



## Summary

On Tuesday, November 10, forty-six lead and healthy homes professionals met via Zoom for the quarterly NC Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force meeting. Prior to the meeting, members were asked to submit their program updates on lead and healthy homes activities in an online survey, responses included below. Public Science and Internship Coordinator, 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, State, and Federal Updates (submitted prior to meeting)

### **Davidson County Health Department – Jill Hutchinson**

- 2 Confirmed Lead cases. Picked up water samples at both homes. One completed XRF readings and dust wipe samples. The other is scheduled for Nov. 17. 3460 forms are filled out over phone.

### **Forsyth County Department of Public Health – Doris Hogan**

- Conducted 9 annual monitoring visits on homes, schools and daycares, 2 investigation for BLLs 5-7 LOC (local) and 1 for a BLL of >10. No unusual sources, mainly toys.

### **Guilford County Public Health – Lucas Van Eyk Jr**

- Conducted 4 lead investigations, 3 consultation visits, 2 XRF consultation visits, 2 abandonment monitoring visits, 12 annual clearance inspections, 45 to 7 BLL sent notices and 10 >10 BLL notices sent.

### **Pitt County Government – Tashaunda Hill**

- We are scheduling annual monitoring and lead investigations for this month. We have 1 confirmed lead poisoning case and 3 EBL's at this time. We have been in communication and providing support with these families while we await the opportunity to complete the investigations.
- We have provided education for child care providers for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week focusing on Lead in Water and the child care rule revisions. We have also incorporated some lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes literature into information packets provided to county employees whom are expecting. This is an effort of our Employee Wellness team.

### **Wake County Environmental Services – Jordan Jernigan**

- Incoming EBL and CLP cases have been reduced when compared to our normal case load. This is most likely due to the pandemic; however, we are still receiving cases. Our county focus has been centralized around annual monitoring - maintenance standard property visits to ensure compliance.
- We have received a few elevated water samples from childcare centers (in accordance with the new rule implementation - 15A NCAC 18A .2816) that we have followed up on for confirmatory water sampling.

### **Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti**

- Conducting some one-on-one education with clients and seeking opportunities for furthering innovative education regarding healthy housing during Covid-19.
- Continue to provide rental/utility assistance for people affected by Covid-19. This program is in partnership with the City of Greensboro, who has allocated funds from the CARES Act, and with this



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program we are assisting hundreds of clients. Currently, the funds are restricted for residents of the City of Greensboro. However, we are looking forward to expanding as we seek more funding. This funding is not to be confused with the HOPE Program. You can find more information about the Hope Program at <https://nc211.org/hope/>.

- Continue to work with NC Care 360 Referrals, FHASES Referrals, and with partner agencies to provide resource information for clients.
- Continue working with the BUILD Health Challenge Project, where we aim to address childhood asthma that is exacerbated by the unhealthy housing conditions in which some children are forced to live because of the lack of adequate housing. One of the primary goals is to reduce the prevalence of asthma attacks that result in hospital visits. We plan to achieve this by working with community members, policy makers and organizational partners who can advocate for effective and immediate change of housing conditions. We hope that by addressing these issues to reduce asthma triggers we can improve school attendance and school performance of the children living in unhealthy housing. For more information, please visit <https://buildhealthchallenge.org/communities/collaborative-cottage-grove/>
- Also, I am excited to announce that as of Nov. 1, 2020 I am the new Healthy Homes Manager. I am very excited about this new role and opportunity.

### **UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies – Atigre Farmer**

- We are currently at over 400 contacts from the month of September and October with 55 referrals to our partner organizations.

### **Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel**

- The DRAFT Durham Early Childhood Action Plan has two goals related to lead: 1) Healthy: Goal 2, Sub-Target 5 (Increase the percent of children ages 1 and 2 years tested for lead poisoning) and 2) Basic Needs: Goal 4, Sub-Target 4 (Decrease the percent of children ages 1 and 2 years tested with a blood lead level of 5 µg/dL). *Lorisa asked for feedback on these goals during the meeting.*

### **Duke University Soil Lead Laboratory – Dan Richter**

- Presentations about our ongoing soil lead mapping in Durham to the USEPA, Duke Catalyst Program, Durham PEACH Steering Committee, and several classes at Duke University.

### **NC Child – Vikki Crouse**

- NC Child is working with UNC IE, NCCLPPP and the Duke Environmental Law & Policy Clinic to create a public, statewide lead-safe housing database. Our interdisciplinary team is working on gathering data on homes presumed to be lead-safe (post-1978) and homes where remediation has taken place.
- NC Child officially launched LeadFreeNC.com. This website hosts the NC Lead Risk Housing Map and information about resources available from partners on lead prevention and treatment.
- NC Child continues to support environmental health partners in stopping PFAS discharges in drinking water and getting them out of food packaging.



**Department of Public Health, NC DHHS – David Brown**

- Virtual presentation to the annual Child Care Health Consultants Conference. Main topic was enlisting their help in educating child care operators about the amended rule .2816 requiring testing tap water used for drinking or cooking for lead.
- Several home investigations of children with lead exposure.

**Environmental Protection Agency – Emma Kaiser**

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency started implementing the High School Volunteers Environmental Ambassadors Program in October to further the EPA’s mission to build partnerships with local and rural community schools. In this program, High School volunteers will assist with environmental initiatives which may spark interest in public health careers. In October, high school students in South Carolina and Florida who needed volunteer hours to graduate read a book about lead-based paint hazards, called Charlie Goes to Town, to elementary students. Our goal is to have at least one class in all of the Region 4 states to do a reading of Charlie Goes to Town. If you are interested in learning more or may know a high school class that is interested in participating in this initiative, please contact Emma Kaiser at [kaiser.emma@epa.gov](mailto:kaiser.emma@epa.gov).

Group Discussion

1. Lorisa Seibel (Reinvestment Partners) and Bonnie Delaune (Durham Children’s Initiative): ***Two childhood lead health goals in the draft Durham Early Childhood Action Plan (changes in bold)***
  - a. Healthy: Goal 2, Sub-Target 5 (“Increase the percent of children ages 1 and 2 years **tested for lead poisoning.**”)
  - b. Basic Needs: Goal 4, Sub-Target 4 (“Decrease the percent of **children ages 1 and 2 years tested with a blood lead level of  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .**”)
    - i. Ed – use “testing” instead of “screening” because screening is viewed as having done a risk assessment questionnaire. Ed’s team uses both measures in the annual surveillance tables. Initial test is most representative.
    - ii. Kate Koehler – 10% of first tests are false positive due to environmental contamination on the finger, providers are only using alcohol swab to clean finger rather than washing the child’s hand. She notes that proper specimen collection is key in the process and is an important consideration when reviewing statistics related to percent confirmed/screened.
    - iii. Lorisa – they are still working on other strategies like renovation.
2. Conversation on outreach during pandemic
  - a. Atigre Farmer (UNC-G Center for Housing and Community Studies): ***How are other organizations doing outreach while trying to avoid in-person interactions?***
  - b. Robert Gardner (City of Wilmington): ***Outreach strategies to promote awareness of lead hazard reduction / Healthy Homes programs*** – Wants to learn about various ideas; they’re going to have a blitz after the election to do door hangers and an article in local newsletter.



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- i. Neasha Graves – suggested brief 45-minute meetings/conversations; helpful in outreach work for parents who are constrained on time and/or do not want to meet via Zoom
  - ii. Paula Cox – go through programs giving away food goods to get in some of your educational materials. Work with programs who have more experience in outreach/reach. Robert Gardner – having some luck with CDBG grantee programs. Will work with them to get information out to
3. Doris Hogan (Forsyth County): ***Are others testing toys and at water level with the XRF are they considering it a problem?***
  - a. David Brown – take it away from the kid if they are mouthing it. He thinks any level close to 1.0 is sufficient to keep it away from the kid. If he is suspicious of something, he always brings it up to the parents even if he can't get readings from XRF. Also, toys/furniture are not related to structure of the house.
  - b. Luke van Eyk – They get other toys that they look up in the CDC website and anything above .5-1 ppm, then he recommends they stop using the toy.
4. Gina Uresti (Greensboro Housing Coalition): ***New innovative ideas and resources to help continue work during the pandemic***
  - a. Ed Norman – State level: great time to do water testing, can do it by mail, Have a series of screening questions that inspectors ask before going inside the home
  - b. Neasha - doing as much of the outside portion of the house as possible; doesn't require interaction
  - c. Q: asking the questionnaire when the appointment is set up and at the time of the actual appointment (ask questions twice)?
    - i. Doris and Ed both affirm that they do
    - ii. Not contaminating equipment moving from one area to another, having a disinfection station between areas, spending as little time as possible in home, interview questions online or by phone so they don't have to conduct interview in-person; respiratory protection plan (have that extra precaution in state protocol)
    - iii. Kimly - in steps of finalizing protocol; should take place this week; notes that while they will release the protocol to the public, each county should check with own safety officer to check what their own specific protocols may be; emphasizes that counties should have their own procedures in place
    - iv. Doris Hogan - asks the same questions that a person is asked at the health department
    - v. Lorisa Seibel - helpful in planning visit; do her labels ahead of time so that she spends as little time inside as possible

### Links from Chat Box

- <https://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/docs/forms/cehu/PRE-InvestigationQuestionnaire-FamilyDwellings-10-9-2020.pdf> - Children's EHS questionnaire
- <https://www.cpsc.gov>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2p2qREch9g>



Guest Presentation – Getting to Know Safe Kids NC

**Shannon Bullock**  
**Deputy Director of Injury Prevention**  
**Director, Safe Kids NC**



**N.C. Department of Insurance**  
**Office of State Fire Marshal**  
 919.647.0081 office  
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Save the Dates for 2021

All meetings will be held from **10am-1pm**, either via Zoom or at the Europa Center in Chapel Hill, dependent upon the status and guidance around COVID-19.

- February 9
- May 11
- August 17
- November 9

Attendees

Brenda Bass	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov">brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
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Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker	Chatham County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention	<a href="mailto:nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org">nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org</a>
Kimly Blount	Field Supervisor	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov">kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
David Brown	Surveillance Coordinator	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov">w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Paula Cox	Environmental Health Manager	Guilford County Department of Environmental Health	<a href="mailto:PCOX@guilfordcountync.gov">PCOX@guilfordcountync.gov</a>
Vikki Crouse	Policy Analyst	NC Child	<a href="mailto:vikki@ncchild.org">vikki@ncchild.org</a>
Bonnie Delaune	Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP) Program Manager	Durham Children’s Initiative	<a href="mailto:bonnie.delaune@dc-nc.org">bonnie.delaune@dc-nc.org</a>



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