



## Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

February 14, 2023

### Summary

On Tuesday, February 14, forty lead and healthy homes professionals met in person and 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

#### **David Brown - NC DHHS, Children's Environmental Health**

- Noted some non-structural sources of lead: investigation of eye makeup on a child; the same family also had a small teething ring with beads that had lead.

#### **Melanie Napier - NC DHHS, Children's Environmental Health**

- Announced the NCLEAD Training Series (monthly; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month); CEUs are offered for EH specialists and nursing professionals attending live sessions.

#### **RB Gardner - City of Wilmington**

- Wilmington is in its final few months of the currently funded HUD lead control program. The city applied for healthy homes funding and is still waiting to hear about the application status.
- Trained 8 contractors on Lead RRP in January.

#### **Rob Pearsall, Robert Hunt, Barrette Gregory - NC DHHS, Children's Environmental Health**

- They noted an increase in EBLs in the past several months; an increase in investigations; increasing EBLs with non-structure sources of lead including keys/car keys, brass legs on a table.

#### **Donna Coleman - NC Housing Finance Agency**

- She asked people to review [this link](#) and share it with people who are low income and need some housing rehab services.
- In process of awarding projects for single family homeowners to provide rehabilitation for both ESRF and URP programs, we should have more information at the next meeting.

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

- Described an increase of cases from battery manufacturing; most cases seem to be stemming from newer employees of the plant (6-12 months employment); to her knowledge workers are not testing high enough for OSHA's involvement; in one family, she collected over 700 ppm lead in dryer lint; she is working on a one-page fact sheet on keys and lead. **Luke Van Eyk** mentioned that he is aware of an employee who met the standard for OSHA involvement from Doris' same set of investigations.

#### **Ebony Phifer - Alamance County Health Department**

- Increase in refugee investigations, particularly from Chad, Africa; Sango language is desired language; this started some discussion about contacting Jennifer Morillo (in NC DHHS Refugee Health) to follow-up on additional needed translations of lead materials, depending upon the influx of recent refugees.



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### **Gina Uresti - Greensboro Housing Coalition**

- GHC is continuing to do home assessments and to help families get relocated to affordable housing.

### **Hanna Kirlin - City of Charlotte**

- Charlotte is finishing up their HUD-funded lead control grant in August.
- We have continued to remediate approximately six residential homes in Charlotte per quarter.

### **Jennifer Redmon and Erica Wood - RTI International**

- Described Healthy Homes study in Greensboro; currently testing water in family home care centers; answered the question that EPA WIIN funding will pay for retesting of child care centers.
- Clean Water for Carolina Kids - Round 2 testing
- PREDICT Healthy Homes Study with IU, NCSU and RTI: Enrollment open in Guilford County, NC
- PEDS Children's Health Study with NCCU: Enrollment open in Orange, Chatham, Durham, Wake, Johnston, Granville, Vance, and Warren counties.

### **Kimly Blount - NC DHHS CEH**

- Announced that the **Lead SOP Training will be in Raleigh on Sept 6-8**
- Announced that the **NC EH Symposium will be on July 27-28** at Crown Plaza Hotel; let Kimly know if they're aware of potential vendors for the event.

### **Melissa Burton - City of Greensboro**

- Greensboro has 1.5 years left in its HUD grant; they are successfully implementing initiatives to get increased experience for contracting supervisors.
- Currently in the process of RFQ's for individuals who have the lead supervisor component to assist construction firms who need the year requirement for qualifying to become a lead firm in NC.

### **Monica McKinney – Appalachian District Health Department**

- Working with regional environmental health specialist Barrette Gregory on investigations where there is new construction in part of a childcare center (bad water samples in one area of the facility).

### **Sarah Silapaxay - Gaston County Health Department**

- She is ordering supplies to get the county's healthy homes program started.

### **Tashaunda Hill - Pitt County Health Department**

- She also has investigations with kids exposed to lead in keys; there is an uptick in EBLs and her county is sharing information with other counties because of moving families; using educational materials shared by UNC and on the NC Healthy Homes website for a growing number of health events.
- Completed 1 EBL investigation since our last Task Force Meeting. We are currently preparing for Pitt County's - Baby Jamboree - Maternity Fair 2023, scheduled for April 30, at the Greenville Convention Center. We look forward to providing education for Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes.

### **Theresa Stenersen - NC Child Care Health & Safety Resource Center**

- The Resource Center is coordinating an Asthma Learning Collaborative for child care health consultants (in May); Neasha Graves and Melinda Shuler will present.



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### Neasha Graves - UNC Institute for the Environment

- Updated **Clinical Lead Training will be on May 1** at the Wake Commons Building in Raleigh.

### Luke Van Eyk - Guilford County Public Health

- Offered 6 lead investigations, 9 consultation visits, 5 primary care collaborations, 3 clearance inspections, 12 annual clearance inspections, 5 5-7 BLL notices sent, 2 8-9 BLL notices sent and 2 <10 BLL notices sent.

## Discussion

When asked why people think keys are becoming a growing source of lead exposure, it generated some discussion. Several noted that since BLRVs have lowered from 10 µg/dL to 5 µg/dL and then 3.5 µg/dL in the past several years, EH specialists are being creative in finding non-structural sources of lead. Certain keys have more lead in them than others.

Megan Lane (UNC) asked a question about the effects of using NC's new BLRV schedule (which has been in circulation for about a year):

- David Brown (NC DHHS CEH) – He really likes it to get interventions started as early as possible; gives EH specialists a chance to communicate with families earlier than before.
- Kate Koehler (State Lab) – Reminded that everyone should use consistent language, “CDC states that there is no safe level of lead.”
- Melanie Napier (NC DHHS CEH) – Getting calls about interpreting BLRVs; she's hoping to clear things up for a lot of people during the clinical lead training.

## Relative Links/ Upcoming Events

- NCLEAD Training Webinar Series: <https://nchealthyhomes.com/nlead-training-webinars/>
- Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Program: <https://www.nchfa.com/current-homeowners/repair-your-home/single-family-rehabilitation-program>

## Guest Presentations

**Ed Norman (NC DHHS CEH)** – Ed explained how the federally funded ARPA project will address public schools and child care centers; it will involve subcontractors hiring accredited inspectors and risk assessors. The project to address lead and asbestos with the funding is about to get started in schools; RTI's testing will trigger work in the schools; the state is scaling the distribution of funds to counties (funding per county depends upon the number of potentially impacted kids in the county). An expansion budget was not approved this time with the lowered blood lead reference value (BLRV).

This will be the first time child care centers will have been inspected for asbestos (pre 1988 structures). RTI is coordinating all of the water mitigation, which will involve replacing faucets and installing filters in most cases. Health Hazards Control Unity (HHCU) will manage abatement of paint/asbestos; will take up the other half of the money with paint/asbestos; the state will reimburse schools after the work is done; HHCU will evaluate the abatement. They will publicize when the contract rolls out with RTI. Ed answered the question about predicted EBLs as a result of ARPA; he's not expecting a lot more EBLs among children. Melanie said that they didn't see a big increase with the EPA WIIN testing at child care centers. Kate Koehler didn't see an increase in numbers at the State Lab either.



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**Jeff Dellinger (NC DHHS HHCU)** – He began his piece of the meeting by describing how HHCU will be involved in the lead and asbestos abatement using the ARPA funding. Work has been focused in the Rules/Rules Revision Commission – their work has included developing forms on lead hazards and asbestos hazards; there will be restriction of access to that hazard when it’s detected. He shared other details about deadlines to get abatement work completed; contractors will be required to use lead safe work practices. Schools will be reimbursed 2/3 of what they spend; child care centers will get 100% reimbursement. Jeff answered some additional questions about HHCU’s role in the ARPA-funded initiative. He also shared an overview of HHCU’s statewide role addressing lead, asbestos and other hazards.

### 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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David Brown	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov">w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
Donna Coleman	Senior Housing Rehab Officer	NC Housing Finance Agency	<a href="mailto:djcoleman@nchfa.com">djcoleman@nchfa.com</a>
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	N.C. Department of Health and Human Services	<a href="mailto:jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov">jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
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