialist	Durham County Department of Public Health	<a href="mailto:wrichardson@dconc.gov">wrichardson@dconc.gov</a>
Marian Robertson	Environmental Health Specialist	Wilson County Health Department	<a href="mailto:mrobertson@wilson-co.com">mrobertson@wilson-co.com</a>
Megan Rodgers	Environmental Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	<a href="mailto:merodgers@unc.edu">merodgers@unc.edu</a>
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Housing Programs	Reinvestment Partners	<a href="mailto:lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org">lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org</a>
Chris Trent	Durham resident		<a href="mailto:cbtrent@gmail.com">cbtrent@gmail.com</a>
Gina Uresti	Rental Team Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	<a href="mailto:gina@gsohc.org">gina@gsohc.org</a>
Cheyenne Wagi	Toxic Free Kids Program Manager	Toxic Free NC	<a href="mailto:cheyenne@toxicfreenc.org">cheyenne@toxicfreenc.org</a>
Caitlyn Wells	Intern	Wilson County Health Department	
Ciara Zachary	Health Program Director	NC Child	<a href="mailto:ciara@ncchild.org">ciara@ncchild.org</a>



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### On the Phone Attendees

Brenda Bass	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov">brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker and Focus on Fathers Specialist	Chatham County Public Health Department	<a href="mailto:nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org">nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org</a>
Diana Blue	Environmental Health Specialist Program Specialist	Iredell Public County Health Department	<a href="mailto:diana.blue@co.iredell.nc.us">diana.blue@co.iredell.nc.us</a>
Katie Crawford	Environmental Health Specialist	Iredell Public County Health Department	<a href="mailto:katie.crawford@co.iredell.nc.us">katie.crawford@co.iredell.nc.us</a>
Roxana Sandria	Environmental Health Tech	Chatham County Environmental Health	<a href="mailto:Roxana.lopez@chathamnc.org">Roxana.lopez@chathamnc.org</a>