



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 8, 2023

Summary

On Tuesday, August 8, thirty-nine 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 the meeting

Doris Hogan – Forsyth County Health Department

- She has been busy working on cases associated with the battery plant. She is also working with Mitierra and Neasha to develop a one-page poster to put up at gun ranges.

Jennifer Hatley – Cabarrus Health Alliance

- Working on updating their website to make it more user friendly. This will include adding more resources and contacting pediatrics offices to see if there are any educational materials, they can leave in their waiting rooms and putting together packets that they can give to families.

Nellie Benitez – Chatham County Health Department

- Planning a lead meeting in October for childcare centers and community partners. This is an effort from the EPA to promote community lead awareness across the state. She has conducted a lot of outreach over the summer with back to school events.

Kate Gonzalez Redding – Reinvestment Partners

- Just started in the 2nd year of their Healthy Homes grant.

Theresa Stenersen – NC Child Care Health & Safety Resource Center

- Funding has dried up a bit which has caused a decrease in service in different counties. She has received at the resource center to hire 4 new regional childcare health consultants to add to a total of 6 that will cover half the state.

Children’s Environmental Health, NC DHHS

- **Melanie Napier**
 - She is excited to announce that **Charles Letizia** has joined their team as an epidemiologist. Much of his work will involve supporting the ARPA project.
 - Monthly NC Lead trainings are conducted on 3rd Thursday of every month; can get nursing CEUs and REHS CEUs.
 - The surveillance system for NC lead is undergoing a migration and the newer version should be available in early October.
 - In the coming weeks, they are hoping to launch the Clean Classroom for Carolina Kids. The program is intended to run now until the end of 2026. RTI will manage most logistics for this project. Throughout the project they plan to do lead-based paint inspections, remediation of identified lead hazards, lead in water testing, and replacement of all faucets in schools and childcare facilities.



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- **Kimly Blount** – Lead SOP Training will be September 6-8 in Raleigh. Website linked below.
- **Robert Pearsall** – He has seen an increase in EBL cases in the past couple of months.
- **Barrette Gregory** – He has seen a dramatic uptick in EBL and poisoning cases.
- **Tonya Zimmerman** – She has completed 14 EBL and 6 CLPP cases. She also shared details from a recent investigation with a mobile home manufactured in 1998, she couldn't identify any sources of lead when she went into the home. So, she tested the water, and the sample came back at 52 ppb. The dad said he had just purchased the sink and faucet a year ago when they moved into home and there was a sign on the sink that stated, "No Worry of Lead".
- **Brenda Bass** – One of her counties got the mayor of the city to inquire about applying for a HUD grant.

Jeff Delinger – Health Hazards Control Unit

- The ARPA reimbursement program has their first packet going through the controller and hoping they will cut a check soon. Meanwhile he has three more in the works and will be pushing them to the budget side of the fence and hopes to get them through the controller.

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

Donna Coleman – NC Housing Finance Agency

- NCHFA has awarded \$18m in 2023 for both the ESRF (\$11m) and URP (\$8 m) programs. We are covering 90+ counties with the ESRF program and 70+ counties

R.B. Gardner – City of Wilmington

- In First Quarter of the HUD OLHCHH Healthy Homes Production grant 42-month period of performance. Conducting grant Start Up activities.

Alexandria Rimmer – Orange County

- 1 CLLP investigation, 4 CLLP investigations pending
- *Looking for continued ideas for widening outreach*

Luke Van Eyk – Guilford County

- Completed two lead investigations, collaborated with primary care and physicians, completed one remediation clearance inspection, sent out seven contact letters with education for children with 5-7 BLL's, sent out one contact letter with education for a child with 10 BLL's, and completed five annual clearance inspections.

Jennifer Hoponick Redmon – RTI

- Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program close to launch, Retesting centers under the Clean Water for Carolina Kids program right now, Enrolling for HUD Healthy Homes study and EPA Preschool Environmental Experiences and Development Study still.
- For counties interested, she will host a series webinar in the coming months. Webinar recordings will be available on YouTube.

Tashaunda Hill – Pitt County

- Completed at least 3 investigations since last meeting in May where we have not be able to find a direct exposure, with the exception of keys.



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- We recently attended our local Head Start's Health Fair, providing information on Lead Poisoning Prevention and Sources of Lead Exposure to families attending. We will be providing similar information in September and October at various events including our KidsFest Spootacular event, Health is Wealth - Community Health Fair, and potentially a community baby fair sponsored by Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children. The community baby fair will be on September 15. She will be working with RTI to pilot the Clean Classrooms for Carolina kids.
- *Looking for more information on keys as a source of lead exposure to provide to families.*

Relative Links

- [Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ \(cleanwaterforuskids.org\)](https://cleanwaterforuskids.org)
- [Clean Classroom for Carolina Kids Information Webinar - YouTube](#)
- [Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint Reimbursement Program \(ARPA\)](#)
- Lead SOP Registration: [North Carolina Environmental Health State of Practice \(ncehsop.org\)](https://ncehsop.org)
- [NC Healthy Homes - NC Healthy Homes](#)

Guest Presentation

Raleigh Water's Lead Abatement Program

Edward Buchan, Senior Communications Analyst, Raleigh Water

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
David Brown	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Keandra Cofield	Operations Manager	NC DHHS	keandra.cofield@dhhs.nc.gov
Donna Coleman	Senior Housing Rehab Officer	NC Housing Finance Agency	djcoleman@nchfa.com
Jeff Dellinger	Industrial Hygiene Consultant Supervisor	NC DHHS	jeff.dellinger@dhhs.nc.gov
Deborah Dolan	Community Advocate	WellCare Health	deborah.dolan@wellcare.com
Luke Van Eyk	Program Specialist	Guilford County Health Department	lvaneyk@guilfordcountync.gov



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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
Kathleen Gray	Director	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	kmgray@unc.edu
Barrette Gregory	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov
Tena Hand	Data Manager	NC DHHS	tena.hand@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
Mitierra Johnson	Environmental Health Research Assistant	UNC Center for Public Engagement with Science	jmitierr@unc.edu
Kate Koehler	Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator	NC State Lab of Public Health	kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov
Gail Lamb	Regional Child Health Nurse Consultant	NC DHHS	gail.lamb@dhhs.nc.gov
Megan (Rodgers) Lane	Public Science Coordinator (Lead and HH Task Force & listserv contact)	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	megan.lane@unc.edu
Megan Lee	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Craven County Health Department	mlee@cravencountync.gov
Charles Letizia	Epidemiologist	NC DHHS	charles.letizia@dhhs.nc.gov



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Ariel Mail	Environmental Health Intern	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	amial@unc.edu
Alexis McDaniels	Administrative Specialist	City of Charlotte	alexis.mcdaniels@charlottenc.gov
Monica McKinney	Environmental Health Supervisor	Appalachian District Health Department	monicar@apphealth.com
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
Kate Gonzalez Redding	Healthy Homes Coordinator	Reinvestment Partners	kate@reinvestmentpartners.org
Jennifer Redmon	Director of Environmental Quality	RTI International	jredmon@rti.org
Alex Rimmer	Environmental Health Supervisor	Orange County Health Department	arimmer@orangecountync.gov
Nykesse Roberts	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	nykesse.roberts@dhhs.nc.gov
Roger Rooks	Industrial Hygiene Consultant	NC HHCU	roger.rooks@dhhs.nc.gov
Samantha Sites	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov
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
Tonya Zimmerman	Environmental Health Regional Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	tonya.zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov