



## Summary

On Tuesday, February 19, 2019, thirty-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 Sheila Higgins, NC DHHS Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch, presented on Lead in Pregnancy. 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 NC DHHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NC CLPPP) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

## Local Program Updates

### NC Child – Vikki Crouse and Tom Vitaglione

- Supporting proposed rule to require all state licensed childcare centers in NC to test drinking water for lead. Working to promote lowering hazard standard from 15 ppb to 5 ppb.
- Supporting efforts to remove toxic paint strippers, flooring with phthalates, and other contaminated products from big home improvement stores. Though they have pledged not to stock toxic products, continued efforts are needed to make sure they are following through.
- Calls attention to PFAS in takeout containers and food packaging, specifically from Trader Joe's and Whole Foods. May see bill on health effects of PFAS in firefighting foam.

### Orange County – Roberto Diaz and Ashley Rawlinson

- Introduced themselves as newcomers to meetings
- Will have new HH program manager within in the next week

### Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel

- New funding from Duke allows Lorisa to work full time on asthma, lead, and healthy homes
- Durham and Greenville received Lead Hazard Reduction grants from HUD
- Getting referrals from hospitals of children diagnosed with asthma, with funding will be able to provide HEPA vacuum, pillow covers, etc.

### PEACH – Lenora Smith

- Completed 3 town halls since October 2017. Received recommendations from the community and currently in the process of implementing these recommendations, including working with NCCU to establish ad hoc coalition in Durham to understand gaps between state laws and preventing childhood lead poisoning at the city level
- Wednesday, February 27 meeting at Durham County Health Department, Jeff Dellinger (NC DHHS HHCU) will discuss state rules, and enforcement workers will explain their roles.
- Lead Hazard Reduction from HUD - help build permanent infrastructure to address lead hazards



**Duke University – Dan Richter**

- With PhD student, Anna Wade, received grant to create 1<sup>st</sup> generation soil lead map of Durham
- Hosting weekly graduate-level seminar at Duke this semester for urban soil lead toxicity
- “Soil Health-Human Health” conference in Silver Spring, Maryland on urban soil lead toxicity – well-attended by mix of doctors and health workers

**Guildford County - Paula Cox**

- Completed two EBL cases; offered three for 5-9 confirmed; one pregnancy investigation.
- Coordinated with CCFC nurses and meet at clients home for confirmed >10 cases. Received great help with interpreter and nurse on follow-up with child.
- Presented at CC4C nurses meeting – several nurses have retired, and new positions added.

**Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti and Krishnaveni Balakrishnan**

- Housing Summit scheduled Wednesday, March 27, 8am – 3pm
- Continuing healthy homes assessments, providing cleaning kits and landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities information
- Lead case: Indigenous woman from Guatemala with young children; home remedies potential source. NC CLPPP’s “Lead in spices” resource helpful for this case.
- GHC has 3 public health interns from UNCG; 1 attended this meeting
- Cone Health referral program will start in March
- Working to include asthma education for school nurses and social workers
- Krishnaveni will soon be moving to be HH coordinator for Orange County HD

**Alamance County – Elizabeth Ellmore**

- Program underwent successful review for accreditation
- Several lead cases: Burlington pediatrics lead case. Miscommunication with parent has been dealt with to serve family with decreasing BLL of child; School is on annual monitoring; Two cases in process of remediation plan, one of those is scheduled for clearance; One lead case in which they are unable to contact the family.

**Mecklenburg County – Nykesse Roberts**

- Started last August working on lead (but also inspects different EH issues)
- Multiple cases: one child with multiple BLL tests at 24 to 26; one case unable to locate/contact family; two cases of sibling in the same home – have sent offer letter and waiting to hear back.

**City of Charlotte – Hannah Kirlin**

- Currently two-thirds through HUD grant and having difficulties finding qualifying lead units. Either the children or visiting children are not under the age of six or the lead-based paint is intact and not deteriorated. Word of mouth is best form of marketing. Still accepting applications.



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- Pilot program (partnering with two local pediatrician clinics to help identify children with chronic asthma that may benefit from home evaluation and remediation) has been stymied. Target demographic is underserved, low income, Hispanic families. Speculate that due to recent ICE arrests and presence, and the City of Charlotte being erroneously affiliated with that authority, they have only been able to complete a few home evaluations. Working to get the pediatricians offices to schedule home visit follow-ups at the same time as City of Charlotte's so they may be able to see more clients.

### **Iredell County – Katie Crawford and Diana Blue**

- One ongoing EBL case: lead source was an old antique piece that the child liked to chew on. Child also like to play with car keys. Both sources have been removed from the home. Asked mother to send a picture of antique piece and will share with everyone, if she does.
- Since November 2018, completed two school building investigations and three child care center investigations. Each of those cases is at slightly different stage in investigation/follow-up process. Anticipate that all locations will begin remediation in near future.
- Two child care centers with upcoming annual monitoring visits
- Kim Mecimore and Katie Crawford plan to attend the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Conference in Washington D.C. next week.

### **Forsyth County – Doris Hogan**

- Two cases at 5-7 level; three cases at 8-19 level; one case involving pregnant woman. Conducted clearances.
- Has a property without hazards but multiple kids, mother seeking information about lead in juice. Asks if State Lab (or anyone) is testing juices?
  - Answer: State Lab is not testing juices; must ask FDA.

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

- Tested 12 children at Head Start
- Following 2 children through NC lead
- LICC - connect families with children with Developmental delays

## State Updates

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health Branch

### **Ed Norman**

- EPA made grant funding available for Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act. With this funding, financial burden to test water in child care centers and schools would not fall on Health Departments. Financial burden was problem with the first failed bill.
- Resubmitting regulation as a proposed amendment to the existing child care center sanitation code. Initial testing would be done by child care center operator and would require that they



test once every three years (EPA may pay for first round of tests). Will require that water be tested only at drinking sources and food prep sinks. Specifies that water will be monitored during routine sanitation inspections and child care centers would have within one year of rule enactment to comply. Labs would report elevated results to the State and child care center.

- Cites Redmon, et al. as basis for rule: Child care center water study – 1.3% of samples had elevated lead, but 16% of child care centers had at least 1 elevated lead result
- Duke University is conducting financial assessment of potential mitigation strategies for child care centers

#### **Sheila Higgins**

- Working on requiring all blood lead level reports in adults

#### **Tena Hand**

- 2017 Medicaid data match will be finished soon so they can mail report cards
- 2018 Medicaid data match will be sent in May

#### **Kim Gaetz**

- 2013 and 2014 Surveillance tables, and 2017 county level report booklet available.
- Initiative: NCCARE360 referral network, State funded for five years for all North Carolinians, systems, payers, and providers, to be able to access network and resources all at once. Network partners include NC 2-1-1 and Veteran Services
- Sheila Higgins and Ann Chelminski working on educational materials re: lead sources at shooting range.
- Case of rustic wood table top with elevated lead levels
- Continue entering investigation data into NC LEAD. Requests for data on water, soil, age of home.
- Use spice surveys, especially last page with lot number, brand, place of purchase, expiration date, etc.
- If you need new username or password for NC LEAD, due to technical difficulties you must email Kim, Tena, and Melanie (all three)

#### **Tonya Zimmerman**

- Conducted 17 property investigations: three for 10 or above; five for EBLs; four were supplemental addresses
- Lead sources include lead-based paint, window trough, miniblinds, and a cannister w/ metal lid
- Two cases with unknown sources



**David Brown**

- Wake County is hiring for full time lead specialist
- Child care center reopening: noted deterioration of exterior paint and found significant lead hazards
- LEAD SOP has been scheduled for October 9-11 in Asheboro at the Emergency Services Center (760 New Century Drive, Asheboro, NC 27205)

**Rob Pearsall and Robert Hunt**

- Seeing a lot more EBLs, especially because New Hanover submitted several cases at once
- One pre-natal case: lead source believed to be imported candies
- Common Southeastern NC sources from hobbies, such as bullets, home shooting ranges, and fishing weights, as well as from keys.

UNC-Chapel Hill Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility

**Neasha Graves, Megan Hughes, and Megan Rodgers**

- Check out Healthy Homes website (<https://NChealthyhomes.com>) for Partner Spotlight featuring Kenneth Greene and Elizabeth Ellmore.
- UNC increasing work with NC refugee health and East Coast Migrant Health, conducted trainings with Raleigh Immigrant Coalition in October
- Task Force meetings, Lead, Healthy Homes, and Asthma trainings have been approved for CEU credits
- Putting together lead mailings for healthcare providers in target and at-risk counties
- E-cigarette, asthma and HH presentation opportunities
- Potential Clinical lead training upcoming
- Plug for Online NC IPH lead and asthma modules through NC Healthy Homes
- Coming soon - online module about extreme heat and air quality (climate and health)
- Wristband study for homes affected by hurricane flooding

**Presentation**

**Lead and Pregnancy | Sheila Higgins, RN, MPH, Occupational Health Nurse Consultant**

*NC DHHS, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch (slides attached)*



## Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

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### In Person Attendees

Krishnaveni Balakrishnan	Healthy Homes Coordinator	Greensboro Housing Coalition	<a href="mailto:krishnaveni@gsohc.org">krishnaveni@gsohc.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>
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Elizabeth Ellmore	REHS	Alamance County Environmental Health	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.ellmore@alamance-nc.com">Elizabeth.ellmore@alamance-nc.com</a>
Elizabeth Fridley	PHNII	Chatham County Public Health Department	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org">elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org</a>
Kim Gaetz	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS, NC CLPPP	<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>
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Tena Hand	Data Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:Tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov">Tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Sheila Higgins	Occupational Health Nurse Consultant	Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:sheila.higgins@dhhs.nc.gov">sheila.higgins@dhhs.nc.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>
Chaquitta Lloyd-Self	Senior Public Health Nurse – Elementary School Health	Durham County Department of Public Health	<a href="mailto:clloydself@dconc.gov">clloydself@dconc.gov</a>



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Karen Mersinger	Chemist	NC State Lab	<a href="mailto:Karen.mersinger@dhhs.nc.gov">Karen.mersinger@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
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On the Phone Attendees

Demarcus Andrews	Policy Advocate	Toxic Free NC	<a href="mailto:Demarcus@toxicfreenc.org">Demarcus@toxicfreenc.org</a>
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Paula Cox	Environmental Health Manager II	Guilford County Department of Public Health	<a href="mailto:pcox@guilfordcountync.gov">pcox@guilfordcountync.gov</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>
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Doris Hogan	Environmental Health Specialist	Forsyth County Health Department	<a href="mailto:hoganda@forsyth.cc">hoganda@forsyth.cc</a>
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