

MARYLAND LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

January 1, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
Executive Department
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission, please accept this letter as the Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission's (the Commission) Annual Report for Calendar Year 2019, as required by Environment Article, § 6-810(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. The Commission's agendas and monthly minutes can be found at the following link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/LeadPoisoningPrevention/Pages/LPPCommission.aspx>

The Commission, established under Environment Article 6, Subtitle 8, advises the Department of the Environment, the Legislature, and the Governor regarding lead poisoning prevention in Maryland and specifically the Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Law. During 2019, the Commission considered and reviewed the following:

- The need for strategic planning to establish short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals for the Commission;
- Because lead has irreversible effects on children at lower levels, legislation to lower the blood lead action level as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) lowering of dust lead level standards;
- Sale of lead-contaminated products to Maryland residents by Amazon.com LLC; and
- Progress of lead poisoning prevention efforts by state¹ and local² agencies.

Based upon the Commission's study of these topics, the Commission took the following actions and made the following recommendations:

- Conducted a strategic planning event and set short term, medium term and long term goals for the Commission;
- Created the Commission mission and vision statements and published them on the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) website;
- Consulted with the New Jersey Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and voted to proceed with an Asset and Gap Analysis for Maryland that is currently being conducted *pro bono* by Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI). The Analysis will identify the amounts and levels of lead poisoning related resources, personnel, and capacity in six key areas:

¹ Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Department of Education – Office of Child Care

² Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore City Housing and Community Development, Housing Authority of Baltimore City, Baltimore County Health Department

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(1) lead hazard reduction grant and loan resources; (2) environmental investigation and housing inspection; (3) enforcement; (4) blood lead testing and screening; (5) case management; and (6) outreach and education. GHHI will compile a report of its findings of available resources and an analysis of any funding, personnel and/or policy gaps. The report, anticipated in January 2020, will include recommendations for the Commission to consider going forward. The Commission will share the report with stakeholders and recommend next steps for Maryland to address identified gaps.

- Provided input and supported legislation to reduce the blood lead action level to the CDC reference value (HB 1233);
- Passed a resolution urging MDE to lower the dust lead standards for risk reduction and post-abatement clearance;
- Sent a letter to the Attorney General requesting identification of the size and scope of the sale of lead contaminated products to Maryland residents by Amazon.com and determination of whether remedial actions taken had been sufficient to curb the sale and distribution of contaminated products in Maryland;
- Sent a letter in support of Baltimore City's 2019 HUD grant application; and
- Presented the first Commission awards recognizing Outstanding Health Advocate John Krupinsky, RN, Maryland Department of the Environment; Outstanding Advocate Camille Burke, Baltimore City Health Department; and Special Recognition for Baltimore City Health Department.

We appreciate the opportunity to update you on the Commission's work over the past year. We look forward to continuing our work in 2020 to further the Commission's vision of a Maryland in which all children are free from the harmful effects of lead exposure.

Sincerely,



Patricia McLaine, DrPH, MPH, RN
Chair
Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission