



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 17, 2021

Summary

On Tuesday, August 17, 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)

North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health – Kate Koehler

- NCSLPH continues to progress on method validation for prenatal testing to include Cadmium and Mercury.

NC Child – Vikki Crouse

- NC Child, in partnership with NCCLPPP, Duke Environmental Law & Policy Clinic, RTI and NC Conservation Network, steered H272 "Revised Health Standard for Lead" to the finish line. Beginning in December 2021, this law will lower the lead hazard level for children's drinking water from 15 ppb to 10 ppb. North Carolina is the first southern state to lower its children's lead hazard level below 15 ppb. This law will protect an additional 30,000 young children in child care centers alone.
- NC Child is tracking the inclusion of federal ARPA funding in the Senate budget proposal to be used for lead testing and mitigation at child care centers and public schools. We are advocating for its inclusion in the House budget proposal.
- NC Child continues to work with partners to build a statewide lead-safe housing information database. We are looking for participants to pilot the database and provide feedback via a survey or focus group. If you are interested in participating or would like to refer someone to participate, please email vikki@ncchild.org. We will be launching this database during National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in October.

NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health Program – David Brown, Robert Hunt

- (David) In my region of the Triangle there is an uptick in disastrous DIY home renovations exposing family members to lead poisoning hazards.
- (Robert) Investigations of EBL and CLP. Working on virtual training for EHS's in NC.

UNC Institute for the Environment – Neasha Graves

- UNC IE staff has begun working with Alan Huneycutt to update materials/handouts for the NC Preventive Maintenance Program
- UNC IE conducted a training for child care professionals in Durham on 6/21 with contributions from Reinvestment Partners and the Durham Co. Health Department. The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education approved continuing education credits for this training.
- Provided healthy homes training for nine (9) community health worker trainees at Durham Tech Community College on July 7-8, 2021.



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- UNC-IE conducted a lead poisoning prevention workshop for parents whose children were enrolled in the Families and Communities Rising Program (formerly known as the Orange/Durham County Head Start Program).
- UNC IE has been assisting NC DHHS staff with technical support for the Lead SOP training.
- UNC-IE staff presented on lead exposure and poor indoor air quality for 41 participants in a monthly *Housing Hangout*, a program developed for community members and stakeholder agencies by UNC Greensboro's Center for Housing and Community Studies.

Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic – Nancy Lauer

- We continue to work with NC Child on a Lead Safe Housing Database for NC.

Guilford County Public Health – Luke Van Eyk

- 2 Lead investigations, 12 outreach/education, 8 annual lead monitoring, 1 home visit, and 1 lead meeting.

Forsyth County Department of Public Health – Doris Hogan

- I conducted 9 annual monitoring visits for homes and schools, 2 lead investigations for 5-7 (optional) and 1 investigation for an 8 or greater (required) which had 3 supplemental addresses one in another county. In total this quarter, I investigated 3 supplemental addresses (one for a child in Davidson County). I conducted 2 clearance visits for one property to verify remediation and place the property on annual monitoring. Our HD is resuming some of the normal activities, so I will be conducting a presentation about lead to pregnant women during parenting classes.

Chatham County Public Health Department - Elizabeth M Fridley, Nellie Benitez

- Continuation of the Community Resource Hubs, once a month.
- 2 presentations to Chatham County Department of Social Services & Chatham County Health Alliance
- Prior Investigation and Remediation Plan continues
- Chatham has been doing home visits, community resource hubs in the community, outreach in Mount Aire farms providing COVID-19 vaccine outreach as well as handing out information about lead and asthma.
- Participated with agency, Communities in Schools, on a back-to-school event in Siler City, NC on 8/14
- We recently started doing outreach to chicken plants where there are about 1000 employees.

Orange County Health Department - Krishnaveni Balakrishnan

- Our inspection-based programs at OCHD are now able to perform home visits. It's been a slow restart, but we have been receiving referrals and families are feeling more comfortable with OCHD staff entering the home. Healthy Homes, along with our Tobacco Control and Prevention program will also be partnering this fall/winter for classes, along with Parks and Recreation. At our pop-up vaccine events that occur on a regular basis, the Healthy Homes program is also being promoted at these events to provide education, resources, and sign-up families for the program.



Pitt County Environmental Health - Tashaunda Hill

- Participated in local Head Start's annual Health Fair where we were able to provide healthy homes and lead information for approximately 120 families on July 20.

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency - Donna Coleman

- We are beginning in person housing inspections for compliance with our financing programs in September. We are noticing increased use of extra funds to provide lead remediation/abatement in existing single-family low-income homes.
- I am working to set up RRP initial and refresher training sessions in October for publicly funded rehabilitation specialists through the Professional Housing Rehabilitation Association of North Carolina. We are starting to see some lack of properly certified RRP contractors.

Cabarrus Health Alliance - Jennifer Hatley, REHS

- Home visit for lead investigation. Spices from India being possible source for lead poisoning (EBL).

Group Discussion

Vikki Crouse: introduced work on the lead-based paint housing database

- NC Child working with UNC Institute for the Environment, Duke Environmental Law and Policy, and the NC DHHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) to create a housing lead risk database based on the year the home was built. The agency is hoping to populate this database with other data, to get a better account of other sources of lead in homes, and will launch database in October 2021.
- Vikki is inviting people to take a survey to gather information on specific properties and resources related to reducing lead risk. Survey should take about 5-10 minutes. (The survey information is at the end of the meeting notes.)

Jackie MacDonald Gibson and Jennifer Redmon – Launching new project with HUD to predict which houses are at higher risk for lead exposure using a variety of metrics

- Looks at paint, soil, dust, consumer products. Building up databases they already must assess lead/water and using certain machine learning approaches to get better idea.
- Partnership with several local organizations in NC and IN. Lead sampling in Greensboro and in Indiana.
- Will present project at November Task Force meeting
- National Academy of Sciences article shows how surveillance data and publicly attainable data can be used to identify child risks to lead
- Donna Coleman: Is the project looking at elderly people? Dementia has been connected to lead poisoning, NCHFA works with the elderly and would be interested in seeing if they collect anything useful for elderly groups.



- Jackie: Focusing on children now, sentinels for lead risk, any intervention would help anyone in the household not just the children and help learn about types of households and blood lead levels. Project must be on children because they're using data based on children's BLLs.
- Ed: what about 3.5 BLLs in the study? That is the one CDC is looking at
 - Jackie: we can add that!
- Donna: What is the output that you expect to have? Will there be maps?
 - Jackie: There will be maps and a tool to show where children's blood lead level at risk of 5, 2, or 1 micrograms per deciliter
- Vikki: NC Child made a lead risk map (more campaign based). would like to know more about her acquisition of data and to see if there's a way to work together
- McDonald-Gibson published paper on blood lead levels for 60,000 children in Guilford County--shows strong signals of signs that are often connected to lead levels

Donna Coleman --Planning RRP training event. Has noticed lag in trained/refreshed contractors, wondering if others have as well

- Working as a volunteer with association of home builder professionals to increase RRP-trained contractors. Planned in-person RRP training/refreshers session in Concord (Great Wolf Lodge) end of October. Lots of people need refresher, hope to have 30-40 for each. RRP required to be in person in NC (there is a test and hands on component). Some training providers are hesitant to go out in field, spaces might close, roadblocks from COVID-19 restrictions.
- David Brown – Trades people can get work with newer properties in the Triangle – they are having trouble finding people with the qualifications to work on older properties.
- Issues finding certified contractors who can perform this work, not enough for low-income properties where it is most applicable
- Are others having trouble finding contractors? COVID-19, prices of materials going up, contractors dropping out
- Lisa Morgan: At our local health dept...We are noticing lack of RRP contractors in our area as well. We have a family that has called 20 contractors-no luck yet.
- Neasha: has heard contractors lapsing for updating RRP from eastern rural counties.
- Donna is looking for way to work this out because as long as the pandemic goes on this lack of training could worsen
- Lenora Smith: PEACH teaches the initial RRP training in Durham and can travel to conduct the initial training, can assist w training needs. Working to establish program to train workers to do RRP renovations, just getting started, hopes to provide resources to fill that gap (mobile, throughout the state, not just Durham): connect with Lenora if this is still a problem at the end of the year
- Found one of the groups was only using renovator certificate and not the firm certification--not really in the system properly and not covered by letter issued by NC DHHS (eastern counties are some of the worst), not paying \$300 for firm certification.



