



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

November 15, 2022

Summary

On Tuesday, November 15, forty-nine 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

- The City of Wilmington will complete its third year of a HUD OLHCHH LBPHC Grant December 2022.
- Sponsored and facilitated Healthy Indoors Training taught by Kevin Kennedy, Healthy Homes Assessor. Three-day in-person class September 20-22, 2022. Presentation to 20 students from the City of Wilmington Community Services, New Hanover County Department of Health and Human Services, Coastal Community Action, Cape Fear Collective, and local contractors.
- Promoted HUD National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week with support from City of Wilmington Communications providing Facebook and Twitter posts during the week of October 23-29, 2022. A total of 40,000 plus individuals /property owners, contractors, nonprofits, local governmental agencies, and business associations were engaged through these social media platforms.

Greensboro Housing Coalition – Gina Uresti

- GHC is continuing to work on the following: 1) NCCARE360 Networking, 2) School Presentations, 3) Providing resources and healthy home assessments for partner agencies who house transitional clients, and 4) Continuing to triage the rise of calls regarding substandard housing

NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center – Theresa Stenersen

- Fall 2022 E-newsletter included an article on radon and radon testing: <https://sway.office.com/6Blh2GVbFBksJkiH?ref=Link>
- We're attempting to put a focus on radon testing by having it be one of the best practice indicators on the NC Health and Safety Assessment tool as well, specifically "The facility is tested for radon at least every 5 years, or after any renovations are complete. Radon concentrations are less than 4 picocuries (pCi) per liter of air."

NC DPH Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch – Kim Gaetz

- We submitted data on asthma, COPD, carbon monoxide poisonings, heat related illnesses, and birth defects to the CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking data explorer so that NC will be on the map with the latest data for these indicators. We have been presenting at various conferences and workshops about the new NC EPHT program and are gathering feedback from stakeholders at our first Quarterly Advisory Committee meeting on Nov 16.

North Carolina Poison Control – Michael Beuhler

- Revision of process on how Lead cases are taken in and management assistance is provided to health care providers.



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Pitt County Environmental Health – Tashaunda Hill

- Completed RRP Certification Training on September 13th. (Thank you for the opportunity.)
- Completed one EBL investigation.
- Participated in 2 community events for Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness including "Health is Wealth Fair 2022 and Community Giveaway", the first annual community wellness fair sponsored by Word of Faith Church Ministries and participating Church groups and "KidsFest Spooktacular" presented by the Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children. For these events we provided Lead Poisoning Prevention educational material alongside a Sorting Sources of Lead activity. For both events combined, we reached more than 1,500 people.
- We also promoted National Lead Poisoning Prevention week through our Pitt County Health Department Facebook page. For licensed childcare providers, we also promoted Lead Poisoning Prevention through email blasts, highlighting the requirements for childcare operators and the recent changes in the regulations specifically for testing of lead in water.
- We participated in ECMHSP- HSAC meeting along with Robert Hunt, Regional REHS - who presented on NC's childcare requirements to test for lead in water and also promoted National Lead Poisoning Prevention week at the October Meeting.

RTI International – Jennifer Hoponick Redmon

- New publication on statewide lead in water data at licensed centers: Hoponick Redmon, J., Kondash, A., Norman, E., Johnson, J. D., Levine, K. E., McWilliams, A. C., Napier, M., Weber, F. X., Stella, L., Wood, E., Lee Pow Jackson, C., & Mulhern, R. (2022). Lead levels in tap water at licensed North Carolina childcare facilities, 2020-2021. American Journal of Public Health, 112(S7), S695-S705. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2022.307003>
- Enrolling Family Child Care Homes now

WellCare Health – Deborah Dolan

- WellCare has been focusing on continuing to increase partnerships and ensure that folks are aware of the services we provide. We are a managed care plan and across NC and one of the five prepaid health plans offering services to Medicaid and Medicare folks.

Discussion

Kate Gonzalez Redding discussed the Healthy Homes program at Reinvestment Partners.

- Healthy Opportunities and Duke funding are used to implement RP's Breathe Easy initiative. The program started in June and the goal is to serve people statewide.
- Kate discussed the home visits and "kits" that they provide for families; she is happy to share additional information with people about their services throughout the state.
- Participants receive an in-home or virtual assessment, training and educational materials, and a Healthy Homes kit that will allow families to address asthma triggers in their home. Since launching the program, they have served about 100 people.

Phillip Gibson from the NC Radon Office

- Phillip is the statewide coordinator for radon, and he wants to partner with any programs on radon prevention issues and outreach, with the goal of preventing lung cancer and other respiratory illnesses. He mentioned how kids are very susceptible to radon in homes.



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- While attending this year's National Radon Conference, Phillip discussed learning from HUD (Sarah Jensen) about funding opportunities to address radon. Example: Duke Nicholas School of the Environment received \$250,000 to study how climate change impacts radon in homes.

RB Gardner from HUD-funded Wilmington Lead Hazards Control Program

- The City of Wilmington applied for a HUD Healthy Homes Production grant; the city of Wilmington is in their 3rd year of the lead grant, and the production grant appeared to be a good fit for next steps in their work.
- The city applied for \$1.5 million, and they expect to hear whether they got it in mid-January. RB encouraged other participants in the Task Force meeting to pursue those types of funding opportunities.

Jennifer Redmon from Research Triangle Institute (RTI)

- Clean Water for Carolina Kids program – RTI is still enrolling family childcare homes to get their water tested for lead contamination (<https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/>). NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) is working on requirement for family childcare homes to get testing done; the formal requirement isn't completed yet.
- HUD HH grant – participation open in the Greensboro area, to enroll households for environmental sampling. She made a request to Gina Uresti (Greensboro Housing Coalition) to follow up with opportunities to collect soil, water, and dust sampling, working with Jackie MacDonald-Gibson (NCSU).
- Children's health grant from EPA – RTI is enrolling childcare centers and families for environmental testing at homes and childcare centers (including environmental samples and non-intrusive biological sampling). They want to enroll 300 families and childcare centers, including 50 in triangle and the rest in the northeast area of the Triangle.
- New air quality grant regarding traffic. People interested in seeing test results and other details can go to RTI's program summary to see results on testing so far.

Ed Norman, NC DPH Children's Environmental Health

- He provided an update on the federal ARPA money for lead and asbestos testing and remediation. He and other DHHS officials are in the middle of contracting and will be rolling out the testing initiative in January 2023 (when schools come back from holiday break). They are still working on the abatement piece for lead paint and asbestos in schools and childcare centers.
- They have been working on the draft of the permanent rules for testing; the rule has been approved to go to public hearing; they recently completed the fiscal note for the rules (with Melanie Napier taking the lead on the fiscal note). Childcare sanitation rules are going through the typical periodic rule review; Ed's unit made some changes to the rules, but there is no massive overhaul.

Theresa Stenersen, NC Child Care Health & Safety Resource Center

- Recently released a newsletter article on radon.
- Developed a health and safety assessment tool that childcare health consultants use. David Brown (NC DPH Children's Environmental Health) reviewed it. Radon testing is one of the items in the tool.
- Theresa also announced a learning collaborative for childcare health consultants to discuss various topics – like inclusion, accessibility, wheezing, etc. Neasha will be participating in a springtime event on asthma. There was a question about the focus being on childcare centers and/or homes; Theresa said it's really childcare facilities. There may be some indirect help that can be helpful to early educators and childcare health consultants, but not directly with families.



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Lakieta Sanders, Durham County Health Department

- She reported on PEACH's (Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health) October 29 lead awareness event, in recognition of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. Lots of families, physicians and organizations were there. Lakieta tested 5 small children. She hopes that it will be even bigger and better in the coming years. Lakieta was not familiar with numbers, but Lenora Smith (PEACH director) likely knows, because she used a sign in sheet.

Kim Gaetz, NC Division of Public Health's Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

- She asked about data needs among the task force members, regarding the NC Environmental Data Dashboard. She wants to know what barriers people have to finding data on lead and healthy homes on the new NC Environmental Health Data Dashboard and what needs the state can satisfy visually for everyone. Will go into more detail in her presentation later today.

Relevant Links

- Radon social media: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I4I2J-xBXtVwocblyyClgKT8UeD6cVay?usp=sharing>
- Household lead study: <https://www.cleanwaterforuskids.org/en/healthyhomes/>
- Children's health study at centers/schools: <https://www.cleanwaterforuskids.org/en/peds/>
- NC Environmental Data Dashboard: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oeo/programs/epht.html>
- The rules Ed spoke about will not be published until December 1, 2022, in Vol 37, Issue 11. They will be available here: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/documents/north-carolina-register>

Guest Presentations

Lead Toxicity and Treatments

Michael Beuhler, MD, Medical Director, North Carolina Poison Control

Exploring the NEW Environmental Health Data Dashboard

Kim Gaetz, PhD, Epidemiology Supervisor, Division of Public Health, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch, NC Department of Health and Human Services

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
Michael Beuhler	Medical Director/Professor of Emergency Medicine	North Carolina Poison Control/ Atrium Health	micheal.beuhler@ncpoisoncontrol.org
Kimly Blount	Field Supervisor	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov



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Melissa Burton	Lead SAFE housing Program Manager	City of Greensboro	melissa.burton@greensboro-nc.gov
David Brown	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Robert Cockerill		NC DHHS	robert.cockerill@dhhs.nc.gov
Sam Cohen	Communications Specialist	Duke SRP	samuel.cohen@duke.edu
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	N.C. Department of Health and Human Services	jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov
Deborah Dolan	Community Advocate	WellCare Health	deborah.dolan@wellcare.com
Luke Van Eyk	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Guilford County Health Department	lvaneyk@guilfordcountync.gov
Karin Evanoff	Adult Lead Program Manager	NC DHHS	karin.evanoff@dhhs.nc.gov
Kim Gaetz	Public Health Epidemiology Supervisor	NC DPH, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch	kim.gaetz@dhhs.nc.gov
Kelly Garcia	Applied Epidemiology Fellow	NC DPH	kelly.garcia@dhhs.nc.gov
R.B Gardener	Program Manager for Lead and Healthy Homes Program	City of Wilmington	robert.gardener@wilmingtonnc.gov
Phillip Gibson	Statewide Coordinator	NC Radon Program	phillip.gibson@dhhs.nc.gov
Donna Gilbird	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	donna.gilbird@dhhs.nc.gov
Kate Gonzalez Redding	Healthy Homes Coordinator	Reinvestment Partners	kate@reinvestmentpartners.org
Julie Goodwin	Nurse	Chatham County Health Department	
Neasha Graves	Community Outreach and Education Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment, CEHS	neasha_graves@unc.edu



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Barrette Gregory	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov
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
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	Environmental Health Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	jmitierr@unc.edu
Hannah 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
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
Gail Lamb	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	NC DHHS	gail.lamb@dhhs.nc.gov
Megan Lee	Regional Health Environmental Specialist	Craven County Health Department	mlee@cravencountync.gov
Melissa Ledgerwood	Public Health Nurse	Henderson County Department of Public Health	mledgerwood@hendersoncountync.gov
Hannah Mariani	Intern	Pitt County Health Department	
Carissa Moore	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	carissa.moore@dhhs.nc.gov



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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
Jennifer Redmon	Senior Environmental Health Scientist	RTI International	jredmon@rti.org
Nykesse Roberts	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	nykesse.roberts@dhhs.nc.gov
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
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
Theresa Stenersen	Regional Childcare Consultant Coach	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
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