



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

May 10, 2022

Summary

On Tuesday, May 10, thirty-seven 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 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 (NIEHS).

Local, State, and Federal Updates (submitted prior to meeting)

Tena Hand-Schafale & Melanie Napier – NC DHHS, Children’s Environmental Health

- CEH hosted a Regional Meeting on April 19 with more than 265 participants. Based on CDC lowering the Blood Lead Reference Value (BLRV) from 5 ug/dL to 3.5 ug/dL, a revised blood lead testing a follow-up schedule was sent out on March 21, 2022.
- This is the questionnaire (<https://whb.ncpublichealth.com/Forms/4116S-LeadandPregnancyRisk-062618.pdf>) that we ask clinicians to use to use to screen pregnant women who go to the LHD for prenatal care. We got some feedback that this form may not be capturing pregnant women who actually do have lead hazard exposure because of the words we are using like “regular drug store” or “homemade” in #3. Note: This has particularly been noted for Spanish-speakers.
 - **Do folks on the Task Force have any feedback for how we may update or refine the language to capture more pregnant women who may actually DO use or have the items listed?**

Gail Lamb – NC DHHS

- Shared lead updates to Child Health Enhanced-Role Registered Nurses, CMARC CMs. and Child Health staff via webinar.

Dan Richter – Duke University

- Soil lead in three Durham City Parks that were formerly waste incinerator sites (pre-1955).

Doris Hogan – Forsyth County Department of Public Health

- Since the last meeting we have conducted 4 investigations for children 5-7µg/dL, 4 investigations for children 8µg/dL or greater, 1 supplemental address, 2 clearances, 4 annual monitoring visits.
- Conducted an outreach event to parents of children at a car seat check event.
- Doris was subpoenaed to testify in a lead case; tenant was suing the landlord due to lead hazards.

Hanna Kirlin – City of Charlotte

- The LeadSafe Charlotte Housing Program has requested a reduction in numbers of completed units for the grant. This benchmark revision was requested due to the lingering issues from COVID-19 such as supply chain issues, fluctuation of materials' costs, and worker shortages.
- We have unveiled our new mascot, Lead Lady, and will be making appearances throughout the year at various outreach events. Join the Lead Force!
- The City of Charlotte will be surveying our housing program participants starting July 1st on various SDOH questions and tracking data for the next 3+ years.



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Vikki Crouse – NC Child

- NC Child has been working to launch the NC Lead-Based Paint Housing Database this summer. The database helps community members learn the lead-based paint risk in their home and connect to resources to address potential risk. We are offering four mini-grants to local community organizations interested in partnering with us to promote the database in their communities.
- This spring and summer we will also continue our work on reducing prenatal lead exposure by implementing recommendations from the Duke Environmental Law & Policy Clinic, and working closely with state and local partners to review the recommendations and identify next steps.

David Brown – NC DHHS, Children’s Environmental Health

- Difficulty finding qualified lead remediation contractors.

Kate Gonzalez Redding – Reinvestment Partners

- Accepting referrals for the Breathe Easy program as part of the Healthy Opportunity Pilot!
- We are also hiring contract employees to assist with home assessment and service provision.

Luke Van Eyk – Guilford County Public Health

- Offered 15 lead investigations, fifteen 3.5 - 9 BLLs sent, five <10 BLLs sent, three lead investigations, one site visit and four primary care/physicians collaborations and follow up.

Elizabeth Fridley & Nellie Benitez – Chatham County Public Health

- We continue passing out materials and speaking to folks about lead and asthma
- We have completed a few home visits, some follow up and some new ones.
- Continue to follow family with lead laden home that's 130 years old. The children are yo-yoing as far as EBLLs. Close contact with the pediatrician as well as an inspection of the family's renovation practices.

Theresa Stenersen – NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center

- The number of Child Care Health Consultants in NC continues to grow! Go to the NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center's website for a map/list: <https://healthychildcare.unc.edu/find-a-cchc>

Sierra Brantz – Orange County Health Department

- Currently have a childhood lead investigation going on.
- We are revamping our Healthy Homes program and creating an updated job description.

Erica Wood – RTI International

- Clean Water for Carolina Kids continues to test drinking water for lead at licensed child care centers and family child care homes.
- RTI International is also collaborating with researchers at NC A&T and at Indiana University on a HUD-funded grant study, called PREDICT Healthy Homes. We are currently recruiting households in Greensboro to take samples of home water, dust, and soil for testing for lead. Households will receive their individual results, along with recommendations for action.



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Discussion

Update on ARPA Funds for Lead Testing and Remediation: Presented by Melanie Napier, NC DHHS:

- Ed Norman and other officials in NC DHHS are still working on a plan for dissemination and use of funds. Discussions are being conducted with the NC DHHS Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) on how to manage and disburse the funds. The money must be obligated by 12/31/24 and spent by 12/31/26.
- Melanie reminded everyone that temporary rules were drafted in February to allow special provision for the ARPA funds and to conduct lead remediation and testing in schools. Rules were revised after public comment and approved in early April. This is for lead-based paint and asbestos testing and abatement in schools/CC centers and for testing water in schools. This is for one-time testing of water; if hazards are found, drinking is restricted until it's remediated.
- Additional comments from Allison Jenkins (Health Hazards Control Unit): Water remediation will not happen with these rules/money. Still waiting to know when money will be allocated (hopefully soon). The partnerships between different agencies is making this a thorough and long process.
- https://ehs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oet/docs/ARPA_FAQTemporaryRules.pdf

Update on NC Child's Lead Safe Housing Database, presented by Vikki Course, NC Child:

- Database was designed to help community members understand the likelihood of lead in their homes. The official launch is scheduled for June. There is also a community toolkit for addressing lead. NC Child will offer up to \$1,000 in mini grants with small groups to do outreach around the database. People can apply for the funding now; the application process is short.
 - Mini grant application: <https://forms.gle/Ceiq4fuaSsf1yBcZA>
 - <https://leadfreenc.org/prevention/lead-map/>

Updates on Research on Lead-contaminated Soil, presented by Dan Richter at Duke University:

- Discussed the legacy lead in the Durham area streets.
 - 400 samples; sampled homes of different ages (along the foundation of the homes); concentrations are very high in the foundations of homes (200 foundation samples collected); findings correlate with age of homes; there is a weaker correlation with value of the home. Results show that city soil release is slowly diminishing over the years – still trying to understand why; hot spots remain behind.
- New project researching lead in city parks
 - 4 city parks built on city waste incinerators; using historical accounts by local newspapers that date back to 1955 that describe city's building of centralized waste site. He showed newspaper articles that show the ash disbursement in areas of the current parks; the equipment that was used had the lead and other hazards in it.
 - The city also removed trees from Northgate Park and dumped some of the waste in that area. Dan showed images of different parks as they sit in the areas where the waste dumping was conducted. He is currently working with city parks officials to discuss how to upgrade the parks and to use his research data that could help with remediation. Areas include Walltown Park; bottom of Ellerbe Creek; Dan's lab sampled in the creek, and they have found up to 2 meters of cinders waste, very high in lead concentrations.
 - This has motivated Dan to want to push for remediation in parks. Other parks near Alston Ave; Lyon Park. He is conscious of scaring people, but he's pushing for more than just a facelift of parks. He believes that this has happened in many cities – waste incinerators in other cities.



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- Dan has submitted a proposal to NSF to resample and sample small set of US cities; He wants to see how common this is and to see what the scalability of work can be done. He's impressed with how Durham uses play equipment and imported clean soil/materials to keep kids safer. In Walltown, it's mostly grassy with less lead concentration.
- Related question from David Brown: Chapel Hill site that has former coal ash dump site near police station and the station is being relocated with new housing coming there. How can that be addressed so that the coal ash residue doesn't go into Bolin Creek? Dan – historically the trash is dumped in low-lying areas.

Guest Presentation

Hoarding Disorder: More than Meets the Eye

Annette R. Perot, PhD, Licensed Psychologist

Private Practice & Founding Board Member of OCD North Carolina

drperot@gmail.com

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
Sierra Brantz	UNC-Chapel Hill Intern	Orange County Health Department	
David Brown	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Vikki Crouse	Policy Analyst / NC KIDS COUNT Program Director	NC Child	vikki@ncchild.org
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



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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
Mitierra Johnson	Recent graduate	NCCU Public Health Education Department	mjohn248@eagles.nccu.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
Megan (Rodgers) Lane	Public Science Coordinator (<i>Lead and Healthy Homes Task Force & listserv contact</i>)	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	megan.lane@unc.edu
Carissa Moore	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	carissa.moore@dhhs.nc.gov
Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov
Abby Nelson	MPH student	UNC-Chapel Hill	



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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	NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, DPH	amy.petersen@dhhs.nc.gov
Kate Gonzalez Redding	Healthy Homes Coordinator	Reinvestment Partners	kate@reinvestmentpartners.org
Warren Richardson	Environmental Health Specialist	Durham County Health Department	wrichardson@dconc.gov
Dan Richter		Duke University	drichter@duke.edu
Nykesse Roberts	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	nykesse.roberts@dhhs.nc.gov
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Samantha Sites	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov
Shineka Porcha Small	Environmental Health Specialist	Cumberland County Health Department	ssmall@co.cumberland.nc.us
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
Chelsea Wooten		Durham County Health Department	
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