

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION September 7, 2023 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Virtual Meeting Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jacob Benzaquen	Susan Kleinhammer	Manjula Paul
Benita Cooper	Paula Montgomery	Christina Peusch
Jack Daniels	Barbara Moore	Paul Rogers
Anna Davis	Ruth Ann Norton	

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Cliff Mitchell
Senator Jill Carter	Adam Skolnik

Guests Present:

Frederick Banks-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD	Nekia Randall
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Felicia Graves-MDE	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD
Camille Burke-BCHD	Jason Harding-BC-DHCD	Tim Rule-MDE
Subha Chandar-MDH	Nicole Hart-BC-DHCD	Candace Scott-MDH
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE	Dawn Joy-AMA	Kevin Stanley-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Samantha Keane-MDE	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD	Jonathan Klanderud-MDE	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
William Doyle-HCHD	Catherine Lee	Kira Videan-MDE
Shamola Dye-MDE	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE	Chris White-AR

Documents Distributed:

- Final Agenda 230907
- Draft Minutes 230601
- MDH Highlights_Lead Commission 9_7_2023.pptx
- MDH Blood Lead Testing Certificate 2023
- MDE Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Membership
- Awards & Recognition Description.230821
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Chart FY '22 and FY '23 combined
- Proposed EPA Changes Lead Hazard Dust 2023
- NewLeadLevel
- Lead Palm Card Multiple languages

Welcome and Introductions:

Commission Chair, Ruth Ann Norton, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. with welcome and introductions.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chair Ruth Ann Norton discussed the return of the Commission after a summer break, with a focus on the upcoming National Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week. She highlighted the launch of the green and healthy homes task force, aiming to address environmental health and climate-related hazards for children and seniors. She also emphasized the significance of federal funding, particularly the \$27 billion from the EPA, for cleaning up lead