



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 16, 2022

Summary

On Tuesday, August 16, 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 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)

City of Wilmington – R.B. Gardner

- City of Wilmington HUD OLHCHH LBHC Grant entering its final year of grant performance. 26 units assessed and 17 units cleared (Made Lead Safe) to date. 17 units received Healthy Homes supplemental grant assistance ICW LBHC grant assistance.

Durham County Department of Public Health – Lakieta Sanders

- There was a suspected lead concern with Yates Baptist Child Development Center's water supply; therefore, I conducted blood lead testing on July 23, reaching 14 children.

Forsyth County Health Department – Doris Hogan

- I conducted 4 investigations for children 5-7 μ g/dL, 3 investigations for 8 or greater, 1 supplemental address, 1 for a pregnant woman, 1 daycare for plan review and 1 for reasonable suspension, 9 annual monitoring visits, 7 clearances. I have attended 2 outreach events for parents under the age of 6.

Gaston County Environmental Health – Sarah Silapaxay

- Starting a Healthy Homes initiative in Gaston County thanks to our partnership with NC Child and Vikki Crouse. Conducted our 1st assessment and look forward to expanding this program. I want to thank Neasha Graves and Hanna Kirlin for advice in starting out this new program. I also want to welcome any other tips anyone else has while in this early stage of planning and starting out the program.

Guilford County Public Health Department – Luke Van Eyk

- Sent 3 letter to parents with children of EBL's 10 and greater, sent 7 letters to parents with children of EBLs of 5-9, offered 17 lead investigations, completed one XRF consultation, follow up with 9 primary care collaborations, completed 1 remediation clearance inspection, looked at 1 abandonment monitoring visit and completed 5 annual clearance inspections.

NC DHHS / DPH / OEEB / ABLES – Kim Gaetz

- New NC Environmental Health Data Dashboard: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oeep/programs/epht.html>
- Awarded a grant from the CDC to start a NC Environmental Public Health Tracking program.

Orange County Health Department – Victoria Hudson & Stephen Johnston

- The OCHD has just filled the Healthy Homes Coordinator with an Environmental Health Specialist position. We have revised our website with our MPH intern this summer and included partner resources on the page. We have started to beta test the new self-assessment form and conduct



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 16, 2022

housing visits to better focus our efforts. The shift to the healthy homes includes a variety of harm/injury prevention disciplines to maximize environmental health.

- We are very excited about the shift to harm/injury prevention and how it will offer information about food safety, falls prevention, gun safety, etc. in addition to traditional air quality and childhood lead poisoning prevention directions.

RTI International – AJ Kondash

- Enrolled about 100 Child Care Centers through the Clean Water for Carolina Kids Program
- Working on a push to enroll and test water at family child care homes across the state.

UNC IE – Neasha Graves

- **Targeted outreach:** UNC IE began childhood lead poisoning prevention outreach in targeted rural eastern counties, as part of an amended contract with NC DHHS.
- **Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Trainings:** UNC IE is sponsoring RRP trainings in eastern rural counties on 8/30, 8/31, 9/13, and 9/15. Task Force members aware of contractors/renovators in the eastern part of the state are encouraged to forward the announcement for the trainings. [Here is the recruitment flyer.](#)
- Taught a **2-hour lead training** for 11 public health professionals (virtual) – **6/30/22**
- Taught a **2-hour lead training** for ~20 childcare professionals (virtual) – **8/9/22**; training was co-sponsored by the Lenoir-Greene Partnership for Children. **2nd training scheduled for 8/25/22 at 12pm.**
- Taught a **4.75-hour lead and healthy homes training** for 46 public health professionals (virtual) – **8/18/22**; co-sponsored by the New Hanover County Health Department.
- Will teach a **1-hour workshop** (virtual) for parents of Head Start children, in an effort to inform families of lead exposures and encourage lead testing. – **9/12/22**
- Participated in Kinston Community Health Fair (in-person); coordinated by the Kinston Community Health Center; UNC IE staff designed an interactive exhibit on sources of lead exposure and shared educational materials with attending families. – **8/13/22**
- UNC IE staff was invited to provide an information (also interactive) exhibit at the NC Environmental Justice Network's viewing of the documentary *The Smell of Money* in Rocky Mount. More than 200 were in attendance; UNC IE staff used the opportunity to engage with organization leaders to increase opportunities for future trainings with community leaders and members. – **8/13/22**
- **New Staff:** We're excited to announce that **Mitierra Johnson** has joined the UNC IE Center for Public Engagement with Science as an environmental health research assistant. She graduated in May 2022 from NC Central University with a BS in Public Health Education. Much of her work will involve supporting lead and healthy homes outreach activities.

Discussion

Update on the \$150 million ARPA lead & asbestos testing/inspection/abatement project

- NC DHHS was funded \$150 million last summer to test all public schools for lead in water. They will be using the same model they used to test childcare centers. They tested over 4200 childcare centers for lead. They will also conduct asbestos and lead paint inspections. Currently working on technical aspects of work. Expecting to get started with everything in the fall.
- They're asking schools to wait until the contract is set up to do this work (to not do the testing on their own without guidance). This money includes cleaning up all water-related hazards by replacing water



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 16, 2022

fountains and installing filters. This doesn't address other plumbing issues and water service lines, but these should help.

