



Ad Hoc Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force August 26 Quarterly Meeting – Summary Notes

Summary:

On Wednesday, Aug 26, twenty-four public health and housing 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 announcements. The theme of this meeting was the connection between health and housing, especially as they relate to local and state housing policies, and the meeting featured presentations from housing experts Brett Byerly, Greensboro Housing Coalition and Lorisa Seibel, Reinvestment Partners. Research Associate Megan Hoert Hughes in the UNC IE Environmental Resource Program coordinates meetings of the task force and this meeting was supported by funding from NC CLPPP through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1UEIEH001276-1).

The following notes include brief summaries of lead/healthy homes activities pursued by local and state agencies:

LOCAL UPDATES

Chatham County – Nellie Benitez and Elizabeth Fridley

- Chatham Co HD recently hosted several outreach events, including outreach to foster families of small children.
- Upcoming event: Head Start (lead sticks for children who have not been tested; display of items that have been found to contain lead)

Durham County – Jan Jackson

- Durham County is experiencing more lead cases over last several months; has been doing investigations with David Brown (one child was getting lead from peeling paint on neighbors porch)
- Noted Washington Post article about lead poisoning settlements; companies are approaching people who have structured settlements (poisoned as kids, now adults) and are profiting from them.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/how-companies-make-millions-off-lead-poisoned-poor-blacks/2015/08/25/7460c1de-0d8c-11e5-9726-49d6fa26a8c6_story.html

Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel

- Wrapping up first year of grant: outreach to 1000 households in Durham, did Healthy Homes/Lead home visits; focus in June was to do 10 homes with an environmental assessment; getting help from state to do some XRF readings on paint
- Interested in understanding more about the role of the health provider in identifying sources of lead and providing patient education.
- Continuing to work with PEACH to identify and address at-risk homes.

Wake County – Christy Klaus

- Seeing families of Indian origin with contaminated spices in their homes (garam masala spices, turmeric, red chiles, kumkum, asafoetida)
- Also finding lead in Hispanic spices and ones used by Egyptian families
- Group asked if she could summarize results from State Lab and photos
- Group asked for photo guide so that they can be aware of how the packaging looks; Neasha noted that the “Toxic Treats” poster was distributed by the CA Health Department; this is a project that could be revisited
- Lenora asked how families respond when she asks about spices and ceremonial products may be tainted; Christy takes these samples to the State Lab; she suggests meeting with the Indian community and asking

parents to talk to one another; Neasha will inquire with other states' CLPPP programs to understand responses they get from families.

- Has submitted reports to the FDA; some are coming from Patel Brothers in Cary and International Stores in Raleigh
- Also emerging issue of lead and artificial grass; she tested turf in pre K and K playgrounds (tested 30), CA Center for Environmental Health processed the samples for free; 2 were positive for lead dust; pigment is the source; certain brands are a problem; she has these results too; 40 micrograms/sq ft; schools tore out the grass; CA and NJ both have recommendations
- Wake County video about asthma and home assessment:
<http://www.wakegov.com/envirohealth/air/Pages/asthma.aspx>

Orange County Health Department, Health Education – Coby Jansen Austin Creating healthy Homes pilot; hoping to reach about 10 families

- Just got approved to purchase buckets and other cleaning supplies as intervention/education tools

Orange County Health Department, Environmental Health Division – Alan Clapp, Connie Pixley

- Have done 24 risk assessments to date; found spices in homes of Indian families
- Tena Hand and Connie discussed making sure that these data are entered into NC LEAD
- Recently had 2 public water supply wells with lead copper hits; one was a mobile home park, and one was a daycare, which is under a remediation plan.

PEACH –Lenora Smith

- Continues teaching RRP classes in Durham for contractors
- Working with Durham Mayor's Poverty Reduction Task Force to address various needs of low income residents (including health-related needs)

City of Charlotte – Sherry Rathod

- Hosted *Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers* training yesterday, and participants included representatives from cooperative extension service, Safe Kids, and department of social services
- Cleared 86 homes; 88 homes tested with no lead; 46 in progress
- 2 outreach events with the fire department; "Remember When" events (fire safety, home safety)
- Trained 5 staff in RRP

Forsyth County – Doris Hogan

- Working on outreach partners (Safe Kids NW Piedmont (work with kids up to 18); target is Hispanic population)
- Preparing for October Lead Month; sending mailings to pediatricians about testing children
- Megan sent out recipe document (English and Spanish on 8/27/2015)

Craven County – Deb Yarbrough

- Continues teaching RRP class
- Recently taught lead class in Lenoir County, with 25 health care partners present
- Just had local coalition meeting; are interested in lead-related lay health care worker classes in the new year. Neasha will get additional information to schedule training(s).
- Entered into an agreement with ECU (faculty Greg Kearney) to coordinate asthma management activities; program involves home visits and testing for peak flow and inflammation; problem is that test isn't effective for kids under 6; will provide home assessments if families request it;
- Fewer lead cases this year than last; last family lives in mobile home near daycare where complaint was issued recently about construction dust from nearby renovation; another case where blood lead level keeps rising (thought it was lead dust coming home on Dad; now they think it is something else)

Greensboro Housing Coalition – Brett Byerly

- Have reapplied for funding through HUD; another public housing agency partner in Omaha received several million dollar grant, and GHC is seeking similar additional opportunities.
- Doing a lot of work around asthma; finishing 3 year cycle with Kresgee Foundation on a Safe and Healthy Homes Initiative; also using EPA funding for Environmental Justice around housing issues in Greensboro.

Healthy Homes and Lead Safety (Buncombe County) – Linda Block

- XRF for sale: ~\$10,000; needs to be re-sourced (typical cost to resource is \$5,400)
- Please contact Linda at leadprevention@yahoo.com for more information or to purchase it.

STATE PROGRAM UPDATES

NC DHHS Health Hazards Unit - Jeff Dellinger

- Renovator population numbers are being clarified; originally thought there were 5,000 in the state; now it looks like about 2,200; and it is because many renovators have decided not to renew certification; by the end of the year they should know how many renovators are in the state; every renovator has to be affiliated with a firm (1,300 firms – firms have to be registered and pay annual \$300 fee; they don't actually have to have a renovator but all renovators need to be tied to a firm). There was no significant decrease in the number of firms.
- Hope to add one RRP training provider this year and one more next year
- Jeff posed a question about available Spanish RRP providers. UNC and Greenville Tech in SC have them, but Adrienne Wier is no longer conducting the training; Lenora is trying to build a program in Durham.
- NNCU continue to conduct RRP inspections; please continue to call in complaints (especially if you know there are children in renovated properties)

State Lab – Kate Mason

- Neasha will be sending out 5-question online survey regarding prenatal testing; the State Lab needs stats to validate funding a program of testing pregnant mothers at no cost to the mother; meeting participants were asked to please share widely when it is distributed. Questions will include: who is using risk assessment and, out of those, who are failing, and how many pregnant women are Medicaid eligible.
- Upcoming Clinical Lab training: Oct 22-23 in Raleigh at the State Lab, throughout the morning each day. Tour of the lab's facilities at the end of each day. Registration information will be released during the first week of September.
- Suggested adding Debbie Monsel (lab manager coordinating environmental sampling) to the listserv.

NC DHHS/ NC CLPPP – Ed Norman/Tena Hand

- Issuing violations for not being certified to renovate (Since 2011, they have only issued 9 penalties amounting to ~\$10,000 but it is becoming more regular. Warning letters and notices of non-compliance have been issued in the past and these folks tend to disappear. Now they are issuing penalties.)
- Childhood lead staffing update: Warren Richardson will retire September 1. NC DHHS is hoping to continue David Brown's position but due to budget constraints, he may be moved into Warren's position
- Dr. Kim Gaetz is newly hired epidemiologist for NC DHHS. She is a former EPA postdoc who studied consumer product use in women and analyzing data on fish consumption data in Ohio. She will work with Tena Hand to enhance collection of blood lead and environmental data associated with investigations.

UNC Institute for the Environment/NC CLPPP Outreach – Neasha Graves

- Upcoming Healthy Homes for Community Health Worker training in Orange County on September 22. Contact her for additional information or to register someone for the training.
- UNC continues to promote the lead trainings around the state, which entails a 2 hour training. Topics include: emerging and traditional sources of lead; things families can do; state and federal policies; and additional information relevant for professionals working with young families. Neasha requested information on any prospective programs/staff interested in the training.

- Neasha and Megan have been getting numerous requests to participate in environmental health district meetings and will be conducting one-hour presentations in 4 regions throughout the state.
- Applied to present lead and healthy homes workshops in the state and national Society of Public Health Education conferences.

Sally Herndon – Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch

- Sally introduced a new infrastructure with 5 year funding for tobacco prevention and control; all regions covered with regional managers and it was demonstrated in a map handout for participants. She confirmed that regional staff will participate in trainings/presentations upon request.
- Outreach emphasis: Smoke free multi-unit housing, not smoking in the home
- Met with CDC last week; open comment period starting to make all public housing smoke-free; hope that it will ban smoking indoors including patios and balconies; lease agreement will represent contract; does not include e-cigs or marijuana yet; 18 month implementation; addresses public housing but not affordable housing
- Neasha asked if Sally's regional folks would join us for trainings
- Regarding asthma management home visiting programs, Lenora and Lorisa asked for more information about building a program similar to what CCNC and Wake County are doing; wakegov.com link

Clean Air Carolina - Laura Wenzel

- Medical Advocates for Healthy Air (MAHA) – shares research on air quality and health (obesity, dementia, etc.)
- Provide opportunities for advocacy among healthcare providers
- Focus of outreach includes coal burning trucks, urban, and agriculture
- Lunch and Learn series begins Wed, Sept 2: Clearing the Air: Climate Change, Air Pollution, and Public Health, Orange County Health Dept, Hillsborough

DISCUSSION: [Connection between health and housing. presented by housing experts](#)

GREENSBORO HOUSING COALITION – Brett Byerly

Organization background:

Greensboro Housing Authority is a small, community-based non-profit with 12 employees in 3 departments. Examples of projects/foci include: foreclosure prevention with NC Financing Agency; homeless assistance; healthy homes team; all departments work with each other; attend court hearings with tenants when there are healthy housing issues; work with community foundation when folks are condemned out of housing; the community foundation pays first month rent and security deposit for qualified renters.

Kresgee Grant:

- GHC just finishing 3 year Kresgee grant project: partnering with agencies in Alameda County, LA, Newark, Detroit, Omaha; 140 houses that they did production work on (energy efficiency, lead); for every \$3000 spent, leveraged \$22,000;
- For the last 40 hours they worked on this project, they piloted the Asthma Demonstration Project; children with hospitalizations or multiple ED visits; sent 2 investigators in and Healthy Homes specialist would do an asthma survey, offered families \$50 VISA gift card; other person would use Healthy Homes rating system (HHRS assessment, survey, staff the case, identify what they saw, average spend of \$1500/household); over ¼ of their sample lived in public or Section 8 housing; project helped them get the Greensboro Housing Authority to listen to them; housing authority did repairs that were suggested.
- Improved inspection procedures are needed: Inspection form used by HUD inspectors is not comprehensive enough; average housing authority inspector does 16 inspections/day; the range in interventions included almost no action to the use of HEPA vacuums, mattress and pillow covers to \$5000 in repairs for duct work, fixing heating system, IPM controls (through contractor), carpeting with possible lead underneath.

- GHC staff is just now starting evaluation and write up and plan to publish this study. They are specifically analyzing the intervention cost, with the consideration that there is a drop-off in asthma flare ups as a result of these interventions. One positive result is the dramatically increased knowledge of residents; this population moves around a lot but now these families know what to look for when they rent their next house, including avoidable asthma triggers.

Working on new structure for assessing fines for landlord housing violations: The city has issued \$800,000 in fines, but only collected \$40,000; a change in the system is needed so that fine amount is restorative, will attach liens to the property, order that property would be repaired; fine will be \$10/day; targeting “bad actors” who have taken advantage of this policy for years; many clients are referred to Legal Aid.

EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Agreement

There are 300 houses that are high poverty, high unemployment, 4 zipcodes, handing out green cleaning kits and other resources; generally overlays with the public housing areas in Greensboro

REINVESTMENT PARTNERS - Lorisa Seibel

Organization background:

Reinvestment Partners is a nonprofit organization committed to community development and economic justice for underserved populations in the Durham community. Some of its programs and services include educating new homeowners, advocating against predatory lending, housing and community development that benefits Durham’s diverse community, and taxpayer assistance. Lorisa is director of housing services at RP.

- Much of RP’s efforts include making sure that folks are getting the environmental health assessment that they need, particularly as it relates to lead and healthy homes.
- New focus: Catching kids with blood lead levels below 10µg/dL to make sure that they get an environmental assessment that could result in interventions.
- Other options for assessing environmental health issues include 1) the pro-active rental inspection (PRIP), which is used in Durham and was not impacted by legislative action because the geographic area was small; and 2) approaching lead/healthy homes from housing intervention by working closely with PEACH and Durham Health Department
- The program is starting to see kids with elevated blood lead levels who do not live in substandard housing (such as renovation residue, and other sources of lead dust coming home on parent).

Satana Deberry could not participate, and task force meeting coordinators will work to get her presentation at a later date.

PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What are strategies in dealing with families who are non-English speaking, families who are undocumented, new immigrants?

- Lorisa hasn’t had too many barriers. Families have been very open about them contacting landlords, coming into the home. She wonders what medical providers are doing to serve these families; interested in understanding more about cultural practices that are resulting in high BLLs in newly arrived families.
- Brett acknowledged Greensboro as a resettlement community; lots of families from different places, and GHC is always trying to build trust in these communities and acknowledges that trust building is slow and methodical. One particular examples includes a housing development that newest families are resettled into; rumor circulated that, if you talk to Greensboro Housing Coalition, landlord won’t re-sign your lease; depend on all members in community so everyone afraid of losing one of those people; tenants don’t want code enforcement involved; trying to approach landlords with cooperative tone: “we can help educate your tenants about healthy homes principles which will make pest control better”; trust is

especially precarious for undocumented folks; Christmas gift giving charities are helpful and if someone in the family has legal standing, Legal Aid can be helpful.

- GHC connected with homeless service providers in Greensboro and serves as inspector for rental housing and charges a lower rate, especially for households that are being re-housed.

Who drafts the “environmental condition report” form that is used statewide to approve foster homes for children under the age of 6?

Staff from Chatham County were particularly interested in this question, citing that references to small children living in pre-1978 properties could be added to the form. Several meeting participants agreed that there needs to be an examination of ways to have third party inspectors who can certify living spaces; this could be a very sustainable model because it could provide a low-cost inspection and get healthy homes principles into homes.

Discussion/Question around the Institute of Medicine Think Tank section – How do you scale-up partner-based interventions? Instead of paying for emergency room care and hospitalizations, why can’t you write a “prescription” for fair and safe housing?

This was a question brought forth by Sally Herndon, who has attended recent meetings of officials in the CDC and HUD, and she noted that they considering options. Suggestions among meeting participants also included: 1) Determine a way we could bring in the link of Medicare and Medicaid for healthy homes; 2) include Division of Aging; and 3) “Braided Funding” was a term being coined in CDC meetings, which means using pots of federal money combined to build a program. An example of “braided funding” is a partnership between a Home Repair agency and PACE to figure out what kind of home modifications are necessary. Aging-in-place program to be piloted in 6 cities; Greensboro program will work through Community Housing Solutions

PROPOSAL/IDEA:

Neasha asked if there are opportunities for 2-3 working groups within the Task Force that might be able to foster more collaboration on the following issues:

- In order to reach kids “falling between the cracks” with BLLs below 10µg/dL, what are some broad-based local health/housing programs pursuing? Are there collaborations to pursue this effort?
- Pursuing funding resources to incorporate asthma/HH management programs through home assessments. Making sure assessment forms are comprehensive enough. Potentially reviewing forms local programs use to update/revise a consistent form for all.
- Addressing testing and environmental interventions for pregnant women.
- Making sure healthcare providers (particularly private ones) know what an environmental assessment is. Training and other resources for providers.

HANDOUTS/RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch – new resources from Sally Herndon and colleagues
 - o Program Goals
 - o List of Regional Managers with photos
 - o Regional Map with names and contact info
- **Wakegov.com environmental asthma triggers video:**
<http://www.wakegov.com/envirohealth/air/Pages/asthma.aspx>
- **Article from Laura W about diesel trucks in Oakland, CA:**
<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/east-oakland-residents-to-breathe-easier/Content?oid=4472208>
- **Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers:** Sept 22 training, 9:00am-5:00pm, 300 West Tryon St, Hillsborough, NC 27278 (Space is limited! Please contact Megan Hughes at meganhughes@unc.edu if you would like to attend.)
- **Wake Johnston CCNC Asthma Resources:** <http://www.ccwjc.com/asthma.asp>
- **Photos of spices and supplements that have recently tested positive for lead (Christy Klaus, Wake County Environmental Services):** “Attached are some spices and supplements that have tested positive for lead. The state lab uses the IC Mass Spec to test these items when a child has an

elevated blood lead level above 10 micrograms per deciliter upon request. The LG brand asafoetida powder is .215ppm and the garam masala, Everest Brand is .410ppm. The state of California and the FDA consider Mexican candies to be adulterated at or above .10ppm. The garam masala, MDH brand test result was 2.19ppm. Rasam powder, Priya brand tested at .46ppm.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers training, September 22 in Hillsborough, NC
- Clinical Lead Training, October 22-23, State Lab in Raleigh, NC
- Proposed next meeting date: **Friday, November 20, 2015 at 100 Europa Drive, Chapel Hill, NC**

In Person Attendees:

Coby Jansen Austin	Coordinator	Orange County, Tobacco Prevention and Control	caustin@orangecountync.gov
Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker	Chatham Co. Public	nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org
Brett Byerly	Executive Director	Greensboro Housing Coalition	brett@greensborohousingcoalition.com
Alan Clapp	Environmental Health Director	Orange County Health Department, Environmental Health Division	aclapp@orangecountync.gov
Elizabeth Fridley	PHNII	Chatham Co. Public HD	elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org
Kim Gaetz	Public Health Epidemiologist	NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	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

Sally Herndon	Program Head	NC DHHS, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch	Sally.herndon@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
Christy Klaus	Lead Program Coordinator	Wake County Environmental Services	christenklaus@wakegov.com
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
Connie Pixley	Environmental Health Supervisor	Orange County Health Department, Environmental Health Division	cpixley@orangecountync.gov
Jessica Salerno	Public Health Nurse	Orange County Health Department	jsalerno@orangecountync.gov
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Housing Programs	Reinvestment Partners	loris@reinvestmentpartners.org
Lenora Smith	Director	PEACH	peachlead@aol.com
Laura Wenzel	Manager	Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, Clean Air Carolina	laura@cleanaircarolina.org
Anna Stein	Legal Specialist	Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch	Anna.stein@dhhs.nc.gov
Deb Yarbrough	Env Health Program Specialist	Craven County	dyarbrough@cravencountync.gov

On the Phone Attendees:

Linda Block	Director	Healthy Homes and Lead Safety (Buncombe County)	leadprevention@yahoo.com
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	DHHS – Health Hazards Control Unit	Jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov
Sherry Rathod	Lead and Outreach Coordinator	City of Charlotte	srathod@ci.charlotte.nc.us
Doris Hogan	Childhood Lead Program	Forsyth County	hoganda@forsyth.cc