



## Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

May 9, 2023

### Summary

On Tuesday, May 9, 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 – during meeting

#### **NC DHHS Children’s Environmental Health – relating to Cultural items as sources of lead exposure**

- **David Brown:** He is noticing an uptick in newer nontraditional sources of lead (some are donated items provided to refugees); he warned that agencies need to be wary of what is donated. He also shared a recent investigation resulting in sindoor as the source (powder substance used to decorate doorways).
- **Nykesse Roberts:** She is also addressing different types and different colors of sindoor, often in newer homes. She has had to be persistent with families (asking questions). One family puts makeup on a kid’s forehead at night before he goes to sleep. The mother said it was a type of sindoor, and it appeared to be like clay. She also asked a question (and Neasha replied) about funding sources for homeowners who need lead remediation.
- **Tonya Zimmerman:** Recent cases of lead have involved bean pots, sindoor (trying to find out where it was purchased), and stain glass doors.

#### **Aj Kondash – RTI International**

- Clean Water for Carolina Kids re-testing: Water testing for lead in child care facilities – through DHHS and WIIN grant (EPA) – Starting re-testing, required at least every three years, currently covered by grant funds
- Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids
  - For schools and child care programs, a partnership between RTI International, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Division of Public Health, and NC Department of Public Instruction
  - The goal of the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program is to identify and eliminate exposures to environmental hazards where North Carolina children learn and play.
    - lead in drinking and cooking water,
    - lead-based paint
    - asbestos
- PREDICT Healthy Homes study: Recruiting households in Guilford County to collect samples of household water, dust, soil and receive results and recommendations.
- Preschool Environmental Experiences and Development study (PEDS): Recruiting child care centers and families attending those centers for environmental measurements at home and at child care, and measures of child development.
- Recent publication: Improved Decision Making for Water Lead Testing in U.S. Child Care Facilities Using Machine-Learned Bayesian Networks, <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.est.2c07477>



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### Theresa Stenersen – NC Child Care Health & Safety Resource Center

- She announced the Asthma Learning Collaborative for child care health consultants on May 24. Neasha Graves and Melinda Shuler will be instructors.

### Carissa Moore – NC DHHS Children’s Environmental Health

- She has had recent cases of lead source on mat around the floor; mom bought it at secondhand store; Carissa is seeing more cases of exposure related to purchases at antique shops, flea markets, consignment stores, etc. She suggested signage warning against some purchases of old/antique items and exposure to children. Megan Lane suggested some focus groups to know what signage/messaging works best. David Brown shared that some local PTA thrift stores have stopped accepting donations of children’s toys.

### Several occupational/take home cases:

- **Aaron Eubanks (Lee County Health Dept):** He has a recent case with a father who works at a gun manufacturing company; another one from lead in faucet in a tub (purchased online). **Ciera Blackhorse (also in attendance)** is working to earn her authorization.
- **Sarah Silapaxay (Gaston Co. Health Dept.):** A father has a job stripping paint from bridges; he showers at a hotel room, takes clothes to laundry mat, and drives a different truck for work.
- **Doris Hogan (Forsyth Co. Health Dept.):** She has had similar occupational issues. She advises people to add degreaser. “Totally awesome” or “Grease Lightning” or other degreasers can be used with laundry soap; a small amount works. Ed Norman cited issues in the past with manufacturing companies in Forsyth County failing to implement protective policies for workers. Doris also mentioned working on educational materials about keys and guns.
- **Rob Pearsall (NC DPH Children’s Environmental Health):** He is finding cases related to shooting ranges; on a military base he has some Onslow County poisonings. Parents are still bringing lead home from a “Kill House” on military base where they train and can be exposed to lead.

### Barbara Donadio – Duke Children’s Clinic

- Kourtney Jones is the new nurse clinician, and she attended the clinical lead training on May 1. They are working closely with physicians on lowered blood lead reference value (BLRV). Most kids have been under 10µg/dL. They continue education and nutritional assessments, and assessments that could involve social services.

### Opportunities for Seasonal Outreach:

- **Ebony Phifer (Alamance Co. Health Dept.)** She has been taking advantage of warmer months for community events.
- **Nellie Benitez (Chatham Co. Health Dept.)** She is working with families who have kids in play areas (informing them through those settings).
- **Tashaunda Hill (Pitt Co. Health Dept.):** She is conducting outreach in spring events; she thanked the UNC staff for materials/activities. Recently, she has involved lots of DIY families and pregnant women in the agency’s outreach efforts.

### Gina Uresti – Greensboro Housing Coalition

- GHC has a new project with Goodwill to inform residents and families about healthy homes.



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### Jeff Dellinger – NC DPH Health Hazards Control Unit

- HHCU has completed required forms and will be updating its website for the ARPA-funded project on lead and asbestos in public schools. An informational letter will soon go out to schools, and he is expecting lots of calls/emails and a slow start.

### Kimly Blount – NC DHHS Children’s Environmental Health

- Lead SOP Training will be September 6-8 in Raleigh and will include field activities.
- The NC Environmental Health Symposium at Crown Plaza in Asheville on July 27-28 and it’s running in conjunction with the FDA seminar (on July 26).
- They just closed the application window for Donna Gilbird’s replacement (regional environmental health specialist).
- The program just finished the pregnancy assessment form that people can use on investigations (similar to the 3651 form). It will be released soon.

### Melanie Napier – NC DHHS Children’s Env Health

- Monthly NC Lead trainings are conducted on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month; can get nursing CEUs and REHS CEUs. The system is going into an upgrade and fall sessions will probably involve knowing how to navigate around those upgrades to the system.

### Michael Beuhler – Poison Control Center

- He is continuing to promote use of the Poison Center to help address cases, and he should be the primary contact to address lead cases.

### RB Gardner – Wilmington’s HUD-funded Healthy Homes Program

- City of Wilmington's HUD funded Lead Based Paint (LBP) Hazard Control Grant Program formally closed 31 MAR 2023 and actions are underway to prepare and submit the Grant Final Closeout Report to HUD. During the grant's 3.5 year period of performance, over 45,000 Wilmington residents were exposed to programs promoting awareness of LBP hazard and Healthy Homes concepts; 30 homes were assessed for LBP and Home Hazards; 25 homes received either substantial or minimal Home Hazard interventions and were rendered lead safe; and over 125 contractors were provided LBP Safety and Healthy Homes training.
- City of Wilmington has been awarded a \$1.5 million dollar HUD Healthy Homes Production grant. The period of performance is 15 May 2023 to 15 November 2026. Actions are underway to stand up the City's Healthy Homes Program and implement the grant.

### Rob Pearsall – NC DHHS Children’s Env Health

- He has had 3 cases related to miniblinds in the past 4-5 months.

## Local, State, and Federal Updates – submitted prior meeting

### Kim Gaetz – NC DHHS Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

- Dr. Howard Gordon of OEEB has recorded 3 webinars on Industry and Occupation data collection. We are drafting an occupational health indicators dashboard and have published a new GIS tool on our Environmental Health Data Dashboard. We have hired a new occupational epidemiologist and public health informatician and are building our NC Environmental Public Health Tracking Program team to include a GIS analyst, public health educator, and public health epidemiologist in the next few months.



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### Tashaunda Hill – Pitt County Environmental Health

- Pitt County recently participated in the "Baby Jamboree - Maternity Fair 2023" on Sunday, April 30th, providing educational resources on Lead Poisoning Prevention for pregnant women and children.

### Guest Presentation

#### **Prenatal Environmental Stressors and Early Childhood Health Inequalities**

Dr. Chantel Martin, *Assistant Professor of Social Epidemiology*

*Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC-Chapel Hill*

### Attendees

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