- State legislation requires that public schools must have a local match for funding abatement work. Childcare centers will get help from the funds for abatement (no required match).
- They're close to submitting permanent rules that will last until September 2026. Temporary rules went into effect. The goal is to test 300,000 water samples.
- Paula's question – Should they wait to take points on sanitation checks if PreK and schools test high? Ed' answer – PreK programs will be retested if they're part of the school. Schools have 2 years to do the testing (April 2024).
- Shawn's question – Is it clear that handwashing sinks don't have to be sampled? Ed's answer – there's no requirement to test handwashing areas – just drinking fountains and food prep areas. Blackmon – Is it required for family home centers? Ed – Testing is required only if they want to mitigate.

Phillip Gibson – 5-minute video on NC Radon Program updates

- Gave some epidemiological points on those most at-risk for exposure to radon gas; those populations are less likely to know about it and tend to not get homes tested.
- Asking groups like this one to get the word out about radon testing.
- More whites than black/Hispanics who know about radon.
- Increases in education about radon from 2015-2019.
- Owners are more familiar with radon than renters.
- Social media kit (we posted it on the task force listserv).
- The NC Radon program is working to fill this information gap.

Relative Links /Upcoming Events

- [10A NCAC 41C .1002](#) Funding
- [10A NCAC 41C .1003](#) Asbestos Inspections and Abatement in NC Public Schools and Licensed Child Care Facilities
- [10A NCAC 41C .1004](#) Lead-based Paint Inspections and Abatement in NC Public Schools and Licensed Child Care Facilities
- [10A NCAC 41C .1005](#) Lead Poisoning Hazards in Drinking Water in NC Public Schools
- [10A NCAC 41C .1006](#) Certified Risk Assessors
- [10A NCAC 41C .1007](#) Incorporation by Reference
- Pashto translation recommendation: Language Line Solutions - <https://www.language.com/>
- PEACH is having an event on October 29 for National Lead Poisoning Prevention week (flyer attached).
- Registration for Lead Renovate, Repair & Paint Trainings: bit.ly/RRPtraining

Guest Presentation

It's A New World in Refugee and Newcomer Health (slides attached)

Jennifer Morillo, *North Carolina State Refugee Health Coordinator*

Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch, NC DHHS

jennifer.morillo@dhhs.nc.gov



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 16, 2022

Attendees

Michael Beuhler	Medical Director / Professor of Emergency Medicine	North Carolina Poison Control / Atrium Health	michael.beuhler@ncpoisoncontrol.org
Shawn Blackmon	Environmental Health Specialist	Mecklenburg County Health Department	shawn.blackmon@mecklenburgcountync.gov
Kimly Blount	Field Supervisor	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov
Dietrich Blum	Environmental Health Specialist	New Hanover County – Health and Human Services	dblum@nhcgov.com
David Brown	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Sam Cohen	Communications Specialist	Duke Superfund Research Program	samuel.cohen@duke.edu
Paula Cox	Environmental Health Manager II	Guilford County Health Department	pcox@guilfordcountync.gov
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	N.C. Department of Health and Human Services	jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov
Luke Van Eyk	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Guilford County Health Department	lvaneyk@guilfordcountync.gov
Elizabeth Fridley	Public Health Nurse II	Chatham County	elizabeth.fridley@chathamcountync.gov
R.B. Gardner	Lead Hazard Grant Coordinator	City of Wilmington	robert.gardner@wilmingtonnc.gov
Neasha Graves	Environmental Health Outreach 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



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 16, 2022

Jennifer Hatley	Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Supervisor	Cabarrus Health Alliance	jennifer.hatley@cabarrushealth.org
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
Victoria Hudson	Environmental Health Director	Orange County Health Department	vhudson@orangecountync.gov
Rob Hunt	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.hunt@dhhs.nc.gov
Mitierra Johnson	Environmental Health Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	jmitierr@unc.edu
Stephen Johnston	Healthy Homes Coordinator	Orange County Health Department	sjohnston@orangecountync.gov
Hanna Kirlin	Lead Safe 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
Aj Kondash	Research Environmental Scientist	RTI	akondash@rti.org
Gail Lamb	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	NC DHHS	gail.lamb@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
Megan Lee	REHS	Craven County Health Department	mlee@cravencountync.gov



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 16, 2022

Pam Lindsey	Environmental Health Specialist	Sampson County Health Department	plindsay@sampsonnc.com
Jennifer Morillo	State Refugee Health Coordinator	NC Division of Public Health	jennifer.morillo@dhhs.nc.gov
Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov
Ed Norman	Head of Children's Environmental Unit	NC DHHS	ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov
Rob Pearsall	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov
Ebony Phifer	Lead and Healthy Homes Program Specialist	Alamance County Health Department	ebony.phifer@alamance-nc.com
Nykeese Roberts	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	nykesse.roberts@dhhs.nc.gov
Annette Rogers	Lead Instructor	PEACH	annette@peachdurham.org
Christina Rosario	Environmental Health Specialist	Albemarle Regional Health Services	Christina.Rosario@arhs-nc.org
Lakieta Sanders	Public Health Educator	Durham County Department of Public Health	sandersl@durhamtech.edu
Tena Hand-Schafale	Data Manager	NC DHHS	tena.hand@dhhs.nc.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 Porcha Small	Environmental Health Specialist	Cumberland County Health Department	ssmall@co.cumberland.nc.us



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 16, 2022

Jeff Smedley	Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	jeff.smedley@dhhs.nc.gov
Theresa Stenersen	Regional Child Care Nurse Consultant	NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center	theresa_stenersen@unc.edu
Brittany Stevenson	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	brittany.stevenson@dhhs.nc.gov
Victoria Triana	Graduate Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	vtriana@email.unc.edu
April Walker	Environmental Health Specialist	New Hanover County Health Department	awalker@nhcgov.com
Tonya Zimmerman	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	tonya.zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov