



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

February 9, 2021

Summary

On Tuesday, February 9, 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)

Duke – Dan Richter

- Our Durham soil Pb project continues, in fact we just submitted our first scientific paper! My colleague at NC A&T also just submitted his first scientific paper about the soil lead in Greensboro. These will be the first two such papers in NC!

RTI International – Jennifer Hoponick Redmon

- Clean Water for Carolina Kids progress – outreach and education moving forward.

Center for Housing and Community Studies – Atigre Farmer

- We've been able to maintain a good amount of outreach despite COVID cancelling many community events. As much as we have been out going door to door, no one on our team has caught COVID.

Cabarrus Health Alliance – Jennifer Hatley

- Have completed three lead investigations with Regional EHS.

Wake County Environmental Services Lead Program – Jordan Jernigan

- Home visits are being conducted.
- Increase in cases coming in and referrals for childcare center and school building investigations.
- Presentation provided to Wake Co. Environmental Services staff regarding Rule 2816 for childcare centers.
- Presentation provided to Wake Co. Child Care Center Providers regarding Rule 2816 for childcare centers.

UNC Institute for the Environment – Neasha Graves

- In December, Megan Rodgers and Neasha Graves presented in the CDC's annual Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program managers meeting. Megan presented on the Lead in Spices Library, and Neasha discussed the recent projects that Healthy Homes Task Force members have collaborated.
- We continue to conduct virtual healthy homes trainings. One was conducted on 12/1/20 with Rockingham Co. Nurse Family Partnership and one on 1/26/21 with Project Enlightenment Program in Wake Co.
- Megan Hughes and Neasha Graves recorded a session for the 2021 Virtual Conference on Lead and Healthy Housing Issues, which is sponsored by the Lead and Environmental Hazards Association. The focus of their session is on emerging lead and healthy homes issues in NC and educational materials developed



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to address those issues. Here is the link to the conference: <https://healthyhousingconferences.com/>. Sessions will be accessible on February 22-26 and on demand through May 1, 2021.

- Megan Rodgers and Neasha Graves have begun communicating on ways to streamline the lead resources on the NC Healthy Homes website. Megan will continue to explore such edits.

Guilford County DHHS – Lucas Van Eyk Jr.

- This quarter we performed one lead investigation, twenty-six annual monitoring visits and forty home visits asking if a lead investigation for confirmed 5 EBL's children be performed and not required.

Forsyth County Department of Public Health – Doris Hogan

- 2 investigations, multiple Maintenance visits and clearances.

NC Child – Vikki Crouse

- NC Child is continuing to make progress on building a statewide lead-safe housing database. We are working with our partner at UNC IE, NC CLPPP (NC DHHS), and the Duke Environmental Law & Policy Clinic to launch this database later this year.
- Our team continues to advocate for lowering the lead hazard level in water for children to 5 ppb from 15 ppb. We found legislators to sponsor this bill and are working to get a hearing for it this session.
- Our team is also working to identify a source for mitigation funding for child care centers who have found elevated lead levels in their drinking water. We are working with NC CLPPP and the licensed child care association on this effort.
- Our team is working with students at the Duke Law & Policy Clinic to revisit lead poisoning prevention efforts for pregnant people and how DPH can strengthen those.
- We're working with Jennifer Redmon at RTI to write a blog post on the revised Lead and Copper Rule, with a focus on the new requirement for lead water testing at child care centers and public schools. We will plan to share the blog post with the group and ask for support promoting it/getting the word out about the implications of the revised LCR for children's health.

PEACH – Lenora Smith

- PEACH has partnered with DHHS, Curamericas Global, and Duke Health System and through the partnership, has hired Community Health Workers (CHW) to help connect Durham and Wake County residents who have COVID-19 related needs to NC Care 360 and other community resources.
- PEACH provided leadership to the writing team, in partnership with Durham County Health Department Lead prevention officials (Lakieta Sanders, Warren Richardson, & Chelsea Wooten), to write the Lead Poisoning Prevention section for the Durham 2021 Community Health Assessment Report. Shout out to Tena Hand for her data support. The Partnership for Healthy Durham oversees the writing for the Community Health Assessment Report.



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- PEACH, with leadership from Dexter Richardson, now graduate of the UNC-CH Gillings School of Global Public Health, coordinated monthly steering committee meetings to bring together community residents, local and state stakeholders to initiate discussion and planning to establish a Durham Board of Health Rule establishing primary prevention of lead poisoning in children. PEACH is currently assessing committee meetings and discussions and will have an update at the next quarterly meeting.
- PEACH has received letters of conditional awards for three of the RFPs issued by the Durham Lead and Healthy Home Program. Also, PEACH was included as partners for two additional RFPs. This is the City of Durham HUD grant funding and PEACH will provide leadership for Marketing and Outreach, Application Intake, Relocation, Training, and Lead Inspections, Risk Assessments, and Clearances.

NC Division of Public Health – Stephanie Fisher

- Our branch is continuing to respond to COVID 19 while developing a monitoring plan. Agencies are assuring or providing child health clinical services where lead is assessed per health check requirements.

DHHS CEH – Tonya Zimmerman

- I have completed 3 EBL Investigations, 1 CLP Investigation, 2 Supplemental Investigations, 2 Lead Clearances, 1 COF Investigation, 1 Annual Monitoring Inspection, and 2 Child Care Authorizations.
- I have also visited 9 child cares for follow-up water samples for lead (total of 20 samples collected). 3 faucets required remediation.

NC Housing Finance Agency – Donna Coleman

- We have been working on remote monitoring of units that we fund which includes review of lead inspections, hazard assessments and clearance inspections. I have completed 6 and have 3+ in process.
- We recently completed our Essential Single Family Loan Pool program application cycle for 2021; this project will pay above the base rehab standard funding of \$30,000 for lead removal from a home occupied by the owner that could be occupied by a child. These should be awarded on February 11, 2021. 33 counties are planned to be awarded in this cycle: Alamance, Ashe, Bertie, Bladen, Burke, Camden, Chatham, Currituck, Dare, Gaston, Graham, Greene, Haywood, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Jones, Lee, Madison, Martin, Mitchell, Montgomery, Pasquotank, Pender, Polk, Rockingham, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Wake, Warren, Wayne and Wilkes.

The Humane Society of the United States – Gail Thomssen

- This will be my first meeting. HSUS is involved in housing insecurity issues that have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. We believe in keeping pets in their homes and in order to do that, we need to help keep people in their homes! <https://www.humananimalsupportservices.org/keeping-families-together/>.

Wilson County Health Department – Marian Robertson

- Getting back on track with lead investigations, annual monitoring, & remediations with clearances, etc.



- Have had 4 investigations, 3 child cares completed annual monitoring, and about 3 or 4 properties going through the remediation process.
- Also been trying to educate all Wilson County child care centers on the .2816 rule with the water testing requirement, as well as getting registered with Clean Water for Carolina Kids.

Group Discussion

1. Jeff Dellinger (NC DHHS): ***Changes to EPA lead dust clearance rule***
 - a. The EPA lead dust clearance rule has been amended and changes will take place March 8, 2021. Dust hazards standards were changed a couple of years ago, but clearance standards were not updated. NC DHHS is prepared to send out letter to those in lead abatement field. NCDHHS has already sent out letters to training providers in their lead ad hoc context. HUD has similar dust lead clearance standards, but they are limited to certain grants; other grants fall under abatement.
 - i. Ed Norman – There has been discussion of lowering action level of lead and copper in water rule for schools, but it has not happened and remains at 15 ppb. The rule would require that a public utility test all schools and child care centers that they serve, 20% each year over 5-year period to test all schools in jurisdiction. This conflicts with NC DHHS rule that states testing must be done over a 3-year period. They are communicating with DEQ, who implements rule, to see if testing they are doing will count and if the EPA WIIN grant funds can be used to help centers comply with the requirement. There has been talk of legislation that would potentially pursue lowering action level of lead in water to 5 ppb, DEQ possibly not supportive of this because it would create dual standard.
2. Lenora Smith (PEACH): ***Thoughts on primary prevention of lead poisoning and RRP rule and how to move policy forward***
 - a. Context: In 2016, a homeowner contaminated his property and his neighbors' when he power-washed his 1930s home. The neighbors had children under 6, and contacted local and state government, as well as EPA and found that the law could not be enforced. The neighbors reached out to PEACH and Reinvestment Partners, and they were able to do paint dust and soil testing. The neighbors decided to pursue lawsuit and after 18 months received some recompense.
 - b. This led PEACH to hold townhall meetings and information sessions for the community. In turn, the community provided recommendations, including the creation of an ad hoc steering committee focused on primary prevention actions. One such action is to enact a Board of Health rule that identifies lead paint as public health issue, giving the City a basis to align ordinances with the Board of Health rule. A situational assessment report was drafted and presented to Durham City-County board of elected officials.
 - c. The steering committee will continue and will be coordinated by PEACH. Committee meetings will be focused on policy, communications, and marketing. PEACH realized they needed policy expertise and reached out to Vikki Crouse, policy analyst with NC CHILD, who connected them with Stephanie Schweickert of NC Conservation Network. Takeaways: 1) lawmakers do not like to do enforcement-type activities, so enforcement may not be best approach for RRP rule, and 2)



- d. reminder to build relationships with local legislators and educate them on why these issues are important to bring to house and senate floor.
 - e. Lenora asks that anyone else who is involved with primary prevention of lead poisoning in children and would like to be involved in steering committee please contact her at lenora@peachdurham.org or 919-682-1300.
 - i. Vikki Crouse – NC Environmental Health Coalition (unofficial) made up of state and local agencies focused on different aspects of environmental health. Presently, they are focused on lead and PFAS work and advocacy. The coalition is open to anyone interested in these issues. They hold check-in calls every other Friday morning. Please contact Vikki if interested in learning more or joining bi-weekly calls at vikki@ncchild.org.
3. Jennifer Redmon (RTI): ***Clean Water for Carolina Kids progress: Outreach and education moving forward to meet testing requirement for all licensed childcare centers and Pre-K Head Start programs.***
- a. Working with Ed and Melanie and all regional env health specialist, they started in July 2020 and have tested 9370 taps for lead in drinking and cooking water at licensed child care centers, and 1480 centers. Has sent emails to centers who have yet to enroll, requiring pre-enrollment webinar followed by live Q&A session. This has resulted in 1/3 of centers that were not previously enrolled to become enrolled. (Webinar information below).
 - b. Regarding the proposal for lead hazard reduction level to 5 ppb, 94% of taps are below 5 ppb hazard level; only 6% of taps are at or above 5 ppb. 2% of samples are at or above 15 ppb.
 - i. Ed – Faucet replacement has been the most common remediation in these incidences, and tap is re-tested upon remediation.
 - ii. Niesha Reynolds (City of Durham) – Asked whether it is recommended or worthwhile to replace faucets that appear older than 2014 discovered during HH visits. Jennifer to follow-up with guidance on filters and faucets. Ed reiterated that the concern should be mainly with kitchen sinks, which provide drinking and cooking water.
 - iii. Jordan Jernigan (Wake County) – Asked about a lag in reporting back sampling results. Jennifer will follow up with information on reporting timeline.

c. Webinar information:

North Carolina partnered with RTI International to support free testing for all licensed child care centers in the state. Participation in this testing is required by April 1, 2021, to comply with the new lead testing rule (15A NCAC 18A .2816).

Register for one of the required webinars at:

https://rtiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dUo_XtuqQOOvBoiONHs_7g.

They are offered twice a week. Choose only one webinar to attend. During the 30-minute session, the webinar will overview:

1. How to enroll
2. How to sample, and
3. How to ship your samples.



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Staff will also be available to answer any lingering questions or comments live after the training presentation.

Once you complete the webinar, the access code will be shared to enroll at www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org. You need this code to enroll.

4. Megan Rodgers (UNC IE, CEHS): ***What are ways we can cultivate non-profits to address HH issues in the state. Who should be involved in these discussions?***
 - a. Vikki Crouse - Community Empowerment Fund, a local agency in Durham and CH focused on preventing homelessness, finding housing for folks, housing advocacy.
 - b. Donna Coleman (NCHFA) – NCORR, CDBG funds and Disaster Relief funding; will follow up with contact.

Guest Presentation

Coalition Building and Collective Impact: Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthier Homes in Rochester NY

Elizabeth McDade, *Program Manager, Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning*

Link to recorded presentation: <https://youtu.be/HXf7OJ5hEOI>

Attendees

Brenda Bass	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov
Daryl Beasley	Regional Environmental Health Specialist, Lead Program	Wake County Government Environmental Health	Daryl.Beasley@wakegov.com
Nellie Benitez	Lead Outreach Worker	Chatham County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention	nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org
Kimly Blount	Field Supervisor	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	Kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov
David Brown	Surveillance Coordinator	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Donna Coleman	Senior Housing Rehabilitation Officer	NC Housing Finance Agency	djcoleman@nchfa.com
Vikki Crouse	Policy Analyst	NC Child	vikki@ncchild.org
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU), NC DHHS	jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov
Atigre Farmer	Program Coordinator	UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies	ajfarmer@uncg.edu
Stephanie Fisher	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	Children and Youth Branch, NC DHHS	stephanie.fisher@dhhs.nc.gov



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Elizabeth Fridley	Public Health Nurse II	Chatham County Public Health Department	elizabeth.fridley@chathamnc.org
Genevieve Gadsden	Lead Program Specialist	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4	gadsden.genevieve@epa.gov
Robert Gardner	Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Coordinator	City of Wilmington Community Development	robert.gardner@wilmingtonnc.gov
Donna Gilbird	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	donna.gilbird@dhhs.nc.gov
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
Jennifer Hatley	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Cabarrus Health Alliance	jihatley@cabarrushealth.org
Tashaunda Hill	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Pitt County Environmental Health	tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov
Megan Hughes	Environmental Health Educator	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	hugheme@email.unc.edu
Robert Hunt	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov
Jordan Jernigan	Lead Program Specialist	Wake County Department of Environmental Services	Jordan.Jernigan@wakegov.com
Kate Koehler	Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator	NC State Laboratory of Public Health	kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov
Bryan Luukinen	Senior Program Coordinator	Duke University Superfund Research Center	bryan.luukinen@duke.edu
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	ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov
Rob Pearsall	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov
Amy Peterson	State Childcare Nurse Consultant	Division of Childcare Health and Safety, NC DHHS	Amy.petersen@dhhs.nc.gov
Hanna Pita			



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Jennifer Hoponick Redmon	Senior Environmental Health Scientist and Chemical Risk Assessment Specialist	RTI International	jredmon@rti.org
Neisha Reynolds	Lead and Healthy Homes Program Manager	Community Development Department, City of Durham	Neisha.Reynolds@durhamnc.gov
Dexter Richardson		PEACH Durham	drichardson@carolinasda.org
Nykesse Roberts	REHS, Senior Environmental Specialist	Mecklenburg County Environmental Health	Nykesse.Roberts@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov
Marian Robertson	Environmental Health Specialist	Wilson County Environmental Health	mrobertson@wilson-co.com
Megan Rodgers	Research Associate <i>(coordinates Lead and Healthy Homes Task Force and listserv)</i>	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	megan.rodgers@unc.edu
Lakieta Sanders	Public Health Educator	Durham County Department of Public Health	LDSANDERS@DCONC.GOV
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Healthy Homes	Reinvestment Partners	Lorisa@ReinvestmentPartners.org
Samantha Sites	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov
Shineka Small	Environmental Health Specialist	Cumberland County Department of Public Health	ssmall@co.cumberland.nc.us
Jeff Smedley	Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	jeff.smedley@dhhs.nc.gov
Lenora Smith	Executive Director	PEACH Durham	Lenora@peachdurham.org
Steven Smith	Health Director	Henderson County Department of Public Health	ssmith@hendersoncountync.gov
Gail Thomssen	North Carolina State Director	The Humane Society of the United States	gthomssen@humanesociety.org
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Gina Uresti	Healthy Homes & Homeless/Rental Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	gina@gsohc.org
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Tonya Zimmerman	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	tonya.zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov