

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION
Maryland Department of the Environment
Approved Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 4, 2021

Documents Distributed:

- 2021 Parent Letter-Version 4.pdf
- Annual_Rpt_2020.pdf
- Draft Minutes 211007.pdf
- Final Agenda 211104.pdf
- Reporting Calendar 2022.pdf
- Revised Physician follow-up Lead Letter_10192021.pdf

Opening Welcome and Introductions:

Paula Montgomery called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM with welcome and introductions.

Members Present: 14

Jacob Benzaquen
Jill Carter
Benita Cooper
Jack Daniels
Anna Davis

Mary Beth Haller
Susan Kleinhammer
Cliff Mitchell
Paula Montgomery
Barbara Moore

Ruth Ann Norton
Manjula Paul
Christina Peusch
Paul Rogers

Members Absent: 3

Dalya Attar
Leonidas Newton

Adam Skolnik

Guests Present: 18

Chevelle Bash-GHHI
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE
Shante Branch-MDE
Lawrence Brown-MSU
Camille Burke-BCHD
Walter Clews-AmeriSpec
Chris Corzine-OAG

Eamon Flynn-MDH
Jason Harding-BCDHCD
Kathryn Hirabayashi-MDH
Ezatollah Keyvan-MDE
Kaley Laleker-MDE
Katelyn Mullins-MDH
Wendy Phillips-MDE

Cherise Roberts-GHHI
Georgella Samu-MDE
George Stewart-GHHI
Chris White-Arc Environmental

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Cliff Mitchell, seconded by Christina Peusch to amend the October 7, 2021 minutes. All present Commissioners were in favor of the amendments with the exception of Anna Davis and Barbara Moore who abstained; the amended minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- **Lead Commission Recognition and Awards:** Yearly, the Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission aims to recognize excellence, innovation, and leadership from within the Lead Poisoning Prevention community. The Commission members voted amongst the nominees previously submitted and the following nominees received an award:
 - Dr. Lawrence Brown was awarded with the Outstanding Child Health Environmental Advocate Award 2021
 - Dr. Cliff Mitchell was awarded Outstanding Advocate Award 2021
 - Dr. Ezatollah Keyvan-Larijani was awarded Special Recognition Award 2021
- **CDC Announces New Reference Level:** Paula Montgomery announced that the CDC has lowered the blood lead reference level. The Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee (LEPAC) unanimously voted on May 14, 2021 in favor of recommending that the CDC update the reference value level to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. Paula Montgomery opened up a discussion calling for comments from the Commission attendees within the medical providers, by asking how comfortable the providers were at identifying those lower blood lead levels with the current system and what impacts that would have on MDE.
 - Cliff Mitchell provided the following reference link: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/blood-lead-reference-value.htm> and indicated that internal discussions have begun between the agencies in terms of how to implement. MDE's clinical guidelines would need to be amended. Planning is already underway to address all these issues and MDH is currently working on the best way to implement this in a way that is clear for providers, the clinical community, and local health departments.
 - Ruth Ann Norton recommended that the legislation which moved the state level to 5 be reviewed. She also recommended that focus be placed on primary prevention by testing homes before kids get poisoned.
 - Paul Rogers made a motion to create a subcommittee, seconded by Cliff Mitchell, to address all these issues by monitoring, participating in discussions, and discussing rollout and implementation. All present Commissioners were in favor of creating a Subcommittee with Cliff Mitchell as its Chair. Wendy Phillips will work to schedule its first meeting in the near future. Recommended members of the Subcommittee are: Cliff Mitchell, Paul Rogers, Camile Burke, Barbara Moore, Paula Montgomery, Kaley Laleker, Shante Branch, Manjula Paul, Jacob Benzaquen, Ruth Ann Norton, and a non

commission health department representative from either Baltimore County or Prince George's County.

- **Update on Lead Testing and Immunization Subcommittee:** Cliff Mitchell recommended that he update the Physician letter to include a reference about the new CDC reference value level of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter and that more information will be forthcoming. Once the Physician letter has been finalized and signed, MDH will distribute it. Once the parent letter has been signed, it will go on the MDH website and MDH will send a Health Officer memo which will be distributed to the Health Officers, Environmental Health Directors, Communicable Disease folks, to make them aware that the information will be posted to each agency's website.
- **Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Discussion October 24 Through 30, 2021:** Paula Montgomery indicated that MDE encouraged a social media campaign via facebook, twitter, and instagram and reached several thousand people. Additionally, GHHI had a webinar series that took place. Press coverage for the Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is as follows:
 - Paula Montgomery provided the following WJZ new coverage link:
<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2021/10/25/state-agencies-assist-family-after-their-toddler-tests-positive-for-lead-poisoning/>
 - Wess Stewart Provided the following WMAR news coverage link
<https://www.wmar2news.com/news/local-news/dundalk-family-encourages-lead-testing-for-children-after-personal-battle>

New Business:

- **Preliminary Data Report on Childhood Lead Registry (CY2019 Childhood Lead Surveillance in MD Report):** Rena Boss-Victoria gave a powerpoint presentation which was provided to the commission prior to the meeting. The actual formal report will be delayed but MDE will keep the Commission updated.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events:

- **MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment):** Shante Branch shared that December 6, 2021 LRCA will go online. MDE is in the process of scheduling internal and external training. The recorded training sessions will be placed on MDE's website.
- **MDH (Maryland Department of Health):** Cliff Mitchell indicated that MDH is working to improve coordination with the MDE surveillance program as well as focusing on expansion of MDH's statewide integrated health improvement strategy. MDH will be adding two new jurisdictions to their list of 9 jurisdictions that have home visiting programs. The additional jurisdictions are Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties.
- **Maryland DHCD (Maryland Department of Housing and Community) Development:** Jack Daniels reported an increase of cases for DHCD and it is trying to implement quick turnaround times. Many timelines have been able to be reduced.

- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Camille Burke reported that BCHD is duley trailing some people in lead and asthma. Additionally, new cases are being investigated as well as revisiting the older cases.
- **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): There were no comments or updates provided.
- **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration): There were no comments or updates provided.
- **GHHI** (Green and Healthy Homes Initiative): Ruth Ann Norton reported the Infrastructure Reconciliation Bills are in the process of working through congress. There are 5 billion dollars for lead hazard control coming out of the recommendation from the Financial Services Committee in the House. In the 150 billion affordable housing, there is 5 billion on lead specific, lead will be a primary requirement. 5 billion dollars are coming out of the committee portion to go to rehab and redevelopment. 40 billion will go to lead service line replacement in that work for the rehab and a portion of that will go to rehab and redevelopment. There is still about 40 billion dollars that will go to lead service line replacement . GHHI is trying to learn what will happen on the soil side. In all the weatherization and pre-weatherization dollars that are now coming out, there is an understanding that lead hazard control has to be done as part of the pre-weatherization process. GHHI will be doing a panel with the National League of Cities in the fall on mayors and governors who made significant contributions. GHHI is also doing a lot of Town Hall meetings to educate people on the money that is upcoming.

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

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

Adjournment: A motion was made by Paula Montgomery, seconded by Ruth Ann Norton. All present Commissioners were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 11:38am.

Future Meeting Date:

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 2 via Google Meet, from 9:30 – 11:30 AM.