- Neasha: is HFA providing course at no cost?
- Donna: No, doing it through the NC Home Builder Professionals Association.
- Donna: if anyone has training and wants to send it to her, she will post it on her LinkedIn account--wants to get the word out
- Lenora has an RRP training available this Thursday (8/19) and is willing to travel throughout NC to conduct future trainings.

Nellie Benitez--Outreach at the local chicken plant

- Chicken plant wanted outreach for workers
- Roughly 1500 staff, set up tables outside to try to get them vaccinated and to share lead exposure, asthma, fire info handouts
- Lots of lead presentations with the Chatham Health Alliance and child care centers.

Krishnaveni: on home visiting referrals during COVID-19 especially with Delta variant

- Health department just approved home visiting, wondering for those with healthy home programming, what are ways you are getting in touch with people? Have you had success getting into peoples' homes? Have you seen home referrals pick back up?
 - Lorisa Seibel: slower but haven't dropped off yet, those who need healthy home, lead visits are still asking for them in person
 - Donna Gilbird (northeastern NC): doesn't think anyone has turned down investigations for COVID-19 reasons
 - Robert H (Alamance to Northampton, down to Johnston): saw a drop in testing initially, but now has not seen resistance for home visits for COVID-19 reasons
 - David (triangle): parents ask questions about COVID-19 protocols, but investigations continuing
 - Tonya Zimmerman: no issues either
- Neasha: you all took precautions, etc. do you think those made a difference? Any in particular?
- Krishnaveni: still have a mix of people allowing home or consistently rescheduling. Have updated home visiting COVID-19 protocol but haven't actively promoted it outside of current climates, something to consider sharing that broader
- Paula Cox: Guilford County is having folks turn us down or ask to reschedule for later. Has been difficult to complete annual monitoring.

Tonya Zimmerman

- Fall conference for NCPHA has been cancelled



Ed Norman – update on House bill 272 adopted into law

- With the lead in water action level at 10ppb, NC will be stricter than the EPA standard in certain situations. This standard applies to schools, child care centers, and residences where kids have been known to be exposed (but not to public water supply systems). Lead dust hazard levels have been included in a regulatory reform bill, so that they can be revised to coincide with new federal standards.
- New funding from ARPA - \$150 million – to be managed by NCDHHS has been proposed by the Governor and legislature and is focused on testing and mitigation of water lead hazards at licensed child care centers, family child care homes, as well as public and charter schools (but not private schools); a second focus is on asbestos and lead paint testing and mitigation – in child care facilities and public schools. Schools would be able to drawdown the funds, with a match; a third focus is \$10 million (from the original \$150 million) for housing mitigation where EBL children and pregnant women live. That last piece is in the House budget (but not Senate).
- Ed encouraged everyone to contact their legislators to push for the House version of the budget that includes the housing mitigation (\$10 million).

Jennifer Redmon – RTI has tested 92% of licensed child care centers.

- Have a few more to finish. Will open the opportunity up to 1,300 family home centers. About 2% had high levels requiring mitigation.

Guest Presentation

NIEHS Worker Training Resources on Disaster Engagement during the Time of COVID-19

Sharon Beard, Acting Director, NIEHS Worker Training Program

Presentation slides: https://nhealthyhomes.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/6517/2021/08/NIEHS-WTP_Disaster-and-COVID-1919-presentation-for-NC-Lead-and-Healthy-Homes-Task-Force-Presentation-at-UNC.pdf

Recording: <https://youtu.be/EKDNkfM8l6Q>

Resources from Presentation

- NIEHS WTP who we fund page: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/awardees/index.cfm>
- ECWTP Resources: ECWTP 25th Anniversary page: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2595>
- ECWTP Fact sheet: https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/assets/docs/ecwtp_factsheet_2021.pdf
- COVID-19 Tools and Resources: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/COVID-1919worker/>
- and Environmental Factor - May 2021: COVID-19 resilience and recovery for workers, communities (nih.gov): <https://factor.niehs.nih.gov/2021/5/community-impact/workers/index.htm>
- NIEHS Disaster Response Training: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=556>
- COVID-19 Webinars and Presentations: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2592>
- Supplemental COVID-19 Funding: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/accomplishments/index.cfm>
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- **NIEHS Webinar/Fact Sheet on Portable Air Cleaners:**
https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=13021
- **You can also contact our National Clearinghouse to get support for training and tools:**
https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=10461
- **NIEHS Curricular Catalog:** <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=603>
- **Contact information for WTP Staff:**
https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about_wetp/contacts/index.cfm

Helpful Links

- **Lead-Based Paint Housing Database Survey:** https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d7sQMgSL2jutngO
 - *NC Child invites you to provide feedback on the “NC Lead-Based paint Housing Database.” This database was developed in partnership with the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project, the UNC Institute for the Environment, and the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic. This database will enable community members to learn the lead-based paint risk in their home and connect to resources to address it. The database will publicly launch in October 2021. You can explore the database here: <https://northcarolinalead-dukeuniv.hub.arcgis.com/>*
- **Lead Free NC:** <https://leadfreenc.org/prevention/lead-map/>
- **PEACH website for training:** <https://www.peachdurham.org/epa-lead-renovator-rrp-certification-training/>

Attendees

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|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Krishnaveni Balakrishnan | Sr. Public Health Educator/Healthy Communities-Healthy Homes Coordinator | Orange County Health Department | kbalakrishnan@orangecountync.gov |
| Brenda Bass | Environmental Health Regional Specialist | Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS | brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Sharon D. Beard | Acting Director | Worker Training Program, NIEHS | beard1@niehs.nih.gov |
| Nellie Benitez | Lead Outreach Worker | Chatham County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention | nellie.benitez@chathamnc.org |



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| 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 |
| Sam Cohen | Science Communications Specialist | Duke Superfund Research Center | Samuel.cohen@duke.edu |
| Donna Coleman | Senior Housing Rehabilitation Officer | NC Housing Finance Agency | djcoleman@nchfa.com |
| Paula Cox | EH Env Health Manager II | Guilford County Health Department | pcox@guilfordcountync.gov |
| 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 |
| R. B. Gardner | Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Coordinator | City of Wilmington Community Development | robert.gardner@wilmingtonnc.gov |
| Jackie MacDonald Gibson | Professor | Indiana University | jacmgibs@iu.edu |
| Donna Gilbird | Environmental Health Regional Specialist | Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS | donna.gilbird@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Neasha Graves | Community Outreach and Education Manager | UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS | neasha_graves@unc.edu |
| Jennifer Hatley | Environmental Health Program Specialist | Cabarrus Health Alliance | jihatley@cabarrushealth.org |
| Doris Hogan | Senior Environmental Health Specialist | Forsyth County Department of Public Health | hoganda@forsyth.cc |
| Robert Hunt | Environmental Health Regional Specialist | Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS | robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov |



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| Allison Jenkins | Industrial Hygiene Consultant | Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU), NC DHS | allison.jenkins@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Chiara Klein | Program Coordinator | Duke Superfund Research Center | chiara.klein@duke.edu |
| Kate Koehler | Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator | NC State Laboratory of Public Health | kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Gail Lamb | Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant | Department of Health and Human Services | gail.lamb@dhhs.nc.gov |
| Nancy Lauer | Science and Policy Fellow | Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic | nancy.lauer@law.duke.edu |
| Betsy Meeks | | | betsy.meeks@alamance-nc.com |
| Lisa Morgan | Food and Lodging Supervisor | Chatham County Environmental Health Department | lisa.morgan@chathamcountync.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 |
| Jennifer Hoponick Redmon | Senior Environmental Health Scientist and Chemical Risk Assessment Specialist | RTI International | jredmon@rti.org |
| Nykesse Roberts | REHS, Senior Environmental Specialist | Mecklenburg County Environmental Health | Nykesse.Roberts@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov |
| Megan Rodgers | Research Associate (coordinates Lead and Healthy Homes Task Force and listserv) | UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES | megan.rodgers@unc.edu |



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| Annette Rogers | | Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health | amarogers98@gmail.com |
| 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 Program 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 | Director | Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health | peachdurham@gmail.com |
| Gina Uresti | Healthy Homes & Homeless/Rental Housing Counselor | Greensboro Housing Coalition | gina@gsohc.org |
| Tonya Zimmerman | Environmental Health Regional Specialist | Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS | tonya.zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov |