



**Ad Hoc Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy
Homes Outreach Task Force**

May 15, 2018

Quarterly Meeting – Summary Notes

Summary:

On Tuesday, May 15, thirty-three 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 Madlyn Morreale, Legal Aid of North Carolina, presented on addressing lead, asthma and related environmental health issues in home settings. 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:

NC Child – Nwanne Agada

- Continuing to analyze opportunities to build on the legislative rule that would strengthen efforts around testing water in child care centers. Meeting with state agencies to move that effort forward.

Duke Environmental Law Clinic – Nancy Lauer

- Nwanne introduced her as a member of a team of students they are working with on the effort to address childhood lead exposure in NC.

Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti

- Distributing healthy homes kits to families and visiting schools to conduct outreach.
- Conducting healthy homes assessments, primarily for families/homes with asthma patients. They are working to resolve issues with landlords regarding remediation/repair of hazards.

Orange County Health Department – Victoria Hudson and Donna King

- In recent investigations, antique and imported furniture have been sources of childhood lead exposures.
- One recent issue involving lead exposure at a child care center is the soil at the center. They are currently notifying the parents of that center.
- They will soon hire a new interpreter to assist with Spanish-speaking populations during investigations.

Charlotte Housing and Neighborhood Services – Hanna Kirlin

- She was recently hired to serve as the lead and healthy homes coordinator. She has a professional background in public health and one current project involves working to increase follow-up visits as much as the initial home visits.

Alamance County Environmental Health – Elizabeth Ellmore

- They have conducted a couple of recent lead investigations, waiting on clearance results for one and starting on a remediation plan for another.

Forsyth County Health Department – Doris Hogan

- Their team is currently addressing one lead investigation and has been conducting outreach in several community events, including some health fairs. One was recently held at Winston-Salem State University and could be a model for other events planned with HBCUs also surrounded by older housing.
- The health department has also conducted several phone consultations.

Chatham County Health Department – Nellie Benitez and Elizabeth Fridley

- Community outreach is increasing, with at least 3 community events, including spring festivals. They will participate in an open house soon, with a primary focus on lead testing of children.
- Their team is currently following 34 children who have had elevated BLLs. Had referrals for 5 kids to get asthma home assessments in a new project they have with NC DHHS, but only 2 families have accepted.

Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel

- She is working on a project that involves understanding what others are doing to conduct asthma home assessments. She asked who is doing asthma home visits for children? She would like to schedule time for brief calls to learn: How do you do asthma home visits? Who are your partners (health, housing, and others)? Where do you get funding? Contact Lorisa with answers to these questions.
- She thanked local (Durham) folk for lead referrals that she addresses in her outreach work.

PEACH – Lenora Smith

- She provided a summary of the April 26 town hall meeting in Durham. There were at least 40 in attendance with representation from universities, city, county and state officials. Meeting resulted in 3 community foci, which include proposing a countywide board of health rule, lead safe work practices with contractors, and increasing enforcement of those practices throughout the city.
- PEACH just completed a grant with the City of Durham on risk assessments in homes.

Wake County Department of Environmental Service – Christy Klaus

- There have been recent cuts in funding that once provided some assistance with lead investigations.
- Christy has completed 15 confirmed lead poisoning cases this year since July 1st. She is currently addressing 2-3 more that have several supplemental addresses.
- She has worked on 7-8 school and daycare lead investigations, with 4-5 cases with findings of lead in water at daycares and a school.

Duke Children's – Barbara Donadio

- She asked when can we start referring children with 5-9 ug/dL levels to regional staff? Ed says July 1st.

State Updates:

NC CLPPP

NC DHHS Tobacco Prevention Branch (and Statewide Asthma Efforts) – Sally Herndon

- She is working with her team to implement the new HUD rule that requires smoke free environments in public housing. Regional tobacco outreach staff are working to get localities ready to enforce the rule. The Comprehensive Cancer Branch has also been helpful in producing some publications to promote the smoke-free housing messaging. "Welcome to smoke free public housing" will be among the signage.
- She reported that her team and the Asthma Alliance of NC hosted an annual Asthma Summit on May 8. State Health Director Dr. Betsy Tilson's focus as keynote speaker was on social determinants of health.
- Sally continues to work on sustainable solutions for home assessments, perhaps paid for by Medicaid.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health – Stacey Robbins

- She and the other the new regional environmental health specialists mentioned getting ready to do the investigations for lower levels of lead, effective July 1.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health – Kimly Blount

- All positions for regional EH specialists have been hired but one, and they are hoping to have that person hired by June.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health – Melanie Napier

- She offered to assist with NCLEAD logistics and will walk people through using it, if needed. She appreciates everyone working in the field and wants to be helpful in getting data into the system.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health – Ed Norman

- Newly hired REHS, funded through Medicaid, will help with the new lead investigation expansion plan. Now total of 11 regional REHS to do investigations. They are predicting investigations at 1 child per/wk. New staff will also work on child care sanitation and school sanitation, and they will train local HD staff.
- Licensed to purchase 12 new XRF machines for the regional staff, and they should be arriving soon.
- Estimating over 500 kids and some pregnant women who will need to be offered a home investigation.
- His team will be pursuing legislative rule making change to require testing at child care centers.
- He was in Mississippi at EPA meeting on RRP rule last week. Only 14 states are enforcing the RRP rule and 2-3 states are just starting to work on being an authorized state. Half the states in the southeast are authorized. Seems like NC enforces more penalties than most states and even the EPA. The staff uses the opportunity while they're already working on other issues (like asbestos) to look for RRP issues. NC was touted as a model program at the national meeting.
- He announced that the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program grant is funded at full request for next year (10/1/2018 to 9/29/19).

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health – Ann Chelminski

- She is co-writing an article with Kim Gaetz for a medical journal.
- She continues to seek opportunities for lead remediation funding for low-income families, citing that some resources are on the NC Healthy Homes website's "county resources" pages. One opportunity may be the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, including Healthy Places, a program with funding opportunities around healthy housing. This initiative funds 5 counties and is planning to expand its coverage.
- Ann is also working with UNC team on opportunities to enhance outreach to clinicians and families.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health – David Brown

- Advice to promote and use the Health Hazards Control Unit web link to find certified RRP contractors.
- There is concern about the tire crumble that was discussed at the Durham town hall meeting. David encouraged people to look at the soil and other things that need to be monitored at child care centers that have a history of lead, like mulch that has been washed and rotted away over the course of a year.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health – Kim Gaetz

- Point of care clinics – she is trying to get them to submit information and has been giving them an ultimatum to make clinics report (who had initially refused to report data), by threatening to report them to Medicaid. This action has resulted in improvement of data collection with 10 of those clinics.
- There are some slight programming changes with NC LEAD technical aspects. The surveillance team will keep programs posted on things that need extra instruction.
- Lead spices – working on manuscript with Christy Klaus and a former intern. She is still hosting quarterly calls with other states on lead and spices. She encouraged others in the meeting to use the spices questionnaire. There has been a recent recall in a brand of cinnamon from FDA. They know from some research that key messaging should be that "it is better to buy spices in stores in the US/NC than to have them shipped/imported to you from overseas."
- NC CLPPP is participating in a mapping project with UNC, Duke, NC Child, and CCNC to coordinate efforts that will result in the development of a website showing an overlay for risk factors for lead poisoning in NC. This site would enable programs to pinpoint various surveillance and outreach efforts in at-risk communities.
- Kim asked people to send the news media to news@dhhs.nc.gov – so that information is not incorrectly released. There is concern that information protected under HIPAA regulations would be released.

UNC-Chapel Hill - Neasha Graves

- She shared information on the partnership with Lakieta Sanders and staff at Reinvestment Partners and PEACH to incorporate trainings for parents and testing for children at two Durham area Head Start Programs. Lakieta reported that requests for additional testing at other Head Start sites was requested since the events took place in March and April.

- UNC continues to provide lead and healthy homes trainings, particularly with some of the CCNC networks, Greensboro Housing Coalition and health departments.
- UNC will submit a request to the governor’s office to make the entire month of October Lead Awareness Month, to allot outreach programs plenty of time throughout the month to promote activities correlating with the national Lead Awareness Week.

Presentation:

An Introduction to Potential “Legal Remedies” to Enhance Access to Safe, Affordable Rental Housing
 Madlyn Morreale, Supervising Attorney, Medical-Legal Partnership Program, Legal Aid of North Carolina

Announcements:

- Children’s Environmental Health Unit’s Regional Education Meetings
 - Central Region, **June 12 in Guilford County at the Agricultural Building**
 - Eastern Region, **June 21 at Pitt Co Community College**
 - Western region, **July 19 at Haywood County Health Dept.**
- Upcoming Trainings/Meeting Dates
 - Healthy Homes Training w/ DukeWELL Community Care, **June 15, 9am-2pm**, Butner Town Hall
 - Immigration Health in NC Lunch and Learn w/ Jennifer Morillo, **June 19**, Six Forks campus
 - Open house and networking opportunity with the NC Refugee Health Program.
 - Lead Refresher Course, **August 6-9**, Eagles Room, Building 3, Six Forks Road, Raleigh
 - For authorized lead agents, including health department staff
 - Lead and Healthy Homes Task Force meeting, **August 28, 10am-1pm**, Chapel Hill
 - Lead Remediation SOP training, **October 10-12**, Asheboro

In Person Attendees:

Nwanne Agada	Environmental Health Program Manager	NC Child	nwanne@ncchild.org
Brenda Bass	REHS	Children’s Environmental Health, DHHS	brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov
David Brown	Surveillance Coordinator	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Ann Chelminski	Public Health Physician	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	ann.chelminski@dhhs.nc.gov
Elizabeth Ellmore	REHS	Alamance County Environmental Health	Elizabeth.ellmore@alamance-nc.com
Kim Gaetz	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	Kim.gaetz@dhhs.nc.gov
Donna Gilbird	REHS	Children’s Environmental Health, DHHS	Donna.Gilbird@dhhs.nc.gov
Neasha Graves	Community Outreach and Education Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	neasha_graves@unc.edu

Victoria Hudson	Food, Lodging & Institutions Supervisor	Orange County Health Department	vhudson@orangecountync.gov
Megan Hughes	Educator and Research Associate	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	hugheme@email.unc.edu
Robert Hunt	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, DHHS	robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov
Hanna Kirlin	Lead and Healthy Homes Coordinator	Housing and Neighborhood Services, City of Charlotte	Hanna.Kirlin@ci.charlotte.nc.us
Nancy Lauer	PhD Student	Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic	nancy.lauer@duke.edu
Madlyn Morreale	Supervising Attorney (keynote speaker)	Medical-Legal Partnership Program, Legal Aid of North Carolina	MadlynM@legalaidnc.org
Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov
Ed Norman	Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov
Rob Pearsall	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov
Megan Rodgers	Environmental Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	merodgers@unc.edu
Lakieta Sanders	Health Educator	Durham County Health Department	ldsanders@dconc.gov
Lenora Smith	Project Director	PEACH	peachlead@aol.com
Constantine Unanka	Intern	DHHS, ECU MPH program	
Gina Uresti	Rental Team Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	gina@gsohc.org
Tonya Zimmerman	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, 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
Barbara Donadio	Pediatric Nurse Clinician	Duke Children's Primary Care	Barbara.donadio@duke.edu
Elizabeth Fridley	PHNII	Chatham County Public Health Department	elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org
Sally Herndon	Manager	Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, DHHS	sally.herndon@dhhs.nc.gov
Doris Hogan	Environmental Health Specialist	Forsyth County Health Department	hoganda@forsyth.cc
Donna King	Director of Health Promotion and Education Services	Orange County Health Department	dking@orangecountync.gov
Christy Klaus	Environmental Health Specialist	Wake County Department of Environmental Services	Christen.Klaus@wakegov.com
Carissa Moore	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, DHHS	Carissa.moore@dhhs.nc.gov
Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov
Stacey Robbins	REHS	Children's Environmental Health, DHHS	stacey.robbins@dhhs.nc.gov
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Housing Programs	Reinvestment Partners	lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org