



**Ad Hoc Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy  
Homes Outreach Task Force  
November 15, 2017  
Quarterly Meeting – Summary Notes**

## **Summary:**

On Wednesday, November 15, twenty-eight 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 participated in a discussion about current lead guidelines. Coby Schal, Professor in the NCSU Entomology Program, presented on his research on integrated pest management of urban pests, with an emphasis on cockroaches. 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:**

### **Chatham County Health Department - Elizabeth Fridley and Nellie Benitez**

- 28 cases with elevated BLL, just completed testing at Telamon Head Start.
- Hosted a meeting featuring presentation on RRP rule during National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week for housing authority, DSS, and Planning Authority, preparing to do similar presentations with JOCCA.

### **NC Child - Tom Vitaglione**

- NC Child will now have an Environmental Health Component – Nwanne Agada hired to lead it. Initial priority is on lead, but also expanding efforts to include flame-retardants, retail outfits, and other child environmental health issues.
- With respect to lead – working with Ed Norman; however, delays in getting money to him to staff people to do environmental advocacy.
- Hoping to resurrect legislation addressing lead in water.
- Focusing on childcare centers instead of including schools, from which they have received pushback.

### **Alamance County Health Department - Elizabeth Ellmore**

- New CLPPP case; investigation occurring on Nov. 20th.
- Ongoing CLPPP case failed first clearance inspection, so still working with that family – child's level went from 11 back up to 12.

### **Orange County Health Department - Kiana Redd and Victoria Hudson**

- HH program thriving: Asthma Night for Orange County school district - School nurses will be asked to identify top five uncontrolled asthma cases to invite them to participate in Asthma Night. Will cover spirometry, what is asthma, medication use, environmental asthma triggers, etc. Aims to be a holistic view of asthma for students. Coming January 2018.
- Would like more marketing efforts to increase number of children that are part of lead screenings in the county.
- Held marketing meetings with OWASA regarding RTI project in childcare centers and schools – learned that OWASA offers free copper and lead testing to childcare centers. Notified Orange County childcare centers on the municipal water source that they are eligible for one free copper and lead test per year, so hoping to get more child lead screenings as a result.

### **Greensboro Housing Coalition - Gina Uresti**

- Continuing to work on Healthy Home kits; working with community partners and going out into the community to provide information on asthma, lead, and on how to use Healthy Homes kits.

### **Duke University - Barbara Donadio**

- Tasked to educate pediatricians and update family medicine practitioners on most recent lead protocol.
- Would like to better understand and assimilate to updated 2017 algorithm for lead follow-up (distributed to HH listserv by Kim Gaetz) in order to best educate and update knowledge --Needs to be able to give physicians reasons for algorithm changes, such as rounding changes.
- Trying to improve on sending kids under 10 years old to Lorisa's Reinvestment Partners program so they can get in-home contact and education on exposure and testing.

### **PEACH (Durham County) - Lenora Smith**

- Finishing up the "Where's The Lead?" project. Goal for 8-month time frame was to complete 50 risk assessments. Out of 50, completed 10 interim control and 10 HH interventions, and community outreach. The project has been useful in helping the organization understand what is involved in risk assessments, reporting appropriate information to state and city governments, and sharing information with residents. Also realizing that we are at point where we need to figure out how to get consistent funding and experienced staff.
- Partnered with Lorisa and Reinvestment Partners in planning Town Hall meeting – excellent turnout demonstrated that lead is still important issue to community. 80 people in attendance and local and state governing bodies were represented. Received \$5000 in funding from National Center for Healthy Housing to conduct the meeting. Task force members who participated included David Brown, Neasha Graves, Warren Richardson, and Lakieta Sanders.
- Tire mulch and heavy metals - working with Duke to explore how the Parks and Recreation Department can remove mulch from East Durham Park.
  - Kate Koehler - willing to partner with Lenora to test for heavy metals in tire mulch at East Durham Park.
  - Link from the National Toxicology Program regarding its research (and California's) on the lead-contaminated recycled tire product that is used for making turf that kids play in:  
<https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/results/areas/syntheticurf/research.html>

### **Reinvestment Partners (Durham County) - Lorisa Seibel**

- 100 home visits per year for lead dust sampling.
- Home repair program with county, but limited resources.
- New initiative - Eastern Children's Initiative and Housing Authority partnership, home visits and subsidized housing. Hoping to address entire neighborhood. Available to do preventive home visits as well, any age, as long as a child under 6 is in a house built before 1978.

