

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

MDE AERIS Conference Room
September 7, 2017

APPROVED Minutes

Members in Attendance

Shana G. Boscak, Anna L. Davis, Mary Beth Haller, Barbara Moore, Paula Montgomery, Leonidas Newton, Sen. Nathaniel Oaks, Manjula Paul, Christina Peusch

Members not in Attendance

Susan Kleinhammer, Patricia McLaine, Cliff Mitchell, John Scott, Adam Skolnik

Guests in Attendance

Ella Carroll-Price (DHCD), Syeeta Hampton-EI (MMHA), Rachel Hess Mutinda (MDH), Dawn Joy (AMA), Myra Knowlton (BCHD), Wade McCord (MDE), Ruth Ann Norton (GHHI), Monica Patel, Ron Wineholt (AOBA)

Welcome and Introductions

Barbara Moore called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM with welcome and introductions.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Beth Haller and seconded by Nathaniel Oaks to accept the August minutes as amended. All present Commissioners were in favor.

Old Business

Letter from Senator Cardin – Senator Benjamin L. Cardin responded to the Commission's letter advising the Commission of his support for the lead prevention and mitigation programs administered by HUD, the CDC, and the EPA. Ruth Ann Norton noted that Susan Collins and Jack Reed secured language in the fiscal year 2017 appropriations bill that added funding and required HUD to lower its blood level threshold to match the CDC's. She also noted that Baltimore City was part of the coordinated effort by state officials as a city with higher incidents of lead poisoning. She also noted that the final spending package for FY16 increased funding for CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program to \$17 million. This will fund approximately 35 state and local health departments to enhance local surveillance capacities to help guide management of children identified with high blood levels. While the national office of GHHI had advocated for a restoration of pre-2012 level funding, she noted that this is a step in the right direction.

Letter to the Office of Child Care – Copies of the letter from the Chair to Elizabeth Kelley, Director, Office of Child Care (OCC) were given to Commission members and guests. Barbara Moore noted that at the August 2017 meeting, Commission members decided to send a letter to OCC in response to the OCC Report, sharing the Commission's concerns with regards to

identification of properties at the highest risk and the need for uniform lead dust standards. Barbara Moore noted that the letter went out
Lead Commission Minutes
September 7, 2017
Page 2

on August 31, 2017. The Commission had not received a response as of the date of the September meeting. Christina Peusch noted that she had reached out to Director Kelley before the letter was sent and was advised that Director Kelly will be responding to it. Christina Peusch also asked for clarification that the letter was concerned primarily with family childcare and center-based childcare and that before they open, those types of centers must submit lead safe certificates. She also wanted to make sure that, regardless of whether the centers were in an owner-occupied or rental property, there were still the same requirements with respect to lead safe certificates. She noted that Director Kelley confirmed that this is the policy of the OCC. She said that she was advised that they also perform unannounced inspections that include both dusting and chip testing. Paula Montgomery said OCC's policy is more stringent than the actual regulations and recommended that the Commission wait for the response of the Director. She noted that OCC may have to amend their regulations to include pre-1978 rental because the regulations were written prior to the law. But, she noted that the fact that OCC requires the lead safe certificate is a commendable practice and one that should be encouraged. Myra Knowlton suggested that they submit proposed regulations with the response. Ruth Ann Norton asked Paula Montgomery for clarification as to whether the regulations need to be more stringent. She said that the regulations need to be updated to clarify that they apply to owner-occupied properties. Barbara Moore noted that the key point of our letter is to be able to know the age of construction of properties on a searchable database. Paula Montgomery suggested that Jeany Pope would be happy to help with updating regulations.

New Business

Update on health lead screening – Rachel Hess-Mutinda provided two general updates. First, she noted that last month, Cliff Mitchell reported that the Department of Health (MDH) was in the process of developing outreach materials with DHCD on lead remediation and asthma. There have been meetings with all local health departments about the Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids program, what the local departments can expect, and how to do outreach and use community health workers. MDH is currently working with GHHI to train CHWs to do education around asthma and lead throughout the state. Baltimore City has a strong program, but other jurisdictions are still working on coming up to speed. MDH will report back to the Commission throughout the year to let us know how the initiative is progressing.

Rachel Hess-Mutinda also reported that MDH is working with Paula Montgomery from MDE to evaluate the change in regulation to universal testing throughout the state. MDH thinks that the numbers are positive. Barbara Moore asked what the evaluation would include. She asked whether children are having problems getting tested with the point of care (POC) instruments and how many sites are now offering POC testing. Rachel Hess-Mutinda noted that MDH is assessing the change from 2015 to 2016 and speaking with physicians. The program started in March 2016 and so they have data from only a short period of time. They are also looking at the responses to the videos that the Department produced. Barbara Moore asked about the number of calls to the phone line and if the resources are currently adequate to meet needs. Ruth Ann Norton noted that, following a visit from Cliff Mitchell and Rachel Hess-Mutinda last year, Pennsylvania instituted a program similar to Maryland's. Cliff Mitchell and Barbara Moore will be

speaking at a WIC conference in October and in September at a lead conference. Ruth Ann Norton asked whether metrics can be given to the MDH to

Lead Commission Minutes

September 7, 2017

Page 3

track. Rachel Hess-Mutinda said that she did not know what the metrics were being used to evaluate the program but MDH is meeting with lead case managers. Shana Boscak said that the universal testing policy changed her family's lives. She said that their child was showing no signs of lead poisoning or exposure, but that the universal testing caught it early and saved their child. She noted that she is so grateful and said that if testing had not been mandatory, they would never have known until it was too late.

