



## Summary

On Tuesday, February 11, 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 program updates and listened to a presentation from a representative from the NC Housing Coalition. 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

### Wake County Human Services – Jordan Jernigan

- The department has 19 new lead cases, including some prenatal cases.

### Wilson County Health Department – Marian Robertson

- The department has had 3 childcare investigations, 6 elementary school investigations, and an average about 10 investigations per quarter (4 since January). They are working with property managers to get clearance on some properties and are looking through old cases to make sure they have been finalized.

### Duke University – Dan Richter

- As a soil scientist, he is testing for lead in samples around homes in Durham. He started sampling soil last September (25 miles of streets, 600 samples); he is making a soil map; 6-8 students have worked on this project; completed 60 private residences. They have been using a consent form developed by law office at Duke. He has found that the city's fire hydrants are contaminated; approximately 20% of the 10,000 hydrants are severely contaminated with paint.

### NC A&T State University – Emmanuel Obeng-Gyasi

- He is professor at NC A&T working on soil sampling at properties in Greensboro.

### Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti

- Her team is continuing with healthy homes education and home assessments, and they are getting referrals from clinics to work with families.
- Planning to conduct more school-based events in Greensboro. She encouraged participants to consider using the Multicultural Center in downtown; the center will allow tabling exhibits during special events.

### NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center – Theresa Stenersen

- Her office works to prepare childcare health consultants with regional coaches throughout the state.

### NC Justice Center – Suzy Khachaturyan

- In the process of completing a "Health Note," which is like a fiscal note for the state legislature.
- She has analyzed the recent school construction bond bill and conducted a literature review to understand how school construction impacts health. Plans to complete research by end of the month.



**Orange County Health Department – Krishnaveni Balakrishnan**

- The department is implementing healthy homes education classes, specifically to help buyers and renters understand conditions around home they are buying or renting.

**Forsyth County Health Department – Doris Hogan**

- Their staff will be participating in Health Department Parenting classes, which will give them opportunities to conduct lead outreach with new moms at least 6 times per year.
- They have conducted 4 lead investigations since the last task force meeting.

**Pitt County Health Department – Tashaunda Hill**

- Conducting annual monitoring of properties and working with proposed new childcare centers who need clearance to operate.
- Preparing for the area's annual maternity fair and will provide new parent packages. Neasha offered lead brochures and fact sheets, if needed from NC CLPPP/UNC IE.

**Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health – Lenora Smith**

- She asked meeting participants to add PEACH's name on lists of available contractors, so that they can bid on projects. Their refresher courses seem to be picking up.
- She has hired a new program coordinator.
- PEACH is one of the partners in the Triangle area Healthy Pilots effort.
- PEACH is working with Durham Housing Authority and Reinvestment Partners to address lead in one of their properties. They may be conducting water testing of one of the housing segments in the city.
- Recent funding from Green Healthy Homes Initiative; conducted a site visit from GHHI in Durham.
- PEACH is going to participate in the UNC Minority Health Conference at the end of the month.

**City of Charlotte Housing and Neighborhood Services – Hanna Kirlin**

- The city was recently awarded another HUD grant for the next 42 months.
- Their program was chosen to work with the National League of Cities to get technical support for a pilot project involving referrals from clinicians for kids living with asthma. They will conduct a healthy homes assessment and provide funds for repairs. This project is in tandem with the HUD grant. The city will hire a health care worker who will be assisting with healthy homes evaluation and education. They will be using pre/post health outcome data to show that interventions are beneficial and improve quality of life.

**NC Child – Vikki Crouse**

- She brought handouts regarding Public Charge Rule which is in response to a lawsuit

**Chatham County Health Department – Nellie Benitez & Elizabeth Fridley**

- The department is currently following 8-9 lead cases and they are conducting a lot of outreach and education on lead.
- On February 25, they will be coordinating an Asthma Blitz event as part of Family Fun Fest at a local high school in Siler City; a UNC respiratory therapist will be there, and providers will go over asthma action plans and other aspects of treatment with families.



**Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel**

- Will continue conducting preventative lead visits throughout fall and spring.
- Lorisa is conducting pediatrician and family health visits to emphasize new guidelines around lead testing, with a plan to hand deliver the NC Lead Testing and Follow-Up Manual with her staff member who is a retired nurse.
- She is starting asthma program with Duke University to identify home triggers.

**Randolph County Health Department – Tara Aker**

- Tara has recently connected with a physician who might be able to help grow the county's healthy homes program. The county is interested in addressing asthma issues and expanding their lead program.
- Randolph County has helped host the annual three-day Lead SOP training for the past several years.

**Durham County Health Department – Warren Richardson**

- Completed 9 investigations; working with first pregnant mom case, baby was born with elevated lead

**Alamance County Health Department – Elizabeth Ellmore**

- The county has one active poison case. The Environmental Health Division has met with the landlord to discuss remediation options. They have one other elevated case but there is difficulty getting responses from the family. They have two cases from annual monitoring.

