

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

MDE AERIS Conference Room
June 4, 2015

APPROVED Minutes

Members in Attendance

Melbourne Jenkins, Edward Landon, Patricia McLaine (via phone), Cliff Mitchell, Barbara Moore, Del. Nathaniel Oaks, Christina Peusch, Linda Lee Roberts, John Scott, Ken Strong, Tameka Witherspoon

Members not in Attendance

Nancy Egan, Susan Kleinhammer, Paula Montgomery

Guests in Attendance

Michelle Franken (Cogency), Liz Kelly (OCC), Myra Knowlton (BCHD), John Krupinsky (MDE), Nancy Servatius (DHMH), Sally Bjornholm (GHHI), Mark Kravatz (GHHI), Ron Wineholt (AOBA), Arla Washington (AMA), Nick Cavey (MIA), Loretta Wallace (BCoCC)

Welcome and introductions

Ed Landon called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. with welcome and introductions. Minutes of May 7, 2015 were reviewed and accepted. Mel Jenkins made a motion to accept and the motion was seconded by John Scott. All present commission members were in favor.

Old Business

Funding for Child Care Facilities Workgroup

The group has not yet met. Ed Landon asked for a chair for the group and suggested Liz Kelly. Loretta Wallace will ask Liz Kelly to coordinate a meeting. Pat McLaine feels a Commissioner should chair the group. Ken Strong wants to be more involved but has another deadline of 6/23, therefore unable to lead this child care workgroup. Commission is asking for a report from workgroup for the August meeting. Liz Kelly will set up a meeting with the plan for a Commission member to be the chair.

Letter to Federal Legislators

Letter was drafted to request Federal level support for lead poisoning prevention efforts and sent to Commission members by email for approval. The letter included and statement about Freddie Gray's history of lead poisoning. Though not all Commission members were in agreement with including the statement about Freddie Gray, the majority did agree. The letter was sent to Legislators the last week of May. So far Pat McLaine has received one positive response and will report on the feedback received to the letter at the July Commission meeting.

Priorities for 2015

The Commissioners reviewed handout “Lead Commission Priorities for 2015” which listed the tallied votes. First priority (14 points) is outreach/education to child care, older property owners, health care providers. Second priority (12 points) is MDE resources for additional response for children with BLL 5-9, including issuing violations. There is a tie for third priority (each with 11 points) are blood lead testing, including outreach/education of health care providers, follow-up of 5-9, universal testing approach; and evaluation of regulation compliance, including rental properties and follow-up of lead poisoning cases.

Cliff Mitchell noted the list provides a nice summary of issues, and there are several duplicates/overlapping goals. The top 5 priorities (all ≥ 10 points) involve some outreach, and #1 and #3 address education. Commission is very clear that priority is outreach and education. New guidelines target education to providers and parents. Ken Strong pointed out that #2 (MDE resources) are needed so to support other priorities.

What’s next? Should there be a workgroup to determine how to proceed? Pat McLaine has started a list of items from previous meetings and plans to talk to Paula Montgomery about issues that have recurred and need to be addressed – such as screening and permitting. Jason Hessler will present about permitting at the July 2nd meeting.

DHMH Lead Targeting Rollout

Cliff Mitchell presented a “lists of asks” regarding the rollout of the new targeting plan that will change the landscape of testing/screening:

- Expanded testing rollout – ways to communicate to providers? Parents? Child care providers? Non-licensed child care providers?
- How to get information to communities with large immigrant population?
- How to get information to insurance companies?

Cliff Mitchell asked that Commission members provide guidance and input to DHMH about the most effective means of communication and requested that Commissioners let him know if there are any other areas that need to be addressed – such as “should there be testing before kindergarten or first grade?”

Cliff Mitchell asked specifically about suggestions for strategies to address health care providers: with whom should DHMH communicate? What is the best media for each targeted groups? Are society newsletters effective means for communications?

John Scott suggested using Public Service Announcements (PSAs). Ed Landon emphasized using social media/technology such as twitter. After additional discussion, it was thought that Twitter may be good for the public but not health care providers. Ed Landon feels public will drive what needs to be done. So far he has not seen anything about lead poisoning on his twitter account. John Scott noted that providers have so many other issues to address they can forget about blood lead levels. John Krupinsky noted that MDE has had conversations with providers

but that information about the need for testing was not clear. Information alone is not sufficient; we will need to ensure follow-through.

Linda Roberts suggested using Housing Organizations as a means of communicating with housing stakeholders. Barbara Moore stated that the Maryland Chesapeake NAPNAP (Pediatric nurse practitioners) online alerts could be used to notify NPs. Barbara Moore stated that she has been working with a group of pediatricians from Hopkins Community Partners on a provider education program, developed because a child was recently admitted to an acute care facility from an ER with lead poisoning and then subsequently discharged to home on chelation without home status being confirmed as lead free, which it was not. Primary Care Providers (PCPs) are not currently aware of resources available in the community. Maryland should consider in-services for other practice groups. Cliff Mitchell reported that he has developed a slide presentation with the public health residents which can be taken anywhere; Barbara Moore requested a copy of the slide presentation.

Pat McLaine asked for a clearer statement about what DHMH wants to do; are resources sufficient? Cliff reported that he is developing materials with the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and has contracts with them. They are developing a one-page information sheet on "how to manage..." for health care providers.

John Krupinsky asked about outreach to MCOs and if problems related to families getting to blood draw sites/transportation are being addressed. Cliff reported he had discussions with Medical Assistance and MCOs, to determine if Point of Care (POC) lead testing will be reimbursed. Some insurers bundle reimbursement for lead testing with other tests.

Dundalk 4th of July Parade

Tamika Witherspoon has completed the application for a group to participate in the parade. She is planning for the group "Dallas and Friends Lead Free Zone" to make a float. Commission members are invited to participate as individuals to support Tamika's efforts. John Scott has made a donation to support Tamika's group.

New Business

Baltimore City HUD Application

Ken Strong presented a letter to Matt Ammon at Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, UD Dept of Housing and Urban Development supporting Baltimore City's application for the "Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program (FR-5900-N-13), and the Baltimore City Lead Hazard Reduction Program abstract. Pat McLaine asked Ken what the supplemental healthy homes funding could be used for. Ken Strong reported that the program has the Healthy Homes Rating System on a tablet and can easily identify the highest needs in a home, which will be used to help decide what needs to be done for individual homes and how money will be spent. So far, 33 people have been trained on using the rating system.

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John Krupinsky asked about application:

- Who can apply? Ken Strong reported that families with children under the age of 6, living in a house with hazards can apply; the application is given priority if the child has an elevated blood lead level. Baltimore City Health Department will provide a list of families for outreach and recruitment.
- Has the form been streamlined? Ken Strong noted that the local application has been streamlined but the HUD part is tedious/long/detailed – if any part is missing, the application may be tossed.
- What percent of applications get approved? Ken Strong stated a lot of applications have been incomplete and have been withdrawn due to inconvenience of relocation. It has been difficult to meet goals because many houses have structural damage, including a current pilot case with GHHI. In these situations, the program has gone to the house with scanner, tried to identify problems and to stretch resources

Mark Kravatz indicated that sometimes the deed is not available, for instance with when there is an estate following the death of a family member who willed the house to someone in family.

Ken Strong reports that so far the field visits have gone well.

Ed Landon asked if additional letters of support are needed and Ken responded yes. Pat McLaine made a motion that the Commission send a letter of support for the grant application, seconded by Barbara Moore; Mel Jenkins abstained, all other commissioners voted to in support of sending a letter.

Education/Outreach Campaign to Faith-Based Community

Ken Strong noted that Freddie Gray and his sister had a history of lead poisoning. Baltimore City is considering working with the faith-based community to inform at-risk communities about lead poisoning. Ken Strong and Michael O’Leary of Baltimore City Health Department have developed a 2 page flyer “Prevent Lead Poisoning” to be distributed to church communities. Ken Strong requested that the Commission review the draft and provide feedback. The flyer addresses what is lead, what can lead do to you, who is most at risk, how does someone become poisoned by lead, what can you do, and local resources.

Ken Strong asked if there are any additional resources. Is the best education material highlighted? Is it better to do at one time or better to spread education out over time? They are willing to send speakers out to groups as well. Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods should be contacted for support. It was suggested to add MDE and for resources to use email addresses. Also under resources, change “Benefits Screening” to “Service Coordination”

Pat McLaine asked who will follow-up with an increased number of Notices of Defects, if filings by families are encouraged? What strategies will we use to handle the increase? She suggested that we need to look at what can be put into place to address the increased workload. Ken Strong will assure that someone available to answer calls and questions.

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Future Meeting Dates

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2015 at MDE, 9:30am – 11:30am.

Agency Updates

Maryland Department of the Environment –nothing to report per John Krupinsky

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Cliff Mitchell indicated he is asking for suggestions from several groups including Office of Child Care, Children’s Environmental Health Advocacy Council, Commission on Environmental Justice/Sustainable Communities, with the focus on how to communicate to providers and how to reach “hard to reach” communities, especially immigrants and older children who may have had inadequate health care earlier and were not tested at a younger age.

Ed Landon asked about the time line for implementation. Cliff Mitchell stated that a formal process with timeline is in place with regulatory review and draft regulations this year (Summer/Fall 2015), and implementation to begin January 1, 2016. Pat McLaine asked that Cliff Mitchell provide slides from the presentation in May to the Commission, as requested and promised previously.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development - Ed Landon reported that a meeting will be held at Morgan State on June 4, 2015 to discuss funding for West Baltimore.

Baltimore City Health Department – nothing to report per Myra Knowlton

Office of Child Care – Liz Kelly reported that the Office is in the process of hiring a new nurse consultant with interviews to be held next week.

Maryland Insurance Administration – nothing to report

Public Comment

Tameka Witherspoon reported that 2 months ago she invited the major to attend a Commission meeting to discuss city’s plans on handling the large number of old/abandoned houses in the city. However, she has not been able to make it due to other commitments, but the Health Commissioner may be able to attend the meeting on 7/2/15. Pat McLaine indicated she will follow up with an invitation to the Health Commissioner to attend an upcoming meeting.

Ken Strong reported he has spoken with Jason about presenting at July meeting.

Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, Mark Kravatz – discussed a former Rhode Island program in which research students identified community resources in the state. The program is being started in Maryland with students for Johns Hopkins this summer. There are 74 applications.

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They will identify agencies available in the city and lead resources in the state of Maryland.

www.wikihousing.org

Adjournment

A motion was made by Linda Roberts to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barbara Moore. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.