Future Meeting Dates

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2017 at MDE in the AERIS Conference Room – Front Lobby, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

Agency Updates

Maryland Department of Environment – Paula Montgomery's report piggybacked on Rachel Hess-Mutinda's. The MDE Annual Report will have good and interesting information on point of care and universal testing rates. Testing rates have gone up significantly and the agency is optimistic that the report will show that rates have gone up in areas where it was needed that they go up, as that is the intent. MDE will present their findings in November and are finalizing the report now. Paula Montgomery also mentioned again that the division chief position in rental registry is vacant as Joseph Wright left for another agency. In addition, Paula Montgomery's old position is still open. The position description is a Program Manager IV specific to enforcement compliance and accreditation. The position should be posted within the next few weeks. Finally, Paula noted that MDE is resuming the inspector contractor forums for education and outreach. Events will be held in Hagerstown, Baltimore, and on the Eastern Shore.

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – nothing further to report

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development – No representative present. Ruth Ann Norton requested that someone from the agency come and make a presentation to the Commission regarding Medicaid.

Baltimore City Health Department – Nothing to report.

Baltimore City Housing and Community Development – No representative present. It was noted that the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) and the Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) are now operating as two separate agencies and no longer function collectively as Baltimore Housing. It was also noted that Janet Abrahams is new Executive Director of HABC. Before coming to Baltimore, Ms. Abrahams was most recently with the New York City Housing Authority. The DHCD Housing Commissioner is now Michael Braverman.

Office of Child Care –Manjula Paul wanted to thank Pat McLaine for sending out the article on the teething bracelet. She noted that this is a common occurrence and that it is important to

these types of remedies, but the Office of Child Care does not recommend them. Christina Peusch questioned whether a ban on these types of homeopathic remedies should be written into law so that center directors would be able to prohibit their use. She noted that these products are promoted and advertised as homeopathic and so parents assume they are natural and safe. Barbara Moore noted that these homeopathic remedies are readily available over the internet. OCC would like to get the data when children go for testing and it is discovered that the elevated blood levels are due to toys or teething bracelets, etc. Paula Montgomery noted that this is an issue for the FDA/CPSC and that the Commission should focus on more outreach and make sure that families and communities that are affected by these types of products are educated as to the dangers. Shana Boscak asked whether efforts should be made to reach out to pediatricians to talk about homeopathic products. Wade McCord's office (MDE) publishes a notice when a homeopathic product is found to contain lead. Ruth Ann Norton agreed that public education is necessary and asked if Wade McCord's office does targeted outreach when products are found in a particular community. Information about lead in these other sources is relayed to MDH, the local health departments, and to the local immigration office. Rachel Hess-Mutinda noted that MDH prepared a pamphlet and that the Office of Immigrant Health translated it into several languages. An electronic version is also available. A request was made that to send the pamphlet to members of the Commission. Ruth Ann Norton noted that Environmental Defense Fund has taken on the issue of banning lead in jewelry, food, and other sources and may be willing to make a presentation if the Commission is interested. Paula Montgomery noted that it is important that the focus not be simply about banning the sale of such products, but to know the source for a child's lead poisoning. She also noted that these types of "other" sources of lead will be part of the annual report.

Barbara Moore passed around a flyer developed by WIC on lead poisoning that is used as a resource for families to learn about sources of lead. Each local health department in the state will get a copy of the flyer. Shana Boscak suggested that the information needs to be made widely available and asked how the MDH could help to make that happen. Rachel Hess-Mutinda noted that MDH could remove the WIC logo from the current flyer and send it out. Shana Boscak offered to help with that effort. Rachel Hess-Mutinda will send a PDF copy to Commission members and is able to edit the copy for additional uses.

Maryland Insurance Administration – No representative present.

Public Comment

Syeetah Hampton-El, Maryland Multi-Housing Association, announced the creation of the MMHA Service Training Academy that will train individuals to work in the multi-housing industry as service team professionals. The first class of 10 (with a goal of having 4 classes/year) will start in October. Students will spend 3 months in school including participating in an internship with the goal of obtaining real world work experience and training in the rental housing industry that will lead to full time job placement. Ruth Ann Norton suggested MMHA partner with Vehicles for Change since there is a requirement that students have a car. Dawn Joy reminded members that there is a Second Chance training program in Baltimore City. Syeetah Hampton-

El also asked the Commission to note that the offices of MMHA moved last month and are now located at 11155 Dolfied Blvd. Suite 200, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Lead Commission Minutes

September 7, 2017

Page 5

Ruth Ann Norton announced that the Pew Charitable Trust recently released an assessment of the lead risks that communities across the country face. The Report makes 10 recommendations for policy change that will help to prevent and respond to childhood lead exposure. Ruth Ann Norton served as an advisor and expert in connection with the Report, which looked at a range of federal, state, and local policies and solutions. She noted that the Report's recommendations align with national strategic plans. A representative from Pew may be available should the Commissioners wish a briefing.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Nathaniel Oaks to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Beth Haller. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.