



Lead Advisory Committee and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

Quarterly Meeting Summary

August 13, 2024

Summary

On Tuesday, August 13, forty-nine public health and nonprofit professionals who address lead and healthy homes issues in their communities and organizations 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. 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

Melanie Napier - NC DHHS, Children's Environmental Health

- An MMWR article was published on July 18, 2024 to describes how local, state, and federal officials in North Carolina have been working together to resolve the lead contamination of WanaBana apple puree over the past few months.
- She was interviewed by USA Today and WRAL about the article.

RB Gardener- City of Wilmington

- City of Wilmington is well into the second year of the HUD OLHCHH Healthy Homes Production Grant funded Healthy Homes Program. This program is a huge success and the demand / requirement for Healthy Homes services to qualified and interested applicants will soon exceed the Healthy Homes Program's current capabilities.
- Provided information related to costs to families to get work done related to air quality and mold
- Encourage people to apply funding
- In the process of remediating 14 homes and 10 have already been approved
- Clearance test are around \$500 (mold testing/clearance is required for HUD-funded remediation)
- Remediation cost more than \$30,000 for each home
- David Brown's question: Have you had success with insurance companies? RB's response: I have not been very successful, and they don't meet a certain threshold.

Discussion

Broadening outreach on lead in spices presented by Maniraj Jeyaraju, UNC Physician

Dr. Maniraj Jeyaraju became interested in the topic while working with one of his colleagues and realized there might be potential suspicion of lead in spices in South Asian communities.

Question: Is there a way for providers to be instrumental in enhancing outreach around lead and spices? Some meeting attendees shared their experiences in addressing spices and other cultural items in lead investigations:

- **David Brown-** While conducting his most recent investigations he noticed families might be using ceremonial powders for cultural practices. If he sees that a product could be a potential source he might recommend that families find alternative products to use while being culturally sensitive.



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- **Karin Evanoff** – There is a lack of knowledge related to South Asia spices, families are not aware that lead in products exists. The adult blood lead program in NC DHHS conducts lead investigations for adults with blood lead levels over 25 µg/dL. Populations of South Asia are coming into the US with high levels of lead poisoning.
- **Nykesse Roberts** - Communication is key giving out educational materials can enhance knowledge. Always ask families to make sure if it is okay with them to check rooms to make sure they understand the everything,

Dr. Jeyaraju's next steps with his colleague Dr. Deepthi Gowrishankar (UNC School of Medicine):

- Drafting the survey for South Asian community members to gain more perspective on where the gaps are
- Coming up with a strategic plan for outreach to community members (physician groups, community organizations, etc.)
- Reviewing the lead survey and overall home assessment experience and suggest improvements to make it more culturally sensitive/relevant
- Recommendations to changing material on healthy homes websites
- Connecting with FDA Rep to discuss supply chain concerns and get more information about that.

Discussion

Enhancing Lead Testing Efforts with Providers Presented by Ashley Stacy-Boddapati, Nurse Consultant

Ashley shared with attendees her professional background, goals of her work at NC DHHS, recent projects and future plans. She has sent Information to families regarding WanaBana, since she began working at NC DHHS in the middle of this crisis. She has partnered with other colleagues and agencies as she develops a survey to help with outreach to providers and families. Ashley has begun conducting presentations at major health and public conferences. Those events have included a booth at the NC WIC conference and used sorting sources as an interactive learning tool. Her primary focus is clinical outreach to ensure families get tested. She's also working to update the NC Lead Testing and Follow up Manual. Would like to make connections with people who do lead work

Relative Links & Upcoming Events

NC Disaster Recovery and Response site –

<https://nchealthyhomes.com/nc-disaster-recovery/>

NC DHHS Heat and Health Alert System - <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oee/climate/heat.html>

Lead SOP Registration is open. It will be on September 4 –6, 2024.

Guest Presentation

Epidemiologist Autumn Locklear, MSPH, of the NC DHHS Climate and Health Program presented information on the [“Heat Health Alert System.”](#)



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Attendees

Jennifer Anderson	Child Health Lead Nurse	Transylvania County Public Health	jennifer.anderson@transylvaniacounty.org
Brenda Bass	Regional Environmental Health Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov
Nellie Benitez	Lead Program Specialist	Chatham County Environmental Health Department	nellie.benitez@chathamcountync.gov
Kimly Blount	Field Supervisor	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov
Ashley Stacy-Boddapati	Nurse Consultant,	Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, NC DHHS	ashley.stacy-boddapati@dhhs.nc.gov
David Brown	Regional Environmental Health Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov
Keandra Cofield	Operations Manager	North Carolina Division of Public Health	keandra.cofield@dhhs.nc.gov
Karin Evanoff	Occupational Health Nurse	NC DHHS Adult Blood Lead Program	karin.evanoff@dhhs.nc.gov
Luke Van Eyk	Environmental Health Program Specialist	Guilford County	lvaneyk@guilfordcountync.gov
RB Gardener	Healthy Homes Program Manager	City of Wilmington	robert.gardener@wilmingtonnc.gov
Donna Gilbird	Retired, Environmental Health Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	dgilbird59@gmail.com
Evan Goodman	Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	evanuncc@email.unc.edu
Neasha Graves	Environmental Health Outreach Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	neasha_graves@unc.edu
Barrette Gregory	Regional Environmental Health Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov
Haley Heath			
Tashaunda Hill	Environmental Program Specialist	Pitt County Environmental Health	tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov
Kelly Hoffman	Research Environmental Scientist	RTI	kbhoffman@rti.org
Doris Hogan	Senior Environmental Health Specialist	Forsyth County Department of Public Health	hoganda@forsyth.cc



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Robert 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
Maniraj Jeyaraju	Resident Physician	UNC Hospital	jmaniraj@email.unc.edu
Charlotte Keziah	Supervisor	Union County Children's Environmental Health Program	charlotte.keziah@unioncountync.gov
Kate Koehler	Chemical Terrorism and Threat Coordinator	NC State Lab of Public Health	kate.koehler@dhhs.nc.gov
Megan Lee	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Craven County Environmental Health	mlee@cravencountync.gov
Pam Lindsay	Environmental Health Specialist	Sampson County Health Department	plindsay@sampsonnc.com
Autumn Locklear	Public Health Epidemiologist	NC DHHS Climate & Health Program	autumn.locklear@dhhs.nc.gov
Tara Lucas	State Child Health Nurse Consultant/ Nurse Supervisor	NC Division of Child and Family Well-Being	tara.lucas@dhhs.nc.gov
Angela Maskill	Healthy Homes Program Manager	Reinvestment Partners	amaskill@reinvestmentpartners.org
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Ashely Mize	Regional Environmental Health Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	ashley.mize@dhhs.nc.gov
Jolan Motyka	Research Assistant	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	jmotyka@unc.edu
Melanie Napier	Public Health Epidemiologist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	melanie.napier@dhhs.nc.gov
Ed Norman	Program Manager	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov
Kanjana Pankhum	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	Orange County Health Department	kpankhum@orangecountync.gov
Rob Pearsall	Regional Environmental Health Specialist	Children's Environmental Health, NC DHHS	robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov
Carla Pressley	Environmental Health Specialist	Harnett County	cpressley@harnett.org



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Alexandira Rimmer	Environmental Health Supervisor	Orange County Health Department	arimmer@orangecountync.gov
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Roger Rooks	Industrial Hygiene Consultant	NC Health Hazards Control Unit	roger.rooks@dhhs.nc.gov
Lakieta Sanders	Public Health Education Specialist	Durham County Health Department	ldsanders@dconc.gov
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Laken Royall	Assistant Director	Yadkin County Human Services Agency	lroyall@yadkincountync.gov
Gina Uresti	Healthy Homes Program Manager	Greensboro Housing Coalition	gina@gsohc.org
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