



## Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

November 9, 2021

### Summary

On Tuesday, November 9, forty-four 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 Charlotte's LeadSafe Program -- Hanna Kirlin**

- The LeadSafe Program continues to progress forward with our grant having surpassed the halfway mark since being awarded in late 2019. Our benchmarks have not and will not be met despite our best efforts. We continue to try to overcome our challenges with assisting new interested contractors to get their firm certified to conduct lead abatement activities.

#### **RTI International -- Jennifer Hoponick Redmon**

- NC WIIN - licensed center results
- NC WIIN now open for FCCH

#### **Chatham County Public Health Department -- Elizabeth Fridley**

- 6 home visits, Investigation with David Brown, 2 y/o female EBLL went from 5ug/dL to 7ug/dL venous, no evident sources other than grandfather has a stained-glass business.
- Continue Community Hub Events
- Circle Stories (Parent/Group Meetings) through Chatham Health Alliance, part of Chatham's Community Assessments
- Lead Presentations with Child Care Directors and DSS (new social workers)
- Planning presentations with Child Care Providers: Siler City Community Health Center and WIC

#### **PEACH Durham -- Annette Rogers**

- PEACH hosted an annual Lead Poison Prevention Event on Oct. 28 to promote lead awareness to the community. We invited our community partners to join our efforts to bring more awareness around lead dangers and the importance of healthy homes. A letter was read from Congressman David Price to recognize PEACH as an advocate for lead hazards and protecting the environment. We provided a hot meal as well as Covid Testing and Covid 19 Vaccines.
- We are actively pursuing our timeline for the Lead and Healthy Homes Project. We have been canvassing, meeting with community partners, and sending out letters and applications to residents of Durham. We are beginning our social media campaign.

#### **City of Wilmington -- Robert Gardner**

- City of Wilmington is at the mid-point for its HUD OLHCHH LPBHC Grant.



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- Highly successful Healthy Homes training program conducted in October. In person classes presented by Kevin Kennedy for BPI Healthy Housing Principles and Healthy Homes Assessments: Principles and Practices.

### **Forsyth County Dept of Public Health -- Doris Hogan**

- Conducted 3 required investigations for children with BLLs of  $8\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or greater, 2 supplemental address and 1 investigation for a pregnant woman and conducted 10 Maintenance Standard visits.

### **North Carolina Housing Finance Agency -- Donna Coleman**

- ESFR and UPR NOFAs are being delayed due to program revisions and about 9 listening sessions we had with our partners around the state. The ESFR NOFA is scheduled to go out in early to mid-December. [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com)
- Good news: the budget for ESFR has been increased from 8m to 11m, 1 million of that is new administrative costs to be paid to organizations using the funds.
- Good News: the budget for URP has been increased from 4.5m to 6.6m, 600,000 of that is new admin costs to be paid to organizations using the funds.
- Good News: travel for inspections in-person has been approved as of November 1.
- Hopeful News: I am hopeful that in the upcoming ESFR cycle, homeowners with children under 6 with a doctor's letter of asthma diagnosis will become a new special need category making them eligible to receive ESFR funds if they meet the other program criteria.
- There will be new projects at our Agency, but they are still under development. Details to come.

### **Indiana University -- Michelle Del Rio**

- We will start recruiting households from Guilford County in January 2021 for our study that is testing new methods to predict households at highest risk to lead exposure and the effectiveness of residential lead hazard control interventions.
- We are starting recruitment in January 2021.

## Discussion

### **Jennifer Redmon and Ed Norman – NC WIIN now open for FCCH**

- Have tested almost every licensed childcare program in state (about 4,000), ~300 missing
- Of these 300 or so that haven't been tested:
  - Some of them have already moved buildings, DCDEE hasn't been updated, and a few have refused testing.
- For those that don't comply
  - Will get a 6-point demerit on their childcare sanitation rating
  - Allowance was given during pandemic, but that has ended
  - **Ed:** This puts them in provisional status. his testing is free for childcare centers
  - If they don't test after first year, they will eventually lose their license, but it isn't proving too difficult to meet standards
- This part of program ended Sept 30
- Now family childcare homes (1,300) are eligible for free grant testing (starting in October)
- Since they sent email last week with DCDEE, over 100 have written back asking to enroll
- 2816 rule says that new centers are now required to do this testing before opening; trying to communicate about this so that it happens early in process and doesn't delay opening.



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- More information available at [cleanwatercarolinaforkids.org](https://cleanwatercarolinaforkids.org)
- Change in lead hazard level from 15 to 10 ppb is going in effect in Dec and that will be a change from now on for centers; now mitigation will be required (and not just recommended) at 10
- Theresa--can she have the list of who hasn't yet been inspected to help with pushing it?
  - Jennifer Redmon-can send to childcare health consultants re: centers that need testing

### Ed Norman – Reference Value Update

- CDC: New reference level in effect, lowered from 5 mg/dL to 3
  - Defined statistically as being two confidence intervals from the mean
  - Clinical: recommend follow up testing starting at 3.5 mg/dL
  - Lead care analyzers detection limit is 3.3
- Several systems need to be updated so that new level is used
- Trying to put something out through Pediatric Society, revise clinical guidance to be in line with new CDC action level, statutory amendment would be required to further implement this
  - NC Child could help
  - In past have done this by securing from Medicaid
- ETA for follow up: go ahead and issue it in short term rather than waiting
  - May take a little longer, though, to reprogram NC Lead database to be able to track children at 3.5, change from 5
  - But issue guidance in next week or two

### Melanie Napier – LeadCare Analyzers recall

- Over the summer, Magellan (LeadCare manufacturer) recalled test kits related to analyzer.
  - Getting a lot of false negatives; real impacts on kids who had elevated level.
  - Original recall expansion
- Majority of test kits (since Oct of last year) affected
- 260+ clinics use lead care analyzers in their offices
  - Calling clinics to make sure they are aware of smaller recall and, now, larger recall;
  - CDC has issued recs through Health Alert network that provides guidance for what providers can do; recommend that they don't stop collecting samples but instead collect samples and send them out; providers should quarantine affected lots
  - Can contact Magellan directly with questions
  - Currently no replacements
- In calls she has made, some aware of original but not expanded recall
- Question from provider: If the child isn't a Medicaid/WIC patient and has no risk factors, do you know if we are still supposed to retest if they were tested with a recalled test?
  - If they have been tested with affected lot, recommendation is for them to be retested, and if they don't know the lot number or expiration date, then definitely retest
  - <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00457.asp>

### Annette Rogers – Lead and Healthy Homes

- Currently working with Lead and Healthy Homes Project, City of Durham
- Accepting applications (canvassing in Durham, Lead Poisoning Prevention community event)



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- Provides repairs in the home to Durham residents that live in a house built pre-1978, children reside in or visit home, 80% of annual median income for Durham; checks for lead and then does repairs
- Has a flier and other info around program
- Also offering RRP classes to 50 community members in Durham through their grant
  - Upcoming class on Nov 11; free to Durham County under HUD grant
    - Also, if contractor lives outside of Durham but works in Durham, can attend
  - Can get certified
  - Free under HUD grant
  - Course offered every month
  - Donna would like a link and will put it up on her LinkedIn, has a lot of followers

### Elizabeth Fridley -- Chatham County

- Looking for help for families; telling families they must do things but no funds available. Are there any organizations that would help that don't have a two-year waitlist?
- **Ed Norman**--doesn't know a specific fund for kids who have been exposed that supports remediation of those homes
- Watching provision in budget that would create a \$10 million fund to help kids with EBLs
  - In current proposed house version, both senate and house, don't know what merged version will look like
- Donna: found 3 groups in area who might be helpful for funding for homeowners not renters who meet income criteria
  - Durham independent living program (if sense of disability)
  - Reinvestment Partners also working in Chatham County--can go in for home purchasers
  - Triangle J council of government--single family rehabilitation program
  - ...And maybe Habitat for Humanity, sometimes has repair program
    - We do help them through Self Help care program
    - Only come in when residents must move/can't stay because it's so bad
- About tapped out rebuilding together the triangle, have done a lot with Chatham already

### Donna Coleman

- Have been delayed in funding for Essential Single-Family Repair (ESFR) and Urgent Repair Program (URP)--further explanation in Updates section.
- Currently annual amount is about \$8 million, maximum of about \$30,000 of rehab, raising number to 40 or 45,000, haven't decided
  - Do allow 30,000 cap to be reached if there is a need to deal with lead, have gone up to 20,000 just lead only projects
- An increase in the total annual budget from 8 million to 11 million will have more money for ppl to go after on per county basis
- Great source for low-income homeowners
- Try to hit all counties over 3-year period
  - Know they aren't hitting every county, wish we could
  - When you are applying, note if your county has not been or has not substantially been served, this adds a boost
  - Would like all 100 counties to get some of the money
- The NOFA will probably be going out in about mid-December



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- Other program, which can be used more quickly, is going from 4.5 mill to 6.6 mill
- Budget could change each year, trust fund not HUD money
- Amount per unit going up to about 12,000, could use this money for exclusively lead related purposes
- Constantly struggling to get people to see how important this is
- Normally fund around 35 partners, hoping to get up to 40 to serve more ppl, more counties
- Started out to help seniors 62 and over, now also serving children, focused on under 6
- One more thing! Hopeful in ESFR Program--will now recognize asthma as special need for children under 6 y/o
  - Help families impacted by parents whose children have bad asthma
  - Could use doctor's note to get money to fix home if they met all other requirements

### Guest Presentations

#### **NC ENVIROSCAN: Increasing community awareness of key environmental and societal factors and their relation to human health**

Andrew George, PhD, *Community Engagement Coordinator, UNC Superfund Research Program*

#### **Targeting Homes with High Pb Exposure Risk by Leveraging Big Data and Advanced Machine-Learning Algorithms**

Michelle Del Rio, PhD, *Research Fellow, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Indiana University*

### Helpful Links

- Clean Water for Kids: [cleanwatercarolinaforkids.org](https://cleanwatercarolinaforkids.org)
- CDC Blood Test Recall: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00457.asp>

### 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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