

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

(Approved w/revisions 4/7/11)

Thursday, February 17, 2011

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Eric Lomboy, Alvin Bowles, Patrick Connor, Cheryl Hall, P. Randi Johnson, Edward Landon, and Patricia McLaine.

COMMISSIONERS UNABLE TO ATTEND

Tanya Clayborn, Melbourne Jenkins, Barbara Moore, Delegate Nathaniel Oaks, Pam Putman, Linda Roberts and Mary Snyder-Vogel

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Joseph Wright – MDE, Kory Lemmort – CECLP, Lou Dorsey – Legal Aid Bureau, Molly Call – CECLP, Michael Papi – JHHC, Kirsten Day – MDE, and Tracy Smith - MDE.

Introductions – The meeting began at 9:50 AM.

Old Business - Minutes from the January 6, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

Future Meeting Dates

First Thursday of every month. All meetings are scheduled for 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230. The next Lead Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2011.

Update from 2010 Task force thoughts: March meeting is still to be determined. Pat McLaine is continuing to write comments and an outline. Have evaluative info – should be able to make good recommendations.

Legislation:

Alvin – Lead safe improvements tax credit (HB527) – introduced several times over the years. Eric stated the maximum available is \$1M cap for the year. If you do lead reduction approved by DHCD, you can ask for \$5,000 credit per unit, maximum of \$50,000 credit for each individual.

Pat Connor – asked about pre 1978 housing. Applies to rental and owner occupied as well. DHCD has to approve.

Kory Lemmort updated the Commission on HB1033 – lead paint dust testing – there are some inconsistencies to be cleared up. First hearing is March 9th at 1pm before Environmental Matters. Delegate Oaks and McIntosh are sponsors. This Bill does away with visual inspection and there are minor revisions from last year's Bill. Ed Landon stated in 2009, no action was taken on this Bill. In 2010 it was unfavorable. Under Full Risk Reduction (FRR) it still requires re-hanging doors, smooth and cleanable surfaces. Modified Risk Reduction (MRR) – these removed in lieu of a general comment to comply with all state and local laws. Alvin asked - MRR eliminates tenant's option to sign off. Visual not required but if you're doing cleaning, encapsulating, etc. wouldn't there be some requirement for a visual inspection to verify that these were done? Patrick Connor – still getting supervisor's statement because inspector can not attest to HEPA vacuuming and washing being done.

Agency Updates:

MDE – Alvin introduced Joe Wright, new Section Head of the Lead Rental Registry at MDE. Alvin received notice of CDC grant cut 30%. Must go through a re-application process of a new 3-year grant competing with others. Maximum of 600,000/yr. Will be making drastic cuts in activities. Across the board with other states, the grant application is due to CDC March 16th. CDC wants healthy homes added as a unit. We should know by June if we are awarded. Big case still to be decided. We have very little general funds. We're adding healthy home questions to environmental investigations and giving out information. We do not want to lose sight of lead issues.

Pat McLaine stated that the Baltimore Healthy Homes program is a national leader and has developed good ways of adding Healthy Homes approach to lead visits. We can be more effective by taking the holistic look. We do not want to lose site of lead issues. Blood lead levels of 5ug/dL are associated with problems with kindergarten reading readiness.

CECLP - Molly Call – Cooperation of NGOs. Let us know if they can help. Alvin – CDC wants a broad mix of support for this approach. Perfect for the lead commissioners to discuss as it is a diverse group. MDE will need letters of support. Pushing to get it to our fiscal people. Had to send letter of intent – haven't had to do that before. The Commission voted to send a letter of support for the CDC grant to broaden the program's scope. Alvin will draft a letter and send out to the Commissioners for review.

DHMH – Representative not in attendance.

DHCD - Ed Landon – reviewing bills on “Green”.

BCHD – Eric Lomboy reported that Maryland did not receive funding from HUD and thus the City will not receive any further federal funding. The BCHD lead program will cease to exist as of March 31st. Services will most likely be overseen by Ken Strong, Department of Housing. Baltimore City will maintain attorneys for enforcement, but

grant money will not be available to abate houses. As a result, Eric Lomboy announced he is resigning as a member of the Commission. Pat McLaine asked how people will continue to receive these services. Eric indicated that he was not sure. DHCD may do it, but has constraints that would impact the program. For instance DHCD currently has no ability to move tenants out of properties while work is being done. It is up to the tenants to work it out with the landlords. Pat McLaine suggested that the Commission write a letter of concern about services being maintained by the City. Ed Landon indicated that the Commission needed specifics to what is being eliminated and how those items will be addressed.

Members voted to support sending a letter to BCHD regarding the Commission's concerns about maintaining lead abatement services in Baltimore City. Pat McLaine and Ed Landon will draft the letter and send it to Alvin Bowles who will send the letter for review via email.

Office of Childcare – Cheryl Hall - Follow up questions about information from Patricia Vauls (presented at February's meeting). Patricia is continuing conversations with people. In the midst of clarifying violations none of these programs in question were operating illegally. Going thru reorganization – need new regional manager. Spoke to inspectors for Belair Road and Loch Raven.. Harford Road locale was licensed. Payson St. program review in process – trying to determine status. Office of Child Care will get together with Kory Lemmort to see how Coalition can help with lead abatement projects.

MIA – Nothing to report at this time.

Coalition – Some limited resources in LEAP program.

Patrick Conner – Vacants to Value programs – who is handling lead issues? Super Lien certificate would be a good idea for \$10. Eric is only familiar with the City getting properties for land bank. Two different lien certificate levels in City. We should just charge one price. Does Commission want to do something about it? Recommend sending letter asking for clarification – voted in favor. Patrick Connor to write a letter.

Meeting adjourned 11:30 AM.