### **Durham County - Warren Richardson**

- Also commented on success of October town hall meeting.

### **Guildford County Health Department - Paula Cox**

- For Lead Poisoning Prevention Month, went to pediatrician's offices and talked to doctors about lead in pregnancy, and provided a short training about state regulation changes.
- In process of rescinding local lead regulations because state regulations are more stringent.
- Meeting with Greg Hennessey and Darren Ceilin of Davidson County about starting a Healthy Homes program.
- 2 staff members attended asthma training in Forsyth
- Annual monitoring problems – some residents will not let us back into the door to assess conditions in homes

### **Charlotte Lead Program - Sherry Rathod**

- HUD Healthy Homes and lead-based paint grant: 25 homes cleared in first year; RRP class - 20 people trained; taking applications for rehabilitation program.
- Sherry is retiring January 1, 2018.

## **Forsyth County Health Department - Doris Hogan (*in absentia*)**

- Outreach work with Habitat for Humanity is going well. I think it is a good partnership and we are hoping to get some general lead information into the retail stores. We are continuing to conduct outreach at school events, community events and other outreach events.
- We are continuing to work with the DHHS regarding the take home lead exposure of employees working two battery-manufacturing companies.

## **State Updates:**

### **NC Housing Finance Agency - Mike Handley**

- Lots of research done, known now that a child's zip code tells you a lot about how long a child is going to live - Focus should be on families and communities.
- Director of EM in NC: number one goal is affordable housing, housing is key for health of community --affordable doesn't equal dilapidated.
- Distributed matrix showing different rehabilitation programs at NCHFA (attached). Includes requirements for homeowners to enroll in programs.
- Disaster recovery is meeting 100% family income. \$20 million to do disaster recovery. Currently reaching 200 homeowners, can probably reach 500. If you know of any owner-occupied units in Hurricane Matthew-affected counties, alert one of the 36 Disaster Recovery partners because they can address problems that are life-threatening or would otherwise cause occupants to move.
- For Urgent Repair Program, will work to change action BLL from 10 µg/dL to 5 µg/dL, per Ad Hoc Committee's suggestion, to meet new State standard.

### **NC State Public Health Laboratory - Kate Koehler and Lindsey Parker**

- Continuing to work with prenatal patients. Sheila Higgins with Adult BLL/Epidemiology is following every case over 1 µg/dL
- Working only with county HD patients at the moment, but if anyone sees a need to expand, let her know
- Current State Lab reproducibility and numbers assurance protocol is to rerun any sample over 10 µg/dL, but once State drops level to 5 µg/dL, the lab will rerun with everything over 5. Target date for change is Jan 1, 2018.
- Has begun cross training a hemochemist with terrorism lab, attending conference in January.

### **NC DHHS - Children & Youth Branch - Stephanie Fisher**

- We have nurses that are Enhanced Role Program RNs; are able to provide assessments on children, but need certain number of continuing education credits to be qualified. They can get credit from Lead SOP workshop.
- We monitor Health Department for clinical billing, find that some HDs have not put into practice.
- Held regional meeting webinar on kids media and gender diversity. Had national speakers from American Academy of Pediatrics, received good feedback. Will send out link and encourage you to share with clinics and other health pros. Will be offering continuing education for this.

### **NC CLPPP - Ed Norman**

- Advertised six environmental health specialist positions; unsure of how positions will be funded yet, negotiating with Medicaid about money, and candidates need to be certified lead risk assessors AND registered environmental health specialists.
- HD work volume increase with new expansion plan needs funding.

### **NC CLPPP - David Brown**

- Lead SOP workshop took place Oct 11-13 at NC Zoo. For first time, a mother spoke about personal experience with lead exposure in her child. Set tone for meeting, and helped students see how their work is important.
- Was contacted by HUD looking for info on realty companies that were renting or selling housing that had not provided lead disclosure to potential homebuyers or renters. David encourages people working on county level

to continue putting that info in NC LEAD, but also scan and attach reports and required notices into system. Let him know if you need help learning how to do that.

#### **NC CLPPP - Kim Gaetz**

- Revised and released new BLL diagnostic schedule for follow-up documentation. It was distributed on listserv already, and can be found on Healthy Homes website and Children's EH website.
- Also working with maternal health and adult lead to provide prenatal lead testing guidelines (a document for local Health Departments will be up on maternal health website as well as a referral form created by Dr. Ann Chelminski), will be sending out on NC lead listserv, too.
- Target to begin investigations for pregnant women is January 1, 2018.
- Dr. Chelminski will be sending out new follow-up documentation to the Family Medicine Association.
- Updating clinical training manual, Megan Rodgers is adding an environmental follow-up chapter that should be useful to REHS.
- On the Healthy Homes website there are HH and lead training webinars, the new childhood and lead and lead/pregnancy brochures, and Ezan Chaudhry is working on reorganizing website to be more audience-specific.
- Spice survey on NC DHHS and HH website. Recently gave spice presentation with Kristy, and it was well-received.

#### **NC CLPPP - Melanie Napier**

- Encourages people who are doing investigations to continue entering into NC Lead. Can send resources or be on phone for walkthrough.

#### **Ezan Chaudhry (UNC undergraduate intern)**

- Reorganizing NC CLPPP website to create many categories based on audience: EH specialist, PH professionals, child care providers, etc. to make it easier for people to access.

#### **NC CLPPP - Neasha Graves**

- Participated in lead poisoning awareness week events and activities
- We have been revising asthma, lead, HH trainings. Launched those trainings in Greensboro, Winston Salem, and Fayetteville; now working on asthma fact sheet updates and revisions.
- Angela Cochran in DHHS sent announcement out saying printing orders that were placed are running late, printing company delays.
- Reminded members of the Healthy Homes website, a clearinghouse for county-by-county resources. Megan Rodgers has added additional resources; encourages all to utilize those resources and notify Megan if something is missing or incorrect.

#### **Presentation:**

- "Pest Management" - Dr. Coby Schal, Professor, NCSU Entomology Program
  - Dr. Schal's research focuses on integrated pest management of urban pests, with emphasis on cockroaches. His program area includes urban entomology, insect behavior, chemical ecology, and insect physiology.

#### **Announcements:**

- Check out the "Lead in Spices, Home Remedies and Medicines" brochure - [http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/assets/documents/lead\\_spices\\_english.pdf](http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/assets/documents/lead_spices_english.pdf)
- Check out the "Is There Lead in Your Dishes?" brochure - [http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/assets/Documents/Lead\\_Dishes\\_English.pdf](http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/assets/Documents/Lead_Dishes_English.pdf)
- Check out County Referral Clearinghouse on NC Healthy Homes website: <https://nchealthyhomes.com/countyreferrals/>

