

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 4, 2023 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jacob Benzaquen

Paula Montgomery

Paul Rogers

Jack Daniels

Barbara Moore

Adam Skolnik

Mary Beth Haller

Ruth Ann Norton

Cliff Mitchell

Manjula Paul

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar

Benita Cooper

Susan Kleinhammer

Senator Jill Carter

Anna Davis

Christina Peusch

Guests Present:

Tyler Abbott-MDE

Angela Hall-Public

DeShanette Ponzo-Brown-MDE

Frederick Banks-MDE

Jason Harding-BCDHCD

Victor Powell-HUD

Chevelle Bash-GHHI

Steven Homola-BCDHCD

Tiffeny Price-MDH

Thea Becton-HUD

Darlene Israel-MDH

Tim Rule-MDE

Akua Boatema-MDH

Alexia Jones-GHHI

Candace Scott-MDH

Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE

Dawn Joy-AMA

Tiana Sheppard-GHHI

Camille Burke-BCHD

Nilesh Kalyanaraman-MDH

Kevin Stanley-MDE

Subha Chandar-MDH

Comfort Kissi-GHHI

George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI

Shamola Dye-MDE

Jonathan Klanderud-MDE

Chris White-ARC

Eamon Flynn-MDH

Wendy Phillips-MDE

Documents Distributed:

- Final Agenda 230504
- Draft Minutes 230302
- WSA Update
- LPPP_Lead Commission_Mtg 5.4.2023
- LCSubcomitteDesisionTree_2023

Welcome and Introductions:

Commission Chair, Ruth Ann Norton, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with welcome and introductions. Dr. Cliff Mitchell gave a brief introduction of Deputy Secretary, Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman of the Maryland Department of Health. Dr. Kalyanaraman gave a brief overview of the role of MDH, its goals, challenges, and current status.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dr. Cliff Mitchell, seconded by Adam Skolnik to accept the March 2, 2023 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Asthma Awareness Month: Chair Norton reminded the commission that this month of May is Asthma Awareness Month and announced that there is an upcoming Summit on May 18, 2023 at Howard County and encouraged Commission participation.

Healthy Homes Awareness Month: Chair Norton reminded the commission that the month of June is Healthy Homes Awareness Month. Many surrounding agencies will be hosting many events and activities. GHHI is planning to host a Community Town Hall Round Table with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Governor's Office.

HUD Grants: Chair Norton reminded the Commission that applications for the Lead Hazard Control Grants are due on June 14, 2023 and encouraged people to submit an application.

State Supplemental Budget: Chair Norton informed the Commission that additional funding to MDE was restored. Legal services, case management, and outreach services will now be restored through this \$500K additional supplemental funding.

Old Business:

- **Commission Meeting Schedule:** During the March 2023 meeting, Chair Norton suggested modifying the Commission meeting schedule to occur every other month, reducing the number of meetings from nine to six per year. The proposed months for these meetings would be January, March, May, July, September, and November. The purpose of this change is to enhance efficiency by streamlining the meeting frequency. The Commission further discussed this proposal. During the discussion, Mary Beth Haller emphasized the importance of convening meetings during the legislative session. She highlighted the necessity of maintaining regular meetings during this period. She also put forth a suggestion to include a standing item on the Agenda for a meeting vote. This vote would determine whether the Commission should convene in the following month or not. Additionally, Dr. Mitchell reminded the Commission about his previous recommendation to hold a joint commission meeting annually in either June or October. He reiterated the benefits and value of such a meeting. Chair Norton suggested further discussions during the June meeting.
- **MDE Update on Water Safety:** Tim Rule provided a PowerPoint presentation on Water Safety School Testing. Material from the presentation was provided in advance to the guests and members of the Commission in the document titled "WSA Update". The presentation highlighted the summary of results as of May 1, 2023 and Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, Section 2107.

- **Status of MDH Merging Immunization Certificate With Lead Screening Certificate:** Dr. Mitchell reported that he is very interested in discussion efforts with the Immunization Program and MDE but it would be a complicated and long discussion due to the statutory requirements for Immunization records. Dr. Mitchell will work to plan for a future discussion.
- **Update on the Re-engagement and Igniting of Community Outreach and Social Media Efforts:** This item has been tabled for the June meeting.

