



## Summary

On February 10, 2026, thirty - nine public health and community-based professionals met in person and via Zoom for the quarterly NC Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force meeting. During the meeting, members discussed program updates, challenges and questions on lead and healthy homes activities, and details are included below. The two-hour meeting was submitted to the NC Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists for continuing education approval. The meeting is co-convened by the NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health Unit (CEH) and the UNC Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment. **A list of meeting participants and their contact information are provided at the end of these notes.**

## Program updates, challenges and questions from other organizations

### Blood lead testing for pregnant women

Tom Neltner of Unleaded Kids submitted to the NC Lead & Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force listserv a blog about interventions for pregnant women in New Hampshire and New Jersey, regardless of their blood lead levels. This generated considerable conversation about lead and pregnancy policies.

- **Barbara Donadio, Duke Children's Primary Care** shared concern about the workload acting on any blood level could generate for clinics. **Alan Honeycutt, NCDHHS CEH**, described a recurring case of a mother who's lead appears to be stored in her bones and transfers during pregnancy, making it difficult to determine the environmental exposure, even during repeated investigations.
- **Ashley Stacy-Boddapati, NCDHHS CEH**, noted that prenatal blood lead tests remain low, suggesting that many private providers may not be completing screening questionnaires or testing pregnant women as recommended. She emphasized that this gap shows a clear ***opportunity for statewide education and outreach to improve screening practices among private prenatal care providers.***
- **Doris Hogan, Forsyth County Health Department**, explained that testing is inconsistent, often delayed, and sometimes reported only after the mother has already delivered. She emphasized ***the need for a statewide strategy to improve provider compliance and education, especially since many young parents are unaware of lead risks, and her team currently relies on pregnancy classes to fill those gaps.***
- **Karin Evanoff, NCDHHS Adult Blood Lead Program** and **Barbara Donadio** discussed how ***opportunities for enhanced outreach could be promoted in professional societies, such as the North Carolina Pediatric Society and obstetrics and gynecology groups.*** Ashley noted that UNC -affiliated clinics have recently added a lead screening question to their prenatal intake forms.

### Addressing CLPP investigations that lead to legal action

**Charlotte Keziah, Union County Health Department**, asked for advice on this issue that involves a current legal case. Participants shared that similar cases have occurred in the past and often require coordination with county attorneys, the Attorney General's office, and HUD enforcement, especially when issues like lead paint disclosure or repeated noncompliance are involved.

### Challenge of timely remediation plans

**Paula Cox, Guilford County:** Since COVID this issue has been more prevalent. **David Brown, NC DHHS CEH**, shared that their teams rely on the remediation planning guide and frequent follow-up with property owners. Shelby McLean and Barbara Donadio shared the usefulness of county attorneys and Legal Aid of North Carolina.

### Lead in keys fact sheet

The group discussed Doris's earlier request for an educational handout on lead exposure from keys. Participants agreed it may be more effective to expand or reframe the material by drawing from existing resources on occupational and household lead risks. *The next step will be for the team to meet, review what currently exists, and collaborate on creating a clearer, more accurate handout that meets the needs of different regions and audiences.*

## Program Updates (submitted prior to the meeting)

- **Joseph Aguilar, Orange County Health Department:** We are working on a project to provide citizens with cleaning supplies, PPE, and instructions to clean mold in their home. The project is called “Operation Move Out Mold.”
- **Doris Hogan, Forsyth County Health Department:** During a recent investigation with a family from Afghanistan, spice results for Turmeric were 2000ppm. Mom stated the item was purchased in Afghanistan but was available in the Afghan store in Winston-Salem. She purchased new turmeric, tested it and it was around 0.11ppm.
- **Roger Rooks, NC Health Hazards Control Unit:** A reminder to make certain that lead-based paint professionals and firms are properly certified to perform work on lead-based paint in target homes and child occupied facilities. If there are any questions about firm or individual certifications, contact Roger at 919-707-5981, roger.rooks@dhhs.nc.gov, or HHCU at 919-707-5950 or general.hhcu@dhhs.nc.gov. I or another HHCU consultant can assist in finding certified firms and individuals.

### Relative Links & Upcoming Events

- Childcare SOP Program March 11- 13 in Pitt County
- Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies (CMHRP): <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/care-management/care-management-high-risk-pregnancies-cmhrp>
- **Jennifer Lao, CEH:** She emphasized the CDC’s recent recognition of North Carolina’s work on the apple puree lead contamination on its website as a recent success story. Link here: <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/success-stories/north-carolina.html>

### Guest Presentations

#### **Multijurisdictional Repository of Lead-Containing Products**

Ashley Stacy – Boddapati, Nurse Consultant, NCDHHS CEH

Ashley presented on the multijurisdictional repository of blood containing products, a national project led by the New York City Department of Health that collects environmental investigation sample results from states and jurisdictions. She explained that the project focuses on consumer products, especially items children may put in their mouths, and includes cultural products known to contain lead and other contaminants. Her presentation is included with these notes on the Task Force web page.

#### **David Lipton, Retired Industrial Hygiene Consultant**

David reflected on his career and lessons he learned addressing home and community hazards during natural disasters and other events in North Carolina for the past 30+ years.

## Attendees

<b>Brenda Bass</b> , Regional EH Specialist	CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov">brenda.bass@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Kimly Blount</b> , Field Supervisor	CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov">kimly.blount@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Ashley Stacy – Boddapati</b> Nurse Consultant	Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	<a href="mailto:ashley.stacy-boddapati@dhhs.nc.gov">ashley.stacy-boddapati@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Alex Brown</b> , Public Health Epidemiologist	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:alex.brown@dhhs.nc.gov">alex.brown@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>David Brown</b> , Regional EH Specialist	CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov">w.david.brown@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Barabara Donadio</b> , Registered Nurse	Duke Children’s Primary Care	<a href="mailto:barbara.donadio@duke.edu">barbara.donadio@duke.edu</a>
<b>Gilbert Combs</b> , Community Development & Housing Manager	City of Wilmington	<a href="mailto:gilbert.combs@wilmingtonnc.gov">gilbert.combs@wilmingtonnc.gov</a>
<b>Karin Evanoff</b> , Occupational Health Nurse	NC DHHS Adult Blood Lead Program	<a href="mailto:karin.evanoff@dhhs.nc.gov">karin.evanoff@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Mike Ferraro</b> , Rehab Tech	City of Wilmington	<a href="mailto:mike.ferraro@wilmingtonnc.gov">mike.ferraro@wilmingtonnc.gov</a>
<b>Neasha Graves</b> , EH Outreach Manager	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	<a href="mailto:neasha_graves@unc.edu">neasha_graves@unc.edu</a>
<b>Barrette Gregory</b> , Regional EH Specialist	CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov">barrette.gregory@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Conner Harrison</b> , EH Specialist	Lenoir County Health Department	<a href="mailto:conner.harrison@lenoircountync.gov">conner.harrison@lenoircountync.gov</a>
<b>Tashaunda Hill</b> , Environmental Program Specialist	Pitt County Environmental Health	<a href="mailto:tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov">tashaunda.hill@pittcountync.gov</a>
<b>Doris Hogan</b> , Senior EH Specialist	Forsyth County Dept. of Public Health	<a href="mailto:hoganda@forsyth.cc">hoganda@forsyth.cc</a>
<b>Alan Honeycutt</b> , Regional EH Specialist	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:alan.huneycutt@dhhs.nc.gov">alan.huneycutt@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Kourtney Jones</b> , Pediatric nurse	Duke Children’s Primary Care	<a href="mailto:kourtney.jones@duke.edu">kourtney.jones@duke.edu</a>
<b>Mitierra Johnson</b> , Research Associate	UNC Institute for the Environment, CPES	<a href="mailto:jmitierr@unc.edu">jmitierr@unc.edu</a>
<b>Charlotte Keziah</b> , EH Division Manager	Union County CEH Program	<a href="mailto:charlotte.keziah@unioncountync.gov">charlotte.keziah@unioncountync.gov</a>
<b>Jennifer Lao</b> , Public Health Epidemiologist	Division of Public Health, CEH	<a href="mailto:jennifer.lao@dhhs.nc.gov">jennifer.lao@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Megan Lee</b> , Regional EH Specialist	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:megan.lee@dhhs.nc.gov">megan.lee@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Tara Lucas</b> , State Child Health Consultant/ Nurse Supervisor	NC Division of Family and Child Well -Being	<a href="mailto:tara.lucas@dhhs.nc.gov">tara.lucas@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Shelby McLean</b> , EH Manager	Guilford County Health Department	<a href="mailto:smclean0@guilfordcountync.gov">smclean0@guilfordcountync.gov</a>
<b>Ashley Mize</b> , Regional EH Specialist	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:ashley.mize@dhhs.nc.gov">ashley.mize@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Carissa Moore</b> , Regional EH Specialist	NC DHHS CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:Carissa.Moore@dhhs.nc.gov">Carissa.Moore@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Ed Norman</b> , Program Manager	CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov">ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Nicole Parrish</b> , Environmental Health Specialist	Haywood Health Department	<a href="mailto:nicole.parrish@haywoodcountync.gov">nicole.parrish@haywoodcountync.gov</a>

<b>Rob Pearsall</b> , Regional EH Specialist	CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov">robert.pearsall@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Megan Pjura</b> Infant/ Toddler Childcare Consultant	Department of Maternal and Child health	<a href="mailto:Megan.Pjura@unc.edu">Megan.Pjura@unc.edu</a>
<b>Jennifer Hopenick- Redmon</b> Senior Director, EH and Water Quality	RTI International	<a href="mailto:jredmon@rti.org">jredmon@rti.org</a>
<b>Alex Rimmer</b> , Healthy Homes Supervisor	Orange County Health Department	<a href="mailto:arimmer@orangecountync.gov">arimmer@orangecountync.gov</a>
<b>Nykesse Roberts</b> , Regional EH Specialist	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:nykesse.roberts@dhhs.nc.gov">nykesse.roberts@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Roger Rooks</b> , Industrial Hygiene Consultant	NC DHHS Health Hazards Control Unit	<a href="mailto:Roger.Rooks@dhhs.nc.gov">Roger.Rooks@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Tena Hand-Schafale</b> , Data Manager	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov">tena.hand@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Samantha Sites</b> , Public Health Epidemiologist	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov">samantha.sites@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Shineka Small</b> , Registered EH Specialist	Cumberland County Health Department	<a href="mailto:ssmall@cumberlandcountync.gov">ssmall@cumberlandcountync.gov</a>
<b>Jeff Smedley</b> , Public Health Epidemiologist	CEH, NC DHHS	<a href="mailto:jeff.smedley@dhhs.nc.gov">jeff.smedley@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
<b>Theresa Stenersen</b> Regional Child Care Consultant	NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center	<a href="mailto:theresa_stenersen@unc.edu">theresa_stenersen@unc.edu</a>
<b>Tonya Zimmerman</b> Regional EH Specialist	NC DHHS CEH	<a href="mailto:Tonya.zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov">Tonya.zimmerman@dhhs.nc.gov</a>