



Summary

On Tuesday, August 13, 2019, thirty-seven 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 participated in a panel discussion that included representatives from three HUD-funded programs (Durham, Greensboro, and Greenville) and a representative from USDA Rural Development. 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

NC Child – Vikki Crouse & Tom Vitaglione

- Discussed the childcare sanitation rule regarding lead testing in water; they are reaching out to folks who submitted comments against the rule to neutralize them. Tom complimented the state staff in their work to deal with public comments and other aspects of the childcare sanitation rule. Childcare providers are in support of the rule. NC Child's videos that are designed to help childcare operators with water sample collection are nearly done and will be translated.
- Continuing efforts to push for reducing the EPA's actionable lead level of 15ppb in water, including communication with various stakeholders like the realtor's association.

Pitt County Health Department – Tashaunda Hill

- Working to enhance outreach and primary prevention around childhood lead. They have had 3 investigations this year with the new EBL standards, and 2 more elevated levels where families haven't accepted investigations yet.
- Tashaunda will also help support Greenville's recently awarded HUD grant, and her role will entail encouraging people to take advantage of the opportunity.

Melvin Wiggins, community resident from Virginia

- Risk assessor and lead inspector who is exploring opportunities to live and work in North Carolina.

City of Greensboro – Jennifer Freeman

- Program manager of the HUD-funded lead hazards program in Greensboro. The city is about 1.5 years into this current grant cycle (they've been awarded HUD funding previously).

Alamance County Health Department – Elizabeth Ellmore

- The HD is having some trouble reaching families with EBLs. They have an ongoing investigation with a school, specifically trying to get them to get remediation done because the school continues to fail maintenance clearance with their use of interim controls.

Toxic Free NC – Cheyenne Wagi & Lior Vered

- Continues to support efforts that protect children from childhood lead poisoning and other hazards.
- Lior is a policy advocate who has been recently hired. Some of her focus will be on promoting enhanced efforts around integrated pest management (IPM).



PEACH – Dan Curry & Barrington Ross

- Both representatives are PEACH board members. The organization has convened a meeting with Durham County health director, with a goal of getting a lead prevention rule instated. In May, Lenora presented a situational assessment to county officials and summarized steps that Durham could take.
- PEACH was selected as one of five green home initiative programs funded and will work with the county's board of health on that effort.
- PEACH will help address lead for a group of homes with lead dust, at the request of the local HD.

Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti

- The GHC housing inspector is back to work and is doing more inspections and helping tenants understand their rights and responsibilities. The GHC staff have been getting trained in NCCARE360, so that they can understand the best ways to implement referral sessions.
- They are setting up information sessions that they typically conduct at the start of each school year.

Orange County Health Department – Mora Beck & Krishnaveni Balakrishnan

- They are coordinating Asthma Blitz events with school nurses. They are going to work on developing an animated video on healthy homes for younger people.
- The healthy homes program is working with the local immigrant/refugee program manager to make sure materials are translated.
- Orange County HD is partnering with NC Institute of Medicine on fair housing issues for Orange County; they are receiving referrals, and they are pleased that more word is getting out about their program.

NC Justice Center – Suzy Khachatryan

- She is specifically working on projects in the NC Budget & Tax Center. Her team is working on projects around social determinants of health and this information (from the task force) helps frame her work.

Durham County Health Department – Warren Richardson & Lakieta Sanders

- Warren and his colleagues are waiting to see how they will be supporting the City of Durham HUD grant; they have begun meeting with PEACH to understand how they can assist with local lead hazard projects.
- On August 9, Lakieta attended the Durham Head Start/Public Health orientation – she got over 20 lead consent forms. She suspects that there are a lot more kids who need testing. She promoted the Teach/Test event to families for September and October; other participants will be Reinvestment Partners, PEACH, and UNC.
- On August 10, Lakieta participated in a health event at the Greater Emmanuel Church. Lakewood Elementary asked her to come do a screening in January.

Forsyth County Health Department – Doris Hogan

- They have conducted 3 investigations since the last task force meeting; 2 of them involved older housing, and the third one involved a foosball table as the source. The child was 5 years old, and he played with the table every day for hours; the mom stopped all activity around the table.



Iredell County Health Department – Diana Blue

- They have conducted 5 school lead investigations, and the schools should be submitting remediation plans soon. They have a recent childcare center lead investigation, and parents are being notified this week. Routine school sanitation inspections warranted the investigations. Regional EH specialist Tonya Zimmerman helped them with the school investigations, including water testing from food prep areas.

Wake County Human Services – Carol Sockman

- She introduced her new role as Wake County School Based Public Health Nurse.

NC Housing Finance Agency – Donna Coleman (in absentia)

- New partners in various counties for 2019 cycle of funding for the rehabilitation of single-family homes owned by those meeting low income designations [the URP and ESFR programs]. Visit website for more information: <https://www.nchfa.com/homeownership-partners/community-partners/current-community-partners>
- The amount of funding we provide by program varies depending on the policy in place at the time a partner enters the program. For URP, the funding limit is non-negotiable. For ESFR, additional money may be approved if lead, asbestos or septic issues are present and a hazard can be shown. Below is a rough guide:
 - ESFR 2016-2018 up to \$25,000 for minimum housing code type repairs.
 - ESFR 2019 up to \$30,000 for minimum housing code type repairs.
 - URP 2017-2018 up to \$8000 for urgent only repairs.
 - URP 2019 up to \$10,000 for urgent only repairs.
- Lead is considered both a minimum housing code repair and an urgent repair under conditions of children under 6 being exposed in the home. Both ESFR and URP do not require that the child have elevated lead blood levels prior to repair; this is a recent loosening of the restrictions for URP to more closely align with the ESFR program. This change was implemented in part due to a recommendation from this NC Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force.

State Program Updates

NC DHHS Children’s Environmental Health Unit

Ed Norman

- The childcare sanitation rule (regarding testing water for lead) should go into effect on October 1, if all goes well; he is hopeful that the review commission’s work on the budget will be completed soon.
- Melanie Napier will be replacing Kim Gaetz permanently.
- The CDC grant was renewed. They will use some carryforward for a temporary epidemiology position, and he is hoping to permanently hire another epidemiologist soon.

Melanie Napier

- She has been working on funding proposals to continue getting more assistance with programming. She encouraged public health professionals to continue reaching out to her for help with NC LEAD.



Tena Hand

- Working with clinics/providers who need technical assistance, and two labs who have failed to submit lead tests to NC LEAD. Local HD nurses reported issues with them when doing follow-up on testing.
- She is helping FTP providers (200) who are using LeadCare analyzers to accurately report data.
- The NC DHHS Adult Blood Lead Surveillance program will go live in NCLEAD on 8/13/19, which will make it easier to coordinate occupational lead exposures and related issues to children's EBLs.
 - Doris asked how we'll see it for the adults in the system – Tena said that finding it will be the same as with the kids – in terms of finding environmental and clinical data. Stacey asked how to see that it's tied to related pregnant and child tests; Tena stated that results of pregnancy environmental/clinical data will be kept separately from the new adult system.

David Brown

- He thanked folk in the room for helping with the new childcare sanitation rule passing.
- Recent investigation of lead poisoned child where the house was in poor condition; he reported to HUD that the landlord didn't report likelihood of lead to the family. As a result, HUD wants to come down to investigate the landlord, but cost of travel requires coming when there are multiple cases. In this case, the landlord had painting crew just dry scraping and painting; David encouraged people to report those cases to Health Hazards Control Unit in NCDHHS (Jeff Dellinger).

Rob Pearsall

- Since the last task force meeting, he's had 8 EBLs and 14 confirmed. Some were recent immigrants. He brought the example of the fishing cork from one investigation. Hispanic kids in another investigation were poisoned from mom's pot, particularly because she was grinding spices and cooking in it. He recently had a historical home (over 100 years old) in Laurinburg that had lead throughout the property.

Stacey Robbins

- Since January, she has had 12 EBLs, 3 confirmed and investigations at 2 supplemental facilities (childcare centers). She pointed out how hard it is to find the source of lead in these newer homes, and with lots of varied possible reasons for poisoning. In one case, a grandfather had hundreds of box cars; in another the family had been using old painted wood next door to throw community bon fires.
- Put together a presentation with Tonya Zimmerman and they have conducted it 5 times already; they are getting requests to conduct the presentations for CDSAs in NCDHHS (in their regions).

Tonya Zimmerman

- Since May, she has had 7 EBL cases, 4 CLPPP cases. She had a recent Moore County lead well testing at 32 ppb at a mobile home.

State Lab of Public Health

Kate Koehler

- No new lead information to report. However, there is a new issue with mercury poisoning. The Edgecombe Co HD called with 19-month-old child in a coma with an extremely high mercury level; the



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EPA was called into help. They discovered that there was some cooking of mercury; a pregnant mother was also in the home. Childcare services came and took the child away from the family. Since there was no criminal investigation, so the State Lab stopped its work in the public health aspect of the issue.

NC DHHS Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

David Lipton

- At the end of April, House Bill 1012 was introduced on safety updates for rental dwellings; if it is passed, it will amend the state housing code, specifically addressing mold and it would require commission for public health to act. There is no mention of environmental health in the bill. It is still in committee.
- Virginia Guidry, branch head of the NC DHHS OEEB sent out an offer for the staff to train local public health professionals on answering questions about mold. David suggested that we engage community partners to participate, even though local HDs are coordinating the logistics for each training.
- He is concerned about damage estimates and insurance issues when properties are damaged after hurricanes, flooding, etc. UNC-Wilmington made a claim for \$40 million to address mold, and the insurance doesn't want to cover it. David found that a lot of homeowners have these issues; he thinks that we should expect this to be a continued issue for homeowners.

UNC Institute for the Environment, Center for Public Engagement with Science

Neasha Graves & Megan Rodgers

- UNC is continuing to conduct trainings with public health professionals, but there has been an uptick in the requests for trainings among childcare center groups and immigrant/refugee health services groups, particularly the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project.
- Neasha and Megan Rodgers will be presenting a poster on the Teach and Test project with the Durham County Health Department and other area partners at the National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media (NCHCMM) in Atlanta. Megan will give an oral presentation on the web-based library on lead in spices and other cultural items at this conference.
- The UNC staff is working with Dr. Ann Chelminski to coordinate a **Clinical Lead Training for March 4, 2020 at the State Lab**. The training will start with a tour of the lab, and then participants for the remainder of the training can join in person or online. Neasha asked task force meeting attendees to expect information (Save the Date) to come out in the coming weeks.

Panel Contacts

- Sylvia D. Brown, *Planner II, Community Development Dept/Housing Division, City of Greenville*
- Jennifer Freeman, *Housing Rehabilitation Administrator, City of Greensboro*
- Faith Gardner, *Assistant Director, Neighborhood Improvement Services, City of Durham*
- Reginald J. Johnson, *Director, City of Durham, Community Development Department*
- Dr. Michael A. Pullum, *Community Development Manager, City of Durham, Community Development Department*
- Byron Waters, *Program Director, Multi-Family Housing Programs, USDA Rural Development*



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Upcoming Events

- Lead Supervisor Training: August 20-23, 2019 in the Cardinal Room at 5605 Six Forks Road, Raleigh
- Lead SOP: Oct 9-11, 2019 in Asheboro
- PEACH lead education event with NCCU Public Health Education: Oct 24 or 25 (details to come)
- Clinical Lead Training: March 4, 2020 at the State Lab of Public Health (details to come)

In Person Attendees

Krishnaveni Balakrishnan	Senior Public Health Educator/Healthy Communities Healthy Homes Coordinator	Orange County Health Department	kbalakrishnan@orangecountync.gov
Moira Beck	REHS	Orange County Health Department	rbeck@orangecountync.gov
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
Dan Curry	Board Member	PEACH	dancurryconsulting@gmail.com
Elizabeth Ellmore	REHS	Alamance County Environmental Health	Elizabeth.Ellmore@alamance-nc.com
Jennifer Freeman	Housing Rehabilitation Administrator	City of Greensboro	Jennifer.Freeman@greensboro-nc.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
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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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
David Lipton	Industrial Hygiene Consultant	Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology, NC DHHS	david.lipton@dhhs.nc.gov
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	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
Stacey Robbins	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	stacey.robbins@dhhs.nc.gov
Megan Rodgers	Environmental Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS, NC CLPPP	merodgers@unc.edu
Barrington Ross		PEACH	
Lakieta Sanders	Public Health Educator	Durham County Department of Public Health	ldsanders@dconc.gov
Gina Uresti	Rental Team Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	gina@gsohc.org
Lior Vered	Policy Advocate	Toxic Free NC	lior@toxicfreenc.org
Tom Vitaglione	Fellow	NC Child	tom@ncchild.org
Cheyenne Wagi	Toxic Free Kids Program Manager	Toxic Free NC	cheyenne@toxicfreenc.org



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Thais Weiss	Community Development Coordinator	City of Durham	Thais.Weiss@durhamnc.gov
Melvin Wiggins	Community Member		
Jason Williams	Board Member	PEACH	
Tonya Zimmerman	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Tonya.Zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov

On the Phone Attendees

Brenda Bass	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov
Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker and Focus on Fathers Specialist	Chatham County Public Health Department	nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org
Kimly Blount		NC DHHS	kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov
Diana Blue	Environmental Health Specialist Program Specialist	Iredell Public County Health Department	diana.blue@co.iredell.nc.us
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
Doris Hogan	Senior Environmental Health Specialist	Forsyth County Department of Public Health	hoganda@forsyth.cc