

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

1800 Washington Boulevard • Suite 610 • Baltimore Maryland 21230-1719

410-537-3304 • 800-633-6101 • www.mde.maryland.gov

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION Thursday, December 7, 2023 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jacob Benzaquen	Susan Kleinhammer	Christina Peusch
Benita Cooper	Paula Montgomery	Paul Rogers
Jack Daniels	Barbara Moore	Adam Skolnik
Anna Davis	Ruth Ann Norton	

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Senator Jill Carter	Cliff Mitchell
		Manjula Paul

Guests Present:

Tyler Abbott-MDE	Attilah Edges-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD	Tiffeny Price - MDH
Frederick Banks-MDE	Felicia Graves-MDE	Nekia Randall-Public
Chevelle Bash-GHHI	David Griffin-MDE	Bill Richardson-EPAR3
Aku Boatema-MDH	Angela Hall-GHHI	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Nicole Hart-BC-DHCD	Andrew Roelke-MDE
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Steven Homola-BC-DHCD	Tim Rule-MDE
Robyne Chaconas-MD-DHCD	Christopher Johnson	Aaron Sanzenbacher-MDE
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE	Eunice Johnson	Margret Schnitzer-BCHD
Chris Corzine-OAG	George Johnson	Anastasia Solano-MDE
Karrie Crumlish	Dawn Joy	Kevin Stanley-MDE
Leslie Delcid-MDE	Samantha Keane-MDE	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Christopher Denbleyker-MDE	Jonathan Klanderud-MDE	Kira Videan-MDE
Devon Dodson-MDE	Jacqueline Kozari-MDH	Chris White-ARC
Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Wade McCord-MDE	

Documents Distributed:

- Final Agenda 231207
- Draft Minutes 231102
- MDE Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Membership
- MDE LPPP 3.5 µg Commission Presentation
- MDE Lead Commission Reporting Calendar 2024
- MD Lead Assoc GLO and LCRI update Dec2023
- DHCD LHRP Lead Commission

Welcome and Introductions:

Commission Member, Paula Montgomery, called the meeting to order at 9:45 A.M. with welcome and introductions.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, seconded by Jack Daniels to accept the November 2, 2023 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- **Update on the Green and Healthy Homes Task Force and how it relates to Lead:** Deputy Director, Robyne Chaconas of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD) gave a brief overview on the Green and Healthy Homes Task Force which highlighted the establishment of the task force through HB169 to address energy efficiency and conservation for low-income households. The bill set energy savings targets, modified the Empower Program, and created the Green and Healthy Task Force. The task force, active for three years, involves 15 members from diverse sectors, meeting monthly since August. Responsibilities include tracking resources, addressing barriers, engaging stakeholders, and adhering to reporting requirements. Notably, the task force emphasizes a holistic "whole home" approach, considering critical repairs before energy efficiency. The upcoming December meeting will mark the submission of the first progress report. Details are available on the DHCD website, with the next public meeting scheduled for mid-January.
- **EPA's National Update on GLO (Get the Lead Out) and Proposed lead and Copper Rule Improvements:** Drinking Water Section Chief, Bill Richardson, From the Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 gave a slide presentation which highlighted the following: EPA Lead Service Line Technical Assistance Overview; GLO Program Goals: Deliver Direct TA to Communities, Build State Capacity, Share Lessons Nationally; GLO Center Direct TA Process; GLO Community Identification & Selection; Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Proposal; LCRI Key Provisions; and LRCI Next Steps. The presentation can be seen in the December 2023 Meeting Materials on the Lead Commission Website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/LeadPoisoningPrevention/Pages/LPPMeetingMaterials.aspx>. Three website links that were discussed are listed below:
 - EPA Region 3 Awards More Than \$240M for Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Upgrades in Maryland:
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-region-3-awards-more-240m-clean-water-and-drinking-water-infrastructure-upgrades#:~:text=News%20Releases%3A-,EPA%20Region%203%20Awards%20More%20Than%20%24240M%20for%20Clean.Water%20Infrastructure%20Upgrades%20in%20Maryland&text=The%20U.S.%20Environmental%20Protection%20Agency.drinking%20water%20across%20the%20state.>
 - National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper: Improvements (LCRI):
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/06/2023-26148/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations-for-lead-and-copper-improvements-lcri>
 - Climate Pollution Reduction Grants:
<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>
- **MDE Secretary Meeting Update and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact on Lead Poisoning Prevention - EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Opportunities:** Chair Ruth Ann Norton reported that discussions between GHHI and MDE focused on addressing high lead levels post-COVID. Concerns include funding, capacity, and support for MDE staff to manage hazards amid increased construction. GHHI emphasized the need for oversight and enforcement, particularly with potential funding opportunities through climate pollution reduction grants. Urging Maryland to join a coalition proposal with other states could secure substantial funding for lead reduction. The meeting also touched on climate efforts, decarbonization, and the possibility of MDE offering legal services to support families in the future, with the MDE Secretary expressing receptiveness to lead reduction initiatives.
- **Baltimore City DHCD Updates on Lead Hazard Remediation Funding:** Nicole Hart gave a slide presentation which highlighted the following: Purpose, Lead Hazard Reduction Program; Funding; Unit Production Progress; Challenges and Solutions. The presentation can be seen in the December 2023 Meeting Materials on the Lead

Commission Website:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/LeadPoisoningPrevention/Pages/LPPMeetingMaterials.aspx>.

- **2024 Plan for Case Management & Environmental Investigation for moving to 3.5 ug/dl:** Fred Banks reported that in response to lead levels ranging from 3.5 to 4.9, MDE has implemented strategies to address public needs. Collaborating with MDH, MDE is finalizing a letter to notify physicians, clinics, and labs about the elevated blood lead level change. Efforts involve capturing missing data for proper case prioritization and encouraging follow-ups. Collaboration with local Health Departments aims to prioritize referrals and strategies for hazard identification in homes. MDE is updating communication letters, establishing tiered timelines for parents based on blood lead levels, emphasizing critical cases. The plan includes utilizing all risk assessors and seeking additional resources through grants and partnerships. MDE is committed to ongoing monitoring and communication, recognizing the importance of a collective effort to address elevated blood lead levels effectively.
- **2024 Commission Reporting Calendar:** The Commission Members discussed future topics to be discussed in the 2024 calendar year.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **GHHI (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative)**
 - Chair Norton shared updates on GHHI's funding sources, which include congressional funding, a contribution of two and a half million dollars from Mayor Scott, and direct support from healthy housing initiatives. If you know of families in need, GHHI is equipped to provide swift assistance. Additionally, if you have families to refer, please direct them to GHHI's webpage at info@ghhi.org.
 - Wes Stewart provided information on GHHI's collaboration with MDH to disseminate details about the revised blood lead reference action levels. This outreach effort will target both healthcare providers and parents, ensuring clear comprehension of the changes and effective levels. The initiative is set to commence in January 2024, and GHHI is actively involved in supporting MDH with this informational campaign.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:11am

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, January 4, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- EPA Technical Assistance Center Presentation (University of MD Sacoby Wilson Group)
- Legislation (Subcommittee)