**UNC Greensboro Center for Housing and Community Studies – Sofia Mosquera**

- Oversees housing and health unit in center; connects communities with lead and asthma intervention and partners; looking for collaboration opportunities

**State/Federal Program Updates**

**NC DHHS Children and Youth Branch – Stephanie Fisher**

- Care Coordination for Children at Risk (formerly CC4C), and an additional term used for similar programs is Early Child Care Case Management. Stephanie represents 15 counties in the north central region of the state, and to date, monitoring site visits are running smoothly.

**US Housing and Urban Development – Jody Moses**

- Durham has recently hired a program coordinator for their funded program. She reminded everyone that NC has 5 funded cities, and she encouraged efforts by other cities to apply for funding.

**NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health**

**Ed Norman**

- Grant funds from the EPA were awarded, and NC DHHS has executed the contract to work with a specific lab to test the water in childcare centers (RTI packaging images on page 8). Each facility with a different license will get an individual email and packaging, including each Head Start program.
- They can go ahead with sending the NC Child video links to the childcare center operators so that people can familiarize themselves with the process.



**Melanie Napier**

- She introduced Samantha Sites as a new epidemiologist to assist with data and to answer NC Lead questions. Samantha can be reached at 919-707-5953.
- There will not be a NCLEAD webinar done in March of 2020.

**State Lab of Public Health – Kate Koehler**

- Ed Norman, Melanie Napier and Kate have had conversations with the NC DHHS Women and Children's Health Branch regarding prenatal testing and EBLs; they will be using the CDC guidelines to test the cord blood, and they will be updating the protocol/written instructions to clarify this step.

**Stacey Robbins (southwest region)**

- Continuing to provide educational activities and investigations in her region.

**David Brown (central region)**

- The CEH unit will soon post Frequently Asked Questions about the lead water testing rule on relevant websites (NC DHHS and NC Healthy Homes); there are 82 questions on it.

**Barrette Gregory (northwest region)**

- Conducted 7 investigations, 2 were confirmed poisonings and 5 EBLs.

**Tonya Zimmerman (Triad region):**

- Conducted 7 investigations, with 3 poisonings and 2 EBLs; several sources have included mini blinds and one from cultural items that a family encountered during a vacation trip to India.
- NCPHA fall conference is set for September 16-18 in Wilmington at the Convention Center. NCPHA officers are accepting abstracts for presentations.

**Rob Pearsall (southern region)**

- Working on 12 home investigations since the last task force meeting and 3 childcare centers; there has been some effort to get funding to help address remediation needs in these homes; perhaps HUD money from Wilmington will become available.
- Rob and other local contacts are working with Habitat for Humanity and NC Housing Finance Agency to address some homes.
- In Robeson County, they are working with a church group to address home remediation efforts.

**Robert Hunt (north central region)**

- There has been some confusion about emails sufficiently reaching childcare center operators in preparation of the childcare water testing implementation.
- He has been working on some cases that have included pottery as sources of lead exposure.

**Carissa Moore (western region)**

- Conducted several childcare investigations and 4 EBL investigations since last meeting. 2 of the EBL investigations had occupational exposures that were confirmed with dust sampling.



UNC IE Center for Public Engagement with Science

**Neasha Graves**

- Increase among childcare operators in getting lead trainings since the water testing rule has been implemented and announced, including Wake and Alamance Counties in recent months.
- The UNC IE staff have conducted workshops at environmental health district meetings.
- Workshops for parents who have children in Head Start have expanded to Durham and Orange Counties; Neasha encouraged other counties represented in the meeting to participate in this effort.
- Will participate in the Asthma Blitz activity with Chatham County Health Department on February 25.
- The team is updating its asthma fact sheets and has updated the NC Healthy Homes website to include a web page dedicated to information on carbon monoxide.

**Task Force feedback on Pending Lead Rule Amendments**

Ed Norman shared information on the following proposed lead rules. He welcomed feedback on them:

1. Definitions – Some of the definitions will be adjusted to make them consistent with HUD guidelines. Some definitions may be removed because the state does not use them anymore. They will make them consistent so that they are not in conflict with federal guidelines or any other state.
2. 3102 – This rule has been sunset; it is not being used anymore. No feedback is needed.
3. 3105 – This is the clearance standard for soil; this hasn’t matched the NC General Statutes for 15 years. The level will need to be changed from 2,000 to 1,200 ppm. 400 ppm will remain.
4. 3107 – It should not make a distinction between interior and exterior surfaces. This has not been an issue, because people have the option to use the maintenance standard, and if they do choose that, they have to do interior and exterior surfaces.

**Keynote Presenter**

Pamela Atwood, Director of Housing Policy, North Carolina Housing Coalition  
[patwood@nchousing.org](mailto:patwood@nchousing.org) | 919-827-4491

**Upcoming Events**

**February 25** – Chatham County Asthma Blitz

**March 4** – Clinical Lead Training, NC State Lab of Public Health

**In Person Attendees**

Tara Aker	Assistant Health Director	Randolph County Public Health	<a href="mailto:Tara.Aker@randolphcountync.gov">Tara.Aker@randolphcountync.gov</a>
Krishnaveni Balakrishnan	Senior Public Health Educator, Healthy Communities-Healthy Homes Coordinator	Orange County Health Department	<a href="mailto:kbalakrishnan@orangecountync.gov">kbalakrishnan@orangecountync.gov</a>



## Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

February 11, 2020

Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker and Focus on Fathers Specialist	Chatham County Public Health Department	<a href="mailto:nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org">nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org</a>
Vikki Crouse	Health Program Associate	NC Child	<a href="mailto:vikki@ncchild.org">vikki@ncchild.org</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@alamance-nc.com">Elizabeth.Ellmore@alamance-nc.com</a>
Elizabeth Fridley	Public Health Nurse II	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	<a href="mailto:neasha_graves@unc.edu">neasha_graves@unc.edu</a>
Barrette Gregory	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov">barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Megan Hughes	Environmental Health Educator	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	<a href="mailto:Robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov">Robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Robert Hunt	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:Robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov">Robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Jordan Jernigan	Lead Program Specialist	Wake County Department of Environmental Services	<a href="mailto:Jordan.Jernigan@wakegov.com">Jordan.Jernigan@wakegov.com</a>
Kate Koehler	Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator, Hemachemistry Manager	NC State Lab of Public Health, NC Division of Public Health	<a href="mailto:kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov">kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Jody Moses	Field Office Director	US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Field Policy and Management	<a href="mailto:Jody.A.Moses@hud.gov">Jody.A.Moses@hud.gov</a>
Sofia Mosquera	Program Director, Environmental Health Unit	UNC Greensboro Center for Housing and Community Studies	<a href="mailto:s_mosque@uncg.edu">s_mosque@uncg.edu</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	<a href="mailto:ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov">ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov</a>



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Emmanuel Obeng-Gyasi	Professor	NC A&T State University	<a href="mailto:obenggyasi@ncat.edu">obenggyasi@ncat.edu</a>
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Warren Richardson	Environmental Health Specialist	Durham County Department of Public Health	<a href="mailto:wrichardson@dconc.gov">wrichardson@dconc.gov</a>
Dan Richter	Professor	Duke University	<a href="mailto:drichter@duke.edu">drichter@duke.edu</a>
Marian Robertson	Environmental Health Specialist	Wilson County Health Department	<a href="mailto:mrobertson@wilson-co.com">mrobertson@wilson-co.com</a>
Megan Rodgers	Environmental Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	<a href="mailto:merodgers@unc.edu">merodgers@unc.edu</a>
Lakieta Sanders	Public Health Educator	Durham County Department of Public Health	<a href="mailto:ldsanders@dconc.gov">ldsanders@dconc.gov</a>
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Healthy Homes	Reinvestment Partners	<a href="mailto:lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org">lorisa@reinvestmentpartners.org</a>
Samantha Sites	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov">samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Gina Uresti	Rental Team Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	<a href="mailto:gina@gsohc.org">gina@gsohc.org</a>
Tonya Zimmerman	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:Tonya.Zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov">Tonya.Zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov</a>

### On the Phone Attendees

Kimly Blount	Field Supervisor	Environmental Health Section, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov">kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Stephanie Fisher	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	Children & Youth Branch, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:stephanie.fisher@dhhs.nc.gov">stephanie.fisher@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Tashaunda Hill	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Pitt County Environmental Health	<a href="mailto:tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov">tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov</a>
Doris Hogan	Senior Environmental Health Specialist	Forsyth County Department of Public Health	<a href="mailto:hoganda@forsyth.cc">hoganda@forsyth.cc</a>
Suzy Khachaturyan	Policy Analyst	NC Justice Center	<a href="mailto:SuzyK@ncjustice.org">SuzyK@ncjustice.org</a>
Hanna Kirlin	Lead and Healthy Homes Coordinator	City of Charlotte, Housing and Neighborhood Services	<a href="mailto:Hanna.Kirlin@ci.charlotte.nc.us">Hanna.Kirlin@ci.charlotte.nc.us</a>





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Carissa Moore	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:Carissa.moore@dhhs.nc.gov">Carissa.moore@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Stacey Robbins	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:stacey.robbins@dhhs.nc.gov">stacey.robbins@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Lenora Smith	Executive Director	PEACH	<a href="mailto:peachlead@aol.com">peachlead@aol.com</a>
Theresa Stenersen	Regional Child Care Nurse Consultant	NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, UNC-CH	<a href="mailto:theresa_stenersen@unc.edu">theresa_stenersen@unc.edu</a>

## Images for packaging sent to childcare centers to test water

Childcare center operators will be required to enroll on an online website ([www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org](http://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org)) BEFORE a test kit will be shipped.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



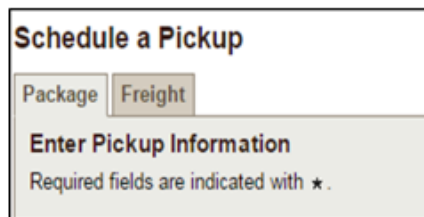
Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7



Step 8

