



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

February 8, 2022

Summary

On Tuesday, February 8, thirty-eight 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) Lane, 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)

City of Greensboro – Melissa Burton

- Having a zoom presentation for homeowners, tenants and landlords on Jan 25 through UNC-G Community of Housing and Community Studies department.

Children’s Environmental Health - David Brown

- On October 11th, 2021, in response to a physician's request, teamed up with Tonya Zimmerman to conduct a Health Homes / Lead Risk Assessment at a home in High Point.
- On October 21st, EBL Investigation with Chatham Co Environmental Health - suspect take-home lead from occupation exposure in stained glass restoration business.
- Our program is recruiting for a vacant Regional EHS position. Please contact Kimly Blount for more information.

City of Charlotte’s LeadSafe Program – Hannah Kirlin

- We completed three lead units last quarter. We are operating at full capacity given COVID restrictions and supply chain issues.

Forsyth County Dept of Public Health -- Doris Hogan

- We conducted 3 investigations for child with BLLs of 5-7ug/dL (local level for EBLL) and 2 investigations for 8ug/dL or greater (local Poison level) along with 4 clearances.
- We were able to attend an outreach event to parents with young children in December.

NC Child – Vikki Crouse

- NC Child has been working towards a public release of the NC Lead-Paint Safe Housing Database. Our team was able to address data discrepancies in the database, and we are planning for a public launch in June 2022. In the coming months, we will be reaching out to partners about opportunities to share this resource with communities.
- Our team is currently working on efforts to strengthen prenatal lead screenings among pregnant people. The Duke Environmental Law & Policy Clinic worked with our team to do background research on prenatal lead screenings in North Carolina, and our team will be moving forward with next steps with the Department to identify ways to increase prenatal lead screenings among high-risk communities throughout the state.



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Greensboro Housing Coalition- Gina Uresti

- HQS (Home Quality Standards) inspections for clients who call/walk in and to clients being referred by agencies/providers.
- Landlord Mediation and Healthy Homes Education.
- Neasha hosted a Healthy Home Training for Public Health Professionals last month for us.
- We are participating in Fannie Mae's Safer Together Green Housing Partnership where we partner with other agencies to provide education to align on the common goals of repairing and rehabilitating substandard housing while equipping students with industry-relevant skills and credentials that will allow economic mobility with the hope of changing lives and sustaining affordable communities within Guilford County.
- Launching of Build 3.0-which includes addressing childhood asthma in Greensboro where families can access In-Home asthma remediation and education. The qualifications for this study are as follows: Children with an asthma diagnosis, ages 5-11, live in Greensboro, NC in zip codes 27401, 27405, and 27406, can be a renter or homeowner. As part of the project we are working with school leaders to engage the community and recruit for the study.
- Connected with medical providers at Cone Health and shared presentation on the BUILD 3.0 project. The main purpose was to share the workflow process for referrals and to give an overview of why medical providers are important to the success of the work. Our next step will be setting up an in-person meeting to discuss further details of the workflow process for those at the Rice Center, however, the meeting has been postponed due to the surge in COVID-19.

Guilford Country DHHS – Luke Van Eyk

- 1 Clearance Check, 3 Lead Investigations, 9 home contacts to offer a lead investigation, 10 outreach to lead cases.
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Reinvestment Partners – Lorisa Seibel

- Asthma Pilot Program to reduce Environmental triggers in 12 homes.
- Climate Impact Assessments & Interventions with 10 of 12 Asthma families.

PEACH Durham -- Annette Rogers

- PEACH is reaching out to let you know about #leadfreedurham. Durham has received \$3.2 million dollars to help protect children from lead exposure in their homes.
 - We are informing owners and renters who live in housing built before 1978 about this opportunity for assistance with lead-safe repairs to their homes.
 - Please help us get the word out to protect our children against lead poisoning.
- We are available to speak to your neighborhood group, church, daycare, realtors, or other interested groups. We can be reached at leadfree@peachdurham.org, 919-682-1300 or 919-396-8526 if you would like more information.

Discussion

Ed Norman - recent statewide funding and legislation measures around lead and asbestos remediation

- The state will use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$150 million to address lead in water, lead in paint and asbestos in public schools and child care facilities. Proposed temporary rules have been submitted on how the money would be allocated and the type of work that would be done.
- **Rule-making process:** The temporary rules are available online (and forwarded to the listserv). There are 7 proposed temporary rules, with the aim to abbreviate the rule-making process. The rules will



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expire after 9 months. When they are adopted, officials will start the permanent rule-making process. There is a 30-day comment period on the temporary rules; there will be a public hearing on Feb 25.

- **Summary of rules:** There's one rule on *who's eligible*. All of the rules apply to K-12 schools and child care centers. Public schools and child care centers must have hazards – lead/water, lead/paint, or asbestos to get funding. Another one that all public schools must test water for lead similar to the way legislation directs for child care centers; Division of Child Development & Early Education (**DCDEE**) **will go through with their own rule-making process to require family home child care centers to test water also. DHHS will coordinate the testing and inspection**, similar to what they did for the child care centers. Won't be the same type of citizen science effort like the child care centers (citizen science effort could continue for testing water in schools). Going to contract with some entity (not determined yet) to analyze the lead/water test. **Rule about certified risk assessors**; people who are risk assessors in other states may work in NC with a reciprocity agreement; so some leeway was included so that the timeline for renewing certification (2 years in NC; 3 years in other states) won't hold up using out-of-state assessors to assist with this process. **No determination yet on how the renovation and abatement funds will be disseminated. May end up transferring some funds to DCDEE/DPI** to take care of the renovations in schools/CCCs. Big training on how to administer the funds later this month.
- **Questions/Answers:** These are responses to questions. 1) Ed encouraged having community groups sharing comments. 2) The legislation/funding applies only to public schools (not private/religious). 3) Will school systems have to pay for remediation of lead paint and asbestos when money runs out? Answer: Schools have to pay anyway, with a \$1 match for every \$2 of ARPA funds. The statute requires testing/inspection, but not the remediation (of paint and asbestos). But the rule requires remediation of lead in water. 4) Can CCCs use the lead inspection/testing to submit for abatement? Yes. 5) Question on application process: Ed doesn't know yet. But they'll have to ask certain questions on the application to be able to report certain deliverables to the legislature.
- **Deadlines for spending ARPA funds:** One deadline showed that money must be spent by 12/31/26; another one showed that it must be encumbered by 12/31/24. Ed is going to get clarification, with the hope for the later date.

