

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

MDE Patuxent Conference Room
December 5, 2019

APPROVED Minutes

Members in Attendance

Anna Davis, Mary Beth Haller, Susan Kleinhammer, Patricia McLaine, Cliff Mitchell, Paula Montgomery, Barbara Moore, Adam Skolnik

Members not in Attendance

Shana Boscak, Benita Cooper, Leonidas Newton, Manjula Paul, Christina Peusch

Guests in Attendance

Shante Branch (MDE), Camille Burke (BCHD) via phone, Allison Cantos (GHHI), Chris Corzine (OAG), Jack Daniel (DHCD), Emily Fruchterman (GHHI), Andrew Gaudreau (OAG), Elizabeth Heitz (MDH), Deepa Joshi (GHHI), Dawn Joy (AMA), Kaley Laleker (MDE), Jamal Lewis (GHHI), Bill Peach (HABC), Charlton H. Roney (Arc Environmental), Stephanie Soper (Arc Environmental), Michael Spangler (CONNOR), Wes Stewart (GHHI), Michaela Whitelaw (GHHI)

Welcome and Introductions

Pat McLaine called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM with welcome and introductions.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, seconded by Anna Davis to accept the November 7, 2019 minutes as amended. All present Commissioners were in favor – the minutes were approved.

Old Business

Asset and Gap Analysis – Wes Stewart indicated that GHHI is working with state agencies and publicly available information to identify where existing resources are located. GHHI has interviewed Jack Daniels (DHCD) and Camille Burke (BCHD) and will interview staff from MDE and MDH soon. GHHI is on track to deliver their report by January 15, 2020. Students are involved. Cliff Mitchell asked if students would provide feedback to the Commission regarding how easy it is to find information; Wes Stewart indicated that they would provide that information. Cultural competency is also an interest, including feedback on whether information is accessible for non-English speaking populations. GHHI was asked if they planned to talk with Maryland Insurance Association regarding private insurers. One of the issues that has come up repeatedly has been whether insurers cover hospitalization and care for children with high blood lead levels (BLLs). GHHI will provide an update on January 9, 2020 and deliver the report by January 15, 2020. The Commission will discuss the report at the February Commission meeting.

2019 Annual Report – Paula Montgomery reviewed highlights from the 2018 Annual Childhood Lead Surveillance report based on calendar year 2018 data. In CY2018, 142,127 children aged 0-18 years were tested. The number of children tested remained about the same as the prior year but was still larger than 2015. The number of children with BLLs 5-9µg/dL decreased by 13.6%. The number of children with BLLs of 10µg/dL or greater statewide was 390 in 2018 and was slightly higher than in 2017 (388). The number of children, aged 0-72 months, identified as a new lead exposure of 10 µg/dL or greater statewide in 2018 was 235, 25 less cases than in 2017. However, Baltimore City, had 18 more new cases (99) in 2018 compared to 2017(81). Of the 99 new cases in Baltimore City, 88 children received medical visits and 79 environmental investigations were completed. For the counties, the total number of new cases in 2018 (136) dropped by 43 compared to 2017(179). Of the 136 new cases in the remaining counties, 115 children received medical visits and 122 environmental investigations were completed.

With regards to the 99 new cases, in Baltimore City, 70.7% of the children were identified as living in a rental property. Of that percentage, 60.6 % were pre-1950 rentals, 8.1% were rentals built between 1950-1977 and 2% were post 1977 rentals. In 2018, in Baltimore City, 29.3% of the new cases were children identified as residing in an owner-occupied property. Of that percentage, 28.3% were pre-1950 owner occupied properties, 1% were owner occupied properties built from 1950-1977. There were no new cases in owner occupied properties built after 1977 in Baltimore City. For the remainder of new cases in Maryland (136); 56.6% were identified as residing in a rental property. Of that percentage, 11% of the children were identified as residing in pre-1950 rentals, 30.9% in rentals built from 1950-1977 and 14.7% in post-1977 rentals. In 2018, 43.3% of the county cases were children identified as residing in an owner-occupied property. Of that percentage, 20.6% were ore 1950, 8.1% were built from 1950-1978 and 14.7% were owner occupied properties built after 1977.

The presentation also included a completed review of all sources identified during environmental investigations in 2018. A copy of the full presentation can be found [HERE](#) . Question was asked regarding why no lead dust is shown for Baltimore City cases; Camille Burke indicated that BCHD does test dust quite often as part of case management.

The take away: in Baltimore City, lead based paint hazards are the significant source in pre-1950 housing. In Maryland counties, sources other than lead based paint are more significant. Paula Montgomery stated she is looking at compliance with regards to properties subject to Maryland lead laws. It would be useful to see if we need additional efforts in primary prevention. Adam Skolnik stated that the data speaks for itself, but we are still doing nothing about owner occupied housing. Jack Daniels noted that \$1.5 to 2 million is being spent on lead projects yearly across Maryland. But DHCD must make sure there are no violations when they leave the property. Paula Montgomery stated that Baltimore City issues citations on owner-occupied housing where lead-based paint hazards are identified.

Sue Kleinhammer asked what happens if an owner occupant has a violation notice but can't afford repairs. Paula Montgomery indicated the violation stays on the property. CDC and HUD are considering a new project focused on making a lead-safe city. Pat McLaine stated that we need to figure out how to better target owner-occupied properties that are poisoning children.

Lead Standard Changing – Kaley Laleker reported that MDE has proposed new regulations to go into effect January 6, 2020 with three parts: a new chapter on environmental investigation; reporting by labs; and dust lead standards. There is an inconsistency if we did not change the post-abatement lead dust clearance standard; new regulations will lower post-abatement clearance and risk reduction standards effective July 1 2020.

New Business

Letter to Governor – year on date to be changed, add Prince Georges County. There was a discussion about the state's general direction in lead poisoning prevention. Is the state moving in the right direction? Do we anticipate needing more resources? There has been strong support for legislation by the Administration. The Medicaid and CHIP program instituted by MDH is probably the leading program in the country, providing home visits and housing repair with a state match. DHCD has appropriated funds for lead and to support Baltimore City's HUD application. The state is better able to leverage funds to increase available funds. Wes Stewart indicated that two states (Maine and New Jersey) had established dedicated funding for owner occupied housing. Anna Davis and Adam Skolnik agreed to review letter for final changes. The final version will sent out for vote by email. Anna Davis made a motion to approve the letter with final changes to be sent out and reviewed by email, Barbara Moore seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Calendar for 2020 – Cliff Mitchell indicated MDH won't be able to report data until MDE's report has been released. Liz Heitz will be here until August 2020. Commissioners were asked to send changes to Pat McLaine so the calendar can be finalized at the January meeting.

Department of Housing and Community Development – Jack Daniels reported that capital funds and operational funds are being used to fund the Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids (HH for HK) program He is encumbering funds to support Baltimore City. Many cases are pending receipt of needed paperwork. DHCD will have spent all funds for the HH for HK program by February 2020. Some of the stock in the program has significant maintenance issues and costs are coming in higher than expected. DHCD may need to restrict some funds in the future. DHCD administers Program 1 only; Program 2 is administered by MDH. The Medicaid State Plan Amendment covers two programs: (1) abatement of homes in which Medicaid child lives who has a BLL of 5µg/dL or higher; (2) home visiting services for children with BLLs 5µg/dL and higher and for children with persistent asthma (home visiting – not capital expenses). At some point, it would be good to step back and take a closer look at what properties look like that are poisoning children, to better inform a primary prevention approach.

Jack Daniels indicated that state and city programs spend \$16-19K per unit as opposed to the HH for HK programs that has been averaging \$128.5K. The goal is to expand the pool to address needs of families with higher BLLs. Jack Daniels asked that individuals and programs contact MDE or DHCD about properties that might benefit from the program. The main mission and vision is to help low-moderate income homeowners. Families can access services through their local health department. The program can address a second home if linked to the child (for example, grandma's home or daycare home). In addition, the program is for children less than 18, not limited to children less than 6 years of age.

Future Meeting Dates

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2020, at MDE in the Aqua Conference Room – Front Lobby, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

Agency updates

Maryland Department of Environment – Kaley Laleker reported that MDE has lowered screening levels for lead in soil for land restoration program of contaminated properties. Specifically, lead in soil standard used to be 400 ppm for residential properties. Since going to lead reference level for blood lead, MDE is reducing the soil lead standard to 200 ppm for residential, 550 ppm for commercial and 1050 ppm for industrial with the new levels to go into effect 7/1/2020. MDE has met with stakeholders, is developing a fact sheet and more information will be available.

Maryland Department of Health – Cliff Mitchell reported that MDH is working with Medicaid and MDE on staffing and legal changes related to HB1233. They are revising the clinical and case management guidance since local health departments will be looking at BLLs 5-9µg/dL. MDH is planning for capacity at local health departments and resources to manage all children. Regarding additional resources for local health departments, Cliff Mitchell stated the local health departments would have back-up from MDH and materials for case management but not additional funds.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development – nothing more to report.

Baltimore City Health Department – Camille Burke reported that new posters and the MTA initiative went up in early November. BCHD is increasing testing at 22 locations in 15 zip codes including stations and kiosks. BCHD is distributing information to MCOs. Staff are using door hang tags in targeted zip codes. BCHD is also using point of care (POC) testing. BCHD has two POC instruments that are being used to test children and demonstrate POC instrument use to primary care providers. The program has also been conducting outreach and testing children in head start programs.

Baltimore City Housing and Community Development – no representative present

Housing Authority of Baltimore City – nothing new to report

Office of Child Care – no representative present

Maryland Insurance Administration – no representative present

Public Comment

Barbara Moore reported that Mount Washington's social worker has resigned her position with last day scheduled for December 18, 2019. Barbara Moore will let people know when a replacement has been hired.

Mary Beth Haller noted that hearings are being held by Baltimore City Council on housing issues including mold. The hearing on lead will be held on December 11 at 5PM; BCHD will make a presentation.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Anna Davis to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barbara Moore. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.