

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

March 2, 2023 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Google Meet

Approved Meeting Minutes

Documents Distributed:

- Lead Commission Distributed Meeting Material Cover Page
- Final Agenda 230302
- Draft Minutes 230202
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Compliance Numbers FY 23 through Q2
- HB00036 - Real Property – Actions to Repossess – Proof of Rental Licensure_MMHA Suggested Amendments
- HB00036_DLS_FN
- HB00036FirstRead

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Mary Beth Haller
Senator Jill Carter	Christina Peusch

Guests Present:

Tyler Abbott-MDE	William Doyle-HCHD	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE
Frederick Banks-MDE	Colleen Duval-GHHI	Tiffany Price-MDH
Akua Boatema-MDH	Eamon Flynn-MDH	Tim Rule-MDE
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Steven Homola-BCDHCD	Candace Scott-MDH
Camille Burke-BCHD	Darlene Israel-MDH	Anastasia Solano-MDE
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE	Dawn Joy-AMA	Kevin Stanley-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Jonathan Klanderud-MDE	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD	Wendy Phillips-MDE	Chris White-ARC

Opening Welcome and Introductions: Commission Chair, Ruth Ann Norton called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with welcome and introductions.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Anna Davis, seconded by Paul Rogers to accept the February 2, 2023 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

- **Opening Remarks and Acknowledgements:** Chair Norton thanked the MDE Secretary, Serena McIlwain for taking the time to visit at the last Commission meeting despite the technical difficulties. Chair Norton also expressed an interest to have Secretary McIlwain participate in person at MDE in a future Commission meeting, and also invite Secretary Laura Herrera Scott of the Maryland Department of Health to join the meeting.
- **Commission Meeting Schedule:** Chair Norton proposed that the Commission meeting schedule be modified to convene every other month, resulting in a total of six meetings per year instead of nine (January, March, May, July, September, November). This recommendation aims to streamline the meeting frequency for increased efficiency. During discussions, two members of the Commission expressed their support for this proposal.
- **Joint Commissions:** Dr. Cliff Mitchell has proposed that the three Commissions, namely the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council, the Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission, and the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, occasionally convene jointly in order to strategize collaboratively and be viewed as a cohesive entity rather than distinct commissions. This recommendation aims to promote a unified approach and enhance the effectiveness of their collective efforts in addressing critical environmental and public health issues.
- **Change in Upcoming Commission Meeting Dates:** Chair Norton proposed the cancellation of the April Commission meeting in order to honor the members and guests who will be celebrating the upcoming holiday. The recommendation was to reconvene the Commission meeting in May. Furthermore, Chair Norton suggested that the Commission consider holding a voluntary meeting in June to coincide with Healthy Homes Awareness Month, which would be open to those who are available to attend. Additionally, there is a possibility of having Marcia Fudge, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development join the June meeting. A motion was made by Ruth Ann Norton and seconded by Anna Davis to cancel the meeting for April and hold a meeting in June. All present Commissioners were in favor and the motion was passed.
- **Applying for Grants:** Chair Norton, with the concurrence of the Commission, proposed that a formal letter be sent on behalf of the Commission to the Secretaries of Health, Environment, and Housing. The letter would request that, in its agencies grant applications, the Secretaries prioritize initiatives related to lead prevention awareness, particularly with regard to blood poisoning, as well as efforts to address lead paint hazards and enhance contractor capacity building. Chair Norton provided a link regarding grants for those who may be interested. The link is titled: Environmental Justice Grants, Funding and Technical Assistance
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>
- **Re-engagement and Igniting of Community Outreach and Social Media:** Chair Norton proposed a collaborative effort among multiple organizations to develop an action plan with a primary focus on education and outreach. To facilitate this, Coleen Duval will coordinate with the volunteers to schedule a meeting. The volunteers involved in this initiative are Ruth Ann Norton, Paula Montgomery, Jacob Benzaquen, Rena Boss-Victoria, Barbara Moore, Susan Kleinhammer, Anna Davis, and Chris White. Additionally, Anna Davis suggested that the group also collaborate in providing resources for families who may not be aware of their eligibility to apply for financial benefits in cases where their child has

been affected by lead poisoning or is experiencing its effects. Chair Norton indicated that she will provide an update at the Commission meeting in May.

Old Business:

- **Commission Membership Recommendation - Parent of a Lead Poisoned Child:** Chair, Norton acknowledged receiving a nomination for a parent of a lead poisoned child and requested others to forward any additional nominations as the Commission is starting to move forward with recommendation.

New Business:

- **Invitations to Upcoming Commission Meetings:** Chair Norton indicated that invitations to attend a future Commission meeting for Governor Wes Moore, Secretary Jacob Day of the Department of Housing & Community Development, Secretary Laura Herrera Scott of the Maryland Department of Health, and Secretary Marcia Fudge of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are forthcoming.
- **HB1110 Updates - Environment - Lead Poisoning Prevention - Elevated Blood Lead Level (Tyler Abbott):** Tyler Abbott, Director of Land and Materials Administration at MDE, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Material of the presentation was provided in advance to the guests and members of the Commission. The presentation highlighted MDE's mission, background of HB1110, and MDE's findings and recommendations.
- **Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance Report Updates:** Tyler Abbott reported that there were unforeseen challenges with the selected contractor for data input, resulting in delays. As a result, MDE is currently in the process of inputting the remaining few thousand cases. It is anticipated that all data will be entered and analyzed by the end of March, with the report expected to be ready for review and sharing with the Commission by mid-April.
- **Subcommittee Updates on Environmental Investigations:** Paula Montgomery informed the Commission that the Subcommittee met on February 23. The Subcommittee members included Paula Montgomery, Susan Kleinhammer, Barbara Moore, Camille Burke, Fred Banks, and Jonathan Klanderud. The discussions focused on various topics, including the internal processes for environmental investigations at the current blood lead reference value of 5 micrograms per deciliter, the use of HUD guidelines Chapter 16 as part of environmental investigations in Maryland, the use of an environmental questionnaire to determine testing needs and reporting findings to families and property owners, simplifying the report of findings for better understanding, outreach and education to families of identified children, and the legal ability to share documentation with other case managers throughout the state. The action items undertaken by the Subcommittee included creating a decision tree based on regulations for the Environmental Investigation process to be presented during the May Commission meeting, ensuring agencies adhere to Maryland regulations, creating a draft document to provide families and property owners with clear explanations of report findings, creating and disseminating source-specific fact sheets for medical environmental case managers to help eliminate potential sources of environmental hazards, and contacting MDE's Office of Attorney General to determine if the report of findings can be shared with other case managers outside the statute.
- **MDE – Compliance and Enforcement:** Fred Banks updated the Commission on Compliance and Enforcement. It was reported that the day-to-day operations and accreditations from third-party inspectors have increased, although there have been some issues with the new LRCA. The general

public is becoming more familiar with the system, and staff are actively answering questions and seeking feedback for improvement. The number of applications for registrations has significantly increased from Fiscal Year 22 to Fiscal Year 23, which is seen as positive. However, inspections have slightly decreased due to limited staff and violation numbers appear to be down slightly. Penalties collected have slightly increased. Additionally, MDE intends to increase its presence in the community through more site visits and increased visibility.

- **Review Transition Reports relating to MDE Lead Program:** Ruth Ann Norton indicated that do date she has not yet received the transition report from the Moore Administration and she will share this at the May meeting.

Legislation/Pending Legislative Action Dates

- HB0036/SB0100 - Real Property – Actions to Repossess – Proof of Rental Licensure
 - Adam Skolnik reported that he expects that this bill will be passed.
- HB0079/SB0296 - Housing and Community Development - Whole-Home Repairs Act of 2023
 - Chair Norton reported that this bill was heard in the House and the Senate and is currently on hold and may not pass this legislative session.
- HB0169/SB0144 - Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing
 - Chair Norton reminded the Committee that this bill passed during the 2022 legislative session but it was vetoed by Governor Hogan. Chair Norton reported that it is currently progressing through the committees.
- HB0200/SB0181 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2024)

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events:

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment): No updates were provided.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health): Candace Scott reported that there will be an Asthma Summit held on May 18, 2023. The event is expected to be an all day event hosted at Howard Community College.
- **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter): Dr. Paul Rogers reported that MDAAP had its succession on its Echo lead training program for the providers in Maryland. All of the lectures are online at the MDAAP website. If anyone is interested they can access the lectures.
- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care): Manjula Paul requested an update on OCC's request to MDH regarding the merging of the immunization certificate and the lead screening certificate into one form. GHHI will follow-up with MDH and provide an update at the May meeting. Additionally, Ms. Paul requested that MDE perform water testing in the licensed childcare programs by using the same approach that was done with the MSDE public school programs for its child care programs.
- **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration): No updates were provided.
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development): Jack Daniels reported that MD-DHCD re-released its rebranding/redesign of its critical repair programs and also reported that two deals that were mentioned in the February meeting have been approved.
- **BC- DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development): Katherine Taylor reported updates which included the following: The period of performance was able to be extended for one of the grants in order to accommodate for the hold on work during covid. BC-DHCD has been proactively working towards increasing its intake over the past few months. This includes reaching out to local organizations such as Jude Heights, Social East Partnership, Bon Secours, and others, and creating Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to streamline the application process. BC-DHCD

has posted its contractor bid through the procurement office and is actively seeking additional contractors. The deadline for bid submissions is March 15, 2023.

- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Camile Burke reported that BCHD is starting its spring testing tour with Saint Vincent de Paul in order to figure out who and what needs to be tested including follow ups with all of the kids that are being tested. Also, Sue Kleinhammer hosted BCHD at BCHD's facility yesterday in order to give a refresher training.
- **GHHI** (Green and Healthy Homes Initiative): Chair Norton reported that GHHI recently hired a new social and digital media employee to work with its communication office and it will be publishing out monthly newsletters. Chair Norton reported that if any of the Commission agencies are interested in having its work highlighted in the newsletter to please contact Beth Bingham who is the Director of Communications at GHHI at bbingham@ghhi.org. During June, GHHI will host a round table with EPA focusing on lead, contractor development, and the Justice 40 Initiative. Additionally, in March, GHHI is hosting a national Decarbonization Electrification Conference.

Commissioner Comments and Updates:

- **Letter to Governor and Secretary of Education:** Chair Norton has made a recommendation that she and Manjula Paul work together to draft a formal letter on behalf of the Commission addressed to both the Governor and the Secretary of Education. The letter will emphasize the critical need to allocate funding for child care and respectfully request supplementary financial support for child care services in the forthcoming state budget.
- **Permitting Process:** During the Commission meeting held on January 5, 2023, Commissioner Susan Kleinhammer expressed her desire for the Commission to revisit the topic of the permitting process. Commissioner Kleinhammer has concerns that this important matter is not receiving sufficient attention. In response to her request, Chair Norton recommended the formation of a Subcommittee to further discuss this issue, with Commissioner Kleinhammer being appointed as the chair of the Subcommittee to facilitate progress. Adam Skolnik volunteered to be on the Subcommittee.

Public Comments and Updates: No Comments or updates reported.

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, 05/04/23 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m which includes the Agenda items below:

- Motion to vote on Commission Meeting every other month (All)
- Update on the Re-engagement and Igniting of Community Outreach and Social Media Efforts (Ruth Ann Norton)
- Status of MDH Merging Immunization Certificate With Lead Screening Certificate (Ruth Ann Norton)
- Findings on Environmental Investigations Subcommittee: Inconsistencies with Lead Testing (Paula Montgomery)
- Introduction and Commitment of Governor Wes Moore
- Introduction to Secretary Laura Herrera Scott of the Maryland Department of Health
- Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance Report Updates (Tyler Abbott)
- MDE Update on Water Safety (Christina Ardito, Georgella Samu, Tim Rule)
- Daycare Discussion Progress (Ruth Ann Norton)
- Review Transition Reports relating to MDE Lead Program (Ruth Ann Norton)

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Jacob Benzaquen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paula Montgomery. All present Commissioners were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.