Question from Vikki Crouse - NC Child

- What will the new division in NC DHHS (Division of Child and Family Well-Being) mean to changes for the Children's Environmental Health Unit and other related programs?
 - **Answer:** Folk like Gerri Mattson (pediatric medical consultant) will be moved, and agencies will have to be thorough in coordinating with different divisions. Amy Petersen's team (NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center) is also moving like Gerri, but they don't see real changes in their actual tasks.

Update on Surveillance Ad hoc Committee – Neasha Graves

- Ad hoc committee met in December and early February, with the intent to address issues that impact the clinical and environmental surveillance in the state's lead program.
- A focus has been on providing feedback on the revision of the Lead Testing and Follow-up Schedule, which will show the lowered blood lead reference level dropping to 3.5 µg/dL **for children only**.
 - Ed Norman made a point of mentioning that this change will not involve a lowered level for pregnant women, because the CDC did not recommend it.
- Other issues that the committee has shared feedback have included the recent LeadCare testing kit recall and recommendations for addressing a deficiency in specific chelation medications.



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Guest Presentation

Environmental Health at Children’s Mercy: Successes and Challenges in Pre and Post COVID Times

Kevin Kennedy, MPH, CIEC, Environmental Hygienist

Director, Environmental Health Program, Children’s Mercy Kansas City

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Attendees

Brenda Bass	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov
Nellie Benitez	Lead and Focus on Fathers Program Specialist IV	Chatham County Public Health Department	Nellie.Benitez@chathamcountync.gov
Kimly Blount	Field Supervisor	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov
Vikki Crouse	Policy Analyst / NC KIDS COUNT Program Director	NC Child	vikki@ncchild.org
Paula Cox	Env. Health Manager II	Guilford County Department of Public Health	Pcox@guilfordcountync.gov
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU), NC DHHS	jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov
Deborah Dolan	Community Advocate	WellCare of NC	deborah.dolan@wellcare.com
Robert Gardner	Lead Hazard Grant Coordinator	City of Wilmington	robert.gardner@wilmingtonnc.gov
Neasha Graves	Community Outreach and Education Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	neasha_graves@unc.edu
Barrette Gregory	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov
Tena Hand-Schafale	Data Manager	NC DHHS	tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov
Jennifer Hatley	Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Supervisor	Cabarrus Health Alliance	jennifer.hatley@cabarrushealth.org



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Tashaunda Hill	Environmental Program Specialist	Pitt County Environmental Health	tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov
Doris Hogan	Senior Environmental Health Specialist	Forsyth County Department of Public Health	hoganda@forsyth.cc
Megan Hughes	Environmental Health Educator	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	meganhughes@unc.edu
Robert Hunt	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov
Allison Jenkins	Industrial Hygiene Consultant	Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU), NC DHS	allison.jenkins@dhhs.nc.gov
Jordan Jernigan	Wilson County EH Director	Wilson County Health Department	jjernigan@wilson-co.com
Kevin Kennedy	Environmental Hygienist, Director	Environmental Health Program, Children's Mercy Kansas City	kkennedy@cmh.edu
Hannah Kirlin	LeadSafe Program Manager	City of Charlotte	hanna.kirlin@charlottenc.gov
Kate Koehler	Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator	NC State Lab of Public Health	kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov
Gail Lamb	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	NC DHHS	Gail.Lamb@dhhs.nc.gov
Megan (Rodgers) Lane	Research Associate <i>(coordinates Lead and Healthy Homes Task Force and listserv)</i>	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	megan.lane@unc.edu
Betsy Meeks	Environmental Health Food and Lodging Supervisor	Alamance County Health Department	betsy.meeks@alamance-nc.com
Ed Norman	Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov



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Rob Pearsall	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov
Amy Petersen	State Childcare Nurse Consultant	DPH	amy.petersen@dhhs.nc.gov
Kate Gonzalez Redding	Healthy Homes Coordinator	Reinvestment Partners	kate@reinvestmentpartners.org
Annette Rogers	CHW Manager	PEACH Durham	annette@peachdurham.org
Waldo Rogers	Project Manager	PEACH Durham	waldo@peachdurham.org
Joseph Salicco	UNC-CH student, Intern	City of Wilmington Lead Program	joseph.salicco@wilmingtonnc.gov
Lorisa Seibel	Director of Healthy Homes	Reinvestment Partners	Lorisa@ReinvestmentPartners.org
Sarah Silapaxay	Environmental Health Specialist	Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services	sarah.silapaxay@gastongov.com
Samantha Sites	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov
Jeff Smedley	Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	jeff.smedley@dhhs.nc.gov
Gina Uresti	Healthy Homes & Homeless/Rental Housing Counselor	Greensboro Housing Coalition	gina@gsohc.org
Erica Wood		RTI International	ericawood@rti.org
Tonya Zimmerman	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	tonya.zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov