



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

November 12, 2019

Summary

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, thirty-three 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 program updates and listened to presentations from two Social Services representatives, local and state. Environmental Research Assistant, Megan Rodgers, in the UNC IE Center for Public Engagement with Science coordinates meetings of the task force. 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

Alamance County Health Department – Elizabeth Ellmore

- Four elevated cases in the past quarter; two ongoing cases with uncooperative parents. One owner is moving slowly on requirements for clearance.
- Elise Moser is the new Healthy Homes program coordinator (replacing Kenneth Greene).

Chatham County Health Department – Nellie Benitez and Elizabeth Fridley

- They have been testing at a local Head Start site; they are working at local street fairs and working with providers to increase testing.

Durham County Health Department – Warren Richardson

- Four confirmed children with lead investigations in recent weeks; they have had their first pregnant mother with lead poisoning. Despite initial suspicion about a bean pot, apparent EBL is from her home in Mexico. ****This sparked a policy discussion on getting newborns tested after pregnant mothers are tested with high lead levels.**
 - Barbara Donadio suggested that she and Warren connect to get this on the baby's "problem" list with his pediatrician/health department.
 - Kate Koehler said that they can contact her directly to get the baby tested right away.
 - Kate and Ed Norman will meet with Pierre Lauffer to work on protocol for getting babies tested.

Durham County Health Department – Lakieta Sanders

- The "Teach and Test" project with UNC and Reinvestment Partners at local Head Start sites resulted in 24 kids tested, with requests for return visits to test children at both sites; she tested kids at a third Head Start site on 10/31/19.
- In October, there was a 2-day event at Beauty World in Durham with lead testing, vendors, food, etc. This was a first-time event, but it seemed popular enough that organizers will plan it again in 2020.

PEACH (Durham County) – Lenora Smith

- She thanked GHHI, Durham County Health Department and other partners who helped with the half-day training event in October; they had 80 participants from communities and agencies.
- PEACH is working to create a workforce that can address housing hazards; she has part-time positions to help with the remediation work. She has been recruiting new members for the steering committee toward working on the board of health rule, to make sure they have a diverse group of stakeholders.
- Jeff Dellinger is investigating to see why Home Depot in NC won't accept a Durham area contractor's certificate from South Carolina.
- Lenora is working to get an XRF for some risk assessment work in the City of Durham.



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Reinvestment Partners (Durham County) – Lorisa Seibel

- The City of Durham is updating its lead hazard reduction plan. She requested advice on managing lead hazards with local housing programs/authorities.
- Discussion about whether we can use the HUD standard for lead dust on floors before January 1, 2020 policy begins. Ed Norman replied that the state will recognize new standards on the date of the policy.

Forsyth County Health Department – Doris Hogan (*in absentia*)

- Conducted 5 required investigations for children with BLLs of $8\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or greater and 1 for a child with a BLL of $5\text{-}7\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Two of the cases involved elevated lead in the water. Both have older wells with only the first draw showing elevated levels. One property had it as high as 2ppm. We are still working with both properties but believe the acidity of water here in our area is possibly contributing to some lead leaching out of the brass in the faucets.
- Conducted outreach at a local Block party with around 100-150 participants. The organizer is working to have it every year, so hopefully the numbers will improve.

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative – Jamal Lewis

- He introduced the program as a nonprofit group in Baltimore that's dedicated on work toward healthy housing and encouraged people to follow up with him if they're applying for the Healthy Opportunity Pilots. Successful in Salt Lake City and Baltimore; GHHI is interested in assisting with them in NC.
- He has additional information on other lead hazard reduction funding. The organization is pushing to increase the amount of available funding toward lead remediation. They are promoting edits to tax law that would motivate development in poor housing areas and schools that need lead remediation.

Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti

- GHC is having events at schools to meet with families, encourage home assessments and distribute cleaning kits.
- They are using the NCCARE360 system; it is working very smoothly for them.
- She and a colleague will attend the national healthy homes training in Philadelphia.

Guilford County Health Department – Paula Cox

- 16 elevated kids since 1/1/19; no families have accepted the visual assessment offers; after 4 tries from visits and calls to homes, they stop trying; there is no clear reason for the decline. They have completed 4 confirmed investigations.
- Working with a large housing development on a remediation plan; constraints from historical society.
- Recently hired nurses are starting healthy homes outreach. Paula has conducted a training with nurses.

NC Child – Vikki Crouse

- Developed videos that will be available soon in English and Spanish, in preparation for implementing the lead testing rule in childcare centers.
- Working with the NC Realtors Association to get voluntary lead hazard reduction programming; for landlords to list properties in a database showing which properties have been abated.
- Healthy Opportunity Pilots under the managed care transition; NC Child is concern that there is no requirement for lead hazard reduction and other hazards.
- They just released the RFA for the pilots. Reinvestment Partners has applied for the pilot funding.



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Pitt County Health Department – Tashaunda Hill

- Since August, there are no new lead cases in Pitt County; still working with homes getting lead hazards remediation work (under Greenville's HUD-funded program) to inform families.
- In Spring/April 2020, they will participate in a large countywide event for new mothers.

Wake County Human Services – Daryl Beasley and Jordan Jernigan

- The program has had 27 lead cases since the start of the year; there is currently one full-time employee working on lead cases.

State Program Updates

NC Justice Center – Suzy Khachatryan

- Currently seeking opportunities to engage with programs seeking the healthy opportunities pilot proposals/funding.

NC DHHS Children and Youth Branch – Stephanie Fisher

- Their team is working on the Medicaid transformation preparation by Feb 1, 2020. She discussed with Ann Chelminski about locating a list of nursing supervisors and the newest map of regional nursing supervisors; she has sent it to Ann.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health

Ed Norman

- He has permanently hired Melanie Napier as the public health epidemiologist.
- Doesn't have permission to advertise his third epidemiologist position yet; he has been waiting since April but cannot create a new position until the state budget is in place.
- He and David Brown discussed protocol for water sampling collection, as it relates to the new childcare lead in water rule, particularly the follow-up for childcare centers that have high lead levels in water. Some uncertainty about what the Division of Child Development will require, related to the new rule.

David Brown

- The CEH unit staff got their updated lead supervisor training in August.
- Conducted Lead Remediation SOP with 46 participants; field workshop at Randolph County rest home.
- Regional education meetings: Nov 19 in Fayetteville; Dec 10 in Mills River; Dec 19 in Thomasville.

Stacey Robbins

- One elevated and one confirmed case; she is working on some clearances and is returning to some of them to pass clearance. Counties are doing well at working on elevated cases and lowering levels.

Barrette Gregory

- He has had 5 EBLs and 1 childcare facility.
- Recently, he has assisted Tonya Zimmerman and Stacey Robbins on outreach and presentations.

Tonya Zimmerman

- Two CLPPP cases recently and her first lead in pregnancy case. She thinks it's from the mother traveling to the husband's construction work when visiting and delivering him lunch. She has 4 additional EBLs.



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Rob Pearsall

- One EBL case involved a father who is a painter and contaminated a child. There are several EBLs of kids coming from Central and South America; evidence points to the children arriving poisoned from their home countries, and the levels have dropped since arriving in NC.
- He has a confirmed pregnant case. Some of the pregnant cases he has had have been getting newborn babies checked immediately. ****Reference to earlier discussion about protocol with testing newborns:** Ed Norman and Kate Koehler said that they may review and use the CDC protocol for some direction in setting up a policy/protocol on the local level.

Carissa Moore

- She has had a handful of EBLs in the past few months, with no poisonings lately. Half of her time has been working on EBLs and half in childcare centers, and with some new centers opening. Of her EBLs, half seem to originate from older housing and the other half are hobbies, guns, and other activities.

Donna Gilbird

- In Lenoir and Craven Counties, she has a lot of cases lately. She is having some good luck getting in homes with EBLs. She is discovering some hobby related issues and described a case with the cause coming from hunting/gun work at a child's grandmother's home.

Tena Hand

- They have hired a new temporary epidemiologist who will start in November to help with the surveillance workload; Tena is working to catch up on data from commercial labs. She asked folk to let her know about deficiencies with entering elevated cases in the system.

UNC IE Center for Public Engagement with Science

Neasha Graves

- "Teach and Test" project enabled them to teach ~20 Head Start parents at two sites, and they are pursuing the same effort in Orange County Head Start sites.
- UNC staff have taught 4 four-hour lead and healthy homes trainings for public health, childcare and legal aid professionals since the last meeting. Staff has been asked to provide presentations on emerging healthy homes issues at a western environmental health district meeting and Lead Remediation SOP.
- Increased interest among childcare center operators to get lead trainings; The team taught a two-hour training in Mayodan for childcare professionals and other centers are beginning to schedule trainings.
- The CDC will send out the request for lead poisoning prevention program funding proposals to states in late winter/early spring 2020, and Neasha asked meeting participants to begin brainstorming ideas for projects around surveillance, outreach and policy (and other opportunities for innovation) in NC.

Keynote Presenters

Ann Granby, Child Protective Services Program Manager, Department of Social Services, Durham County
egraby@dconc.gov

Lashonda Stanley, Social Services Program Consultant, Division of Social Services NC DHHS
Lashonda.Stanley@dhhs.nc.gov



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In Person Attendees

Daryl Beasley	Environmental Health Specialist Team Leader	Wake County Department of Environmental Services	Daryl.Beasley@wakegov.com
David Brown	Surveillance Coordinator	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Vikki Crouse	Health Program Associate	NC Child	vikki@ncchild.org
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
Ann Granby	Child Protective Services Program Manager	Durham Department of Social Services	egranby@dconc.gov
Neasha Graves	Community Outreach and Education Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	neasha_graves@unc.edu
Barrette Gregory	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov
Megan Hughes	Environmental Health Educator	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	Robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov
Robert Hunt	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov
Jordan Jernigan	Lead Program Specialist	Wake County Department of Environmental Services	Jordan.Jernigan@wakegov.com
Kate Koehler	Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator, Hemachemistry Manager	NC State Laboratory of Public Health, NC Division of Public Health	kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov
Rob Pearsall	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov
Warren Richardson	Environmental Health Specialist	Durham County Department of Public Health	wrichardson@dconc.gov



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Megan Rodgers	Environmental Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	merodgers@unc.edu
Lakieta Sanders	Public Health Educator	Durham County Department of Public Health	ldsanders@dconcgov
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Healthy Homes	Reinvestment Partners	lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org
Tiffany Spruill	Intern	Durham County Department of Public Health	
Gina Uresti	Rental Team Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	gina@gsohc.org
Tonya Zimmerman	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Tonya.Zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov

On the Phone Attendees

Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker and Focus on Fathers Specialist	Chatham County Public Health Department	nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org
Paula Cox	Environmental Health Manager II	Guilford County Public Health	PCOX@guilfordcountync.gov
Stephanie Fisher	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	Division of Public Health, Children & Youth Branch, NC DHHS	stephanie.fisher@dhhs.nc.gov
Elizabeth Fridley	Public Health Nurse II	Chatham County Public Health Department	elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org
Donna Gilbird	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Donna.Gilbird@dhhs.nc.gov
Tena Hand	Data Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov
Tashaunda Hill	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Pitt County Environmental Health	tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov
Suzy Khachatryan	Policy Analyst	NC Justice Center	SuzyK@ncjustice.org



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Jamal Lewis	Policy and Technical Assistance Specialist	Green & Healthy Homes Initiative	jlewis@gghi.org
Ed Norman	Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov
Carissa Moore	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Carissa.moore@dhhs.nc.gov
Stacey Robbins	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	stacey.robbins@dhhs.nc.gov
Lenora Smith	Executive Director	PEACH	peachlead@aol.com