

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 3, 2022 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Google Meet

Approved Meeting Minutes

Documents Distributed:

- Draft Minutes 220203.pdf
- Final Agenda 220303.pdf
- GAP_StrategicPlanningAnalysisLCActions.pdf
- House Bills:
 - hb0101F.pdf
 - hb0174F.pdf
 - hb1033F.pdf
 - hb1110f.pdf
 - hb1266F.pdf
 - hb1290F.pdf
- LeadCommissionAnnual Report11_2020.pdf
- MDE Lead Commission Calendar 2022.pdf
- updated-public-comment-draft-lead-strategy-11-16-2021.pdf

Opening Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. with welcome and introductions.

Members Present:

Benita Cooper

Anna Davis

Susan Kleinhammer

Mary Beth Haller

Cliff Mitchell

Paula Montgomery

Barbara Moore

Ruth Ann Norton

Manjula Paul

Paul Rogers

Adam Skolnik

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar

Jacob Benzaquen

Senator Jill Carter

Jack Daniels

Christina Peusch

Guests Present:

Andrea-Public

Chevelle Bash-GHHI

Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE

Erica Chapman-MDE

Chris Corzine-OAG

Eamon Flynn-MDH

Ben Grumbles-MDE

Jason Harding-BCDHCD

Kathryn Hirabayashi-MDH

Lisa Horne-MDH

Rebecca Jackson-GHHI

Kaley Laleker-MDE

Kelsey McClain-GHHI

Cherise Roberts-GHHI

Celisia Rouson-Smith-Public

Madison Russell-Public

Anastasia Solano-MDE

George Stewart-GHHI

Edward Thomas-HUD

Chris White-Arc Environmental

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Ruth Ann Norton, seconded by Barbara Moore to accept the February 3, 2022 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- **Updates from the Legislative Subcommittee:** Adam Skolnik provided updates from the Legislative Subcommittee for HB0101, HB0174, and HB1290 which are all in the House waiting for a hearing or have already been heard. No further movement has been made. The following bills were discussed in more detail:
 - [HB1033 - Environment and Energy - Investment in Overburdened Communities](#): This bill was sponsored by Delegates Rosenberg and Stein and is currently in the House with a Hearing scheduled on March 15 at 1:00 p.m. (Appropriations). A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, seconded by Mary Beth Haller to table HB1033 for further review at a later date.
 - [HB1110: Environment - Lead Poisoning Prevention - Elevated Blood Lead Level](#): MDE worked with Delegate Holmes on the bill and MDE testified on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at the bill hearing in support of the bill. A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, seconded by Barbara Moore to support HB1110. Abstentions were made by Cliff Mitchell and Paul Rogers. Ruth Ann Northon will work with MDE staff to send the letter of support from the Commission.
 - Concerns were raised that if this bill passes, owners of the middle class to upper middle class for owner occupied properties in Baltimore City may elect to not have environmental investigations done at the lower level because it could result in abatement violation notices which would cost the homeowners a lot of money to resolve. For those homeowners that are not able to qualify for federal grant assistance, Ruth Ann Norton recommended the Commission discuss how to make funds available for the homeowners and to a broader spectrum of people to be able to afford abatement. Ruth Ann Norton and Mary Beth Haller agreed to work together and look into possible funding sources. Ruth Ann Norton volunteered to supply a memo to the Commission of the funds that exist throughout the country that potentially could be used. The memo is expected to be shared with the Commission before its next meeting.
 - [HB1266 - Dentists - Saliva Lead Poisoning Screening Tests - Scope of Practice and Requirements](#): The bill was scheduled for a hearing on March 8, 2022 which has been canceled. No further movement has been made on this bill. A motion was made by Anna Davis, seconded by Adam Skolnik to Oppose HB1266. No one was in favor of supporting this bill. Remaining Commissioners were opposed. Abstentions were made by Cliff Mitchell and Paula Montgomery.
- **Update from the Lead Testing and Immunization Subcommittee:** No new updates were provided.
- **Discuss GAP Analysis - Add access for Public Input**: Paula Montgomery and the Commission discussed the GAP Analysis hand out titled “GAP_StrategicPlanningAnalysisLCActions.pdf” and made updates to the document. Paula Montgomery also discussed the following GAP Analysis topics:
 - Require RRP for all contractors-reach out to MHIC.
 - Use data collected from CDC supplemental grant to identify specific areas/ effects to determine priorities.
 - In regards to the case management data item in the gap analysis; as part of a CDC sub-grant that MDE was awarded in 2018, an audit of compliance with the Maryland lead laws was performed on pre-1978 rental properties where a child was identified with a blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter. The findings were presented to the Lead Commission on September 2, 2021 and the presentation powerpoint “CDCSupplementalPresentation.Revised.pdf” was provided to the Commission on October 7, 2021.

New Business:

- **MDE Lead Commission 2022 Calendar Reminder: April:**
 - WSA Updates
 - Update report on testing outcomes in schools/daycares and any new legislation that may have passed from a representative from Water Supply Program (Georgella Samu and Tim Rule)
 - Update on Bi-Partisan Infrastructure bill (WSA) (Tentative)
- **DHCD Lead Hazard Reduction Updates and Initiatives:** Presenter was unable to attend and the topic will be rescheduled to April 2022.
- **Update on State ARPA Review:** The City of Baltimore is currently releasing eligibility for those ARPA requests on lead for the city. Ruth Ann Norton will ask the city and the state to attend the April 2022 Lead Commission meeting and report their progress.
- **Commission Input on EPA Strategic Plan on Lead - Due March 16, 2022:** GHHI will be sending in comments and will share with the Commission in the future. It is currently unknown if MDE and MDH will provide comments but it was requested from the Chair that if comments are provided, the agencies would share their comments with the Commission. Ruth Ann Norton indicated that she would like to invite EPA Administrator, Michael Regan to be a guest at the Commission in a future meeting to provide an update on the efforts of EPA and fundings. Additionally, the Chair would also like to re-invite Carol Payne, Director of the Baltimore HUD Field Office to participate in the Commission.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events:

- **MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment):**
 - Kaley Laleker informed the Commission that the MDE building is now fully open and there are no restrictions at this point. If the Commission decides to return to in person meetings, MDE is available to host the meeting. MDE can also accommodate a hybrid meeting as well. Ruth Ann Norton suggested that the Commission have a hybrid meeting in April 2022. Shante Branch informed the Commission that there has been an update on the LRCA database with specific changes.
- **MDH (Maryland Department of Health):** Cliff Mitchell provided the following updates:
 - In December of 2021, MDH suffered a network blackout which happened to be a ransomware attack. This attack shutdown MDH's internal network. MDH is still in the process of recovering from the attack which has affected its turn around time to respond to customers. The attack has also slowed the ability to conduct epidemiologic analysis evaluation completion of the impact of universal lead testing. MDH is slowly continuing to complete the report as it is able. The attack has also slowed down the local health departments.
 - Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties are now hiring community health workers and case managers to implement its lead home and asthma home visiting programs.
 - The federal government is committed to IT modernization. Cliff Mitchell is working with MDE on data modernization as well and highlighted some of the challenges with this as well as workforce development challenges.
- **Maryland DHCD (Maryland Department of Housing and Community):** There were no comments or updates provided.
- **BCHD (Baltimore City Health Department):** Sheneka Frasier informed the Commission that BCHD has been having difficulties moving forward with unit production due to the pandemic and procurement challenges. BCHD is currently working through those challenges to resolve those issues. Sheneka Frasier asked the Commission to spread the word that BCHD is currently looking to hire outreach workers or social service coordinators. Mary Beth Haller reported that Geraldine Woodson (Day) is retiring May 1, 2022. Cliff Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Ruth Ann Norton, for the Commission to officially recognize Geraldine Woodson's work through the years and her contribution to the families and children of Baltimore City by sending a letter to the Baltimore City Health Department to Dr. Jeraz for Dr. Jeraz to present it to Geraldine Woodson. Ruth Ann Norton would like to also invite Geraldine Woodson to the Lead Commission Meeting in order to celebrate her service. Paula Montgomery volunteered to write a letter and certificate.

- **HABC** (Housing Authority of Baltimore City): There were no comments or updates provided.
- **Baltimore City DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development). There were no comments or updates provided.
- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care): Manjula Paul reported that OCC is fully operational. OCC invited Paula Montgomery to its recent staff meeting in order to present the Lead Surveillance Report to the licensing staff.
- **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration): There were no comments or updates provided.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative): GHHI requests to give a future update of the East Baltimore Initiative. Ruth Ann Norton reported that there are jobs available regarding climate energy and healthy housing. GHHI will be posting the five summer fellowship positions during the week of March 7, 2022. Wes Stewart requested a future discussion on the efforts to integrate lead with healthy housing and weatherization as a result if the infrastructure bill passes.

Commissioner Comments and Updates: There were no comments or updates provided.

Public Comments and Updates: There were no comments or updates provided.

Adjournment: Meeting ended at 11:35 a.m.

Future Meeting Date: The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2022 via Google Meet, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.