New Business:

- **Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance Report Updates:** Shamola Dye, Fred Banks, and Rena Boss-Victoria provided a PowerPoint presentation on Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance. Material from the presentation was provided in advance to the guests and members of the Commission in the document titled “LPPP_Lead Commission_Mtg 5.4.2023”. The presentation highlighted the calendar year 2021 preliminary statistical report, the number of children 0-72 months tested for lead and the number reported to have blood lead level ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$:CY 2000-2021, the percent of children 0-72 months of age lead tested and identified with a blood lead level of 5-9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$: CY 2000-2021, state of the state childhood lead poisoning, and blood lead levels 5 to 9.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, and over 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, (Ages 0-6 Years Old) for Maryland 2020 and 2021 by zip code.
- **Presentation - Subcommittee on Environmental Investigations:** At the January meeting, Barbara Moore recommended that due to report inconsistencies, the Commission take a look at what is being tested in the homes. A subcommittee to investigate this issue was created. Paula Montgomery provided a PowerPoint presentation on findings from the Subcommittee regarding these environmental investigations. Material from the presentation was provided in advance to the guests and members of the Commission in the document titled “LCSubcommitteeDecisionTree_2023”. The presentation highlighted the following: members of the Subcommittee; discussions that took place mostly centered on internal processes; action items and assignments; decision tree; investigation process; supplement to report findings; Maryland law on reporting blood lead levels; how to share the information with health care providers; and ongoing outcomes.
- **Daycare Discussion Progress:** This item has been tabled for the June meeting.
- **Review Transition Reports relating to MDE Lead Program:** This item has been tabled for the June meeting. Chair Norton asked that MDE identify things that came from the transition team to the department that may be being addressed by the lead program and give the Commission a synopsis at the June meeting.

Legislation/Pending Legislative Outcome & Action Dates (Adam Skolnik, Wes Stewart)

- HB0036/SB0100 - Real Property – Actions to Repossess – Proof of Rental Licensure: This bill passed.
- HB0079/SB0296 - Housing and Community Development - Whole-Home Repairs Act of 2023: This bill did not pass.
- HB0169/SB0144 - Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing: This bill passed.
- HB0200/SB0181 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2024): This bill passed.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events:

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment): Fred Banks reported that MDE is still working through a few of its big cases that involve a number of infractions. The Lead Program also hired Kevin Stanley, the new Unit Chief for its accreditation oversight unit and is still working to fill other vacancies.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health): Candace Scott reminded the Commissioners that the Asthma Summit will take place on May 18, 2023 at the Howard County Health Department and registration is live.
- **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter): Paul Rogers reported that MDAAP just finished its echo program. MDAAP had a special training program for pediatricians across the state, and MDAAP is now pulling together the outcome data and quality improvement data. Dr. Rogers volunteered to present this data at the June meeting.
- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Manjula Paul reported that MSDE/OCC is actively promoting lead testing and vaccination as the academic year is coming to an end and the New Year approaches. Parents are preparing their necessary forms to visit the healthcare providers' offices, and MSDE/OCC is urging them to complete lead screening. However, there is significant resistance from parents due to the additional step of going to the lab for blood testing. Noncompliance with the testing leads to citations for child care providers. Despite the resistance, MSDE/OCC is persistently advocating for testing by providing information and support.
- **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration): No updates at this time.
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development): No updates at this time.
- **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development): No updates at this time.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department) Camille Burke reported that Mary Beth Haller's first day as interim Commissioner was May 1, 2023. The comment period for the new regulations in Baltimore City has ended. The new regulations were posted on BCHD's website on April 24, and the information was available for 30 days. If anyone has any comments, please share them with Camille Burke, who will include them before BCHD finalizes the regulations.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) No updates at this time.

Commissioner Comments and Updates: No comments or updates at this time.

Public Comments and Updates: No comments or updates at this time.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Paula Montgomery to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Manjula Paul. All present Commissioners were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, June 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- Introduction to Secretary Marcia Fudge, of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Introduction to Secretary Jacob Day of the Department of Housing & Community Development
- Commissioner membership updates and renewals due in September (Wendy Phillips)
- MDH – report from counties (success of case management efforts) (Cliff Mitchell)
- BC-DHCD - HUD Grant Program (Katheryn Taylor)
- Asthma Awareness Month: Intersection of Lead with Healthy Homes & Work done on Joint Programs of Lead and Asthma (Ruth Ann Norton)
- Recap of Legislation and Impacts of Budget or Legislation (Ruth Ann Norton)