## In Person Attendees:

|                   |   |  |  |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Nwanne Agada      | Environmental Health Program Manager                                  | NC Child   | <a href="mailto:nwanne@ncchild.org">nwanne@ncchild.org</a>                             |
| Nellie Benitez    | Lead Outreach Worker  | Chatham County Public Health Department            | <a href="mailto:nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org">nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org</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>               |
| Barbara Donadio   | Pediatric Nurse Clinician   | Duke Children's Primary Care                       | <a href="mailto:Barbara.donadio@duke.edu">Barbara.donadio@duke.edu</a>                 |
| Elizabeth Ellmore | REHS  | Alamance County Environmental Health               | <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.ellmore@alamancenc.com">Elizabeth.ellmore@alamancenc.com</a> |
| Stephanie Fisher  | Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant                                | DHHS – Children & Youth Branch                     | <a href="mailto:Stephanie.fisher@dhhs.nc.gov">Stephanie.fisher@dhhs.nc.gov</a>         |
| Elizabeth Fridley | PHNII   | Chatham County Public Health Department            | <a href="mailto:elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org">elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org</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>                       |
| Mike Handley      | Manager of Housing Rehabilitation                                     | NC Housing Finance Agency                          | <a href="mailto:mhandley@nchfa.com">mhandley@nchfa.com</a>                             |
| Victoria Hudson   | Food, Lodging & Institutions Supervisor and Innovation Grants Manager | Orange County Health Department                    | <a href="mailto:vhudson@orangecountync.gov">vhudson@orangecountync.gov</a>             |
| Megan Hughes      | Educator & Research Associate   | UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP  | <a href="mailto:meganhughes@unc.edu">meganhughes@unc.edu</a>                           |
| Kate Koehler      | Chemical Terrorism Coordinator  | NC State Laboratory                                | <a href="mailto:kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov">kate.koehler@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>                       |

|                      |   |   |  |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Lindsey Parker       | Chemical<br>Terrorism/Blood Lead                    | NC State<br>Laboratory  |  |
| Kiana Redd           | Healthy Communities<br>Healthy Homes<br>Coordinator | Orange County<br>Health Department                                    | <a href="mailto:kredd@orangecountync.gov">kredd@orangecountync.gov</a>               |
| Warren<br>Richardson | Environmental Health<br>Specialist                  | Durham County<br>Department of Health                                 | <a href="mailto:wrichardson@dconc.gov">wrichardson@dconc.gov</a>                     |
| Megan<br>Rodgers     | Environmental<br>Research Assistant                 | UNC Institute for the<br>Environment, CEHS, NC<br>CLPPP               | <a href="mailto:merodgers@unc.edu">merodgers@unc.edu</a>                             |
| Lorisa Seibel        | Director of Housing<br>Programs                     | Reinvestment Partners   | <a href="mailto:lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org">lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org</a> |
| Lenora Smith         | Project Director                                    | Partnership for the<br>Advancement of<br>Children's Health<br>(PEACH) | <a href="mailto:peachlead@aol.com">peachlead@aol.com</a>                             |
| Victoria Triana      | Environmental<br>Research Assistant                 | UNC Institute for the<br>Environment, CEHS                            | <a href="mailto:vtriana@live.unc.edu">vtriana@live.unc.edu</a>                       |
| Gina Uresti          | Rental Team<br>Housing<br>Counselor                 | Greensboro Housing<br>Coalition                                       | <a href="mailto:gina@gsohc.org">gina@gsohc.org</a>                                   |
| Tom Vitaglione       | Senior Fellow                                       | NC Child  | <a href="mailto:tom@ncchild.org">tom@ncchild.org</a>                                 |

### On the Phone Attendees:

|                   |                                 |  |  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Paula Cox         | Environmental Health<br>Manager | Guilford County Dept. of<br>Health and Human<br>Services | <a href="mailto:pcox@myguilford.com">pcox@myguilford.com</a>               |
| Kim Gaetz         | Public Health<br>Epidemiologist | Children's<br>Environmental Health,<br>NC DHHS, NC CLPPP | <a href="mailto:Kim.gaetz@dhhs.nc.gov">Kim.gaetz@dhhs.nc.gov</a>           |
| Tena Hand         | Data Manager                    | Children's<br>Environmental Health,<br>NC DHHS, NC CLPPP | <a href="mailto:tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov">tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov</a>           |
| Melanie<br>Napier | Public Health<br>Epidemiologist | Children's<br>Environmental Health,<br>NC DHHS           | <a href="mailto:Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov">Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov</a> |
| Sherry Rathod     | Lead and<br>Outreach            | City of Charlotte  | <a href="mailto:srathod@ci.charlotte.nc.us">srathod@ci.charlotte.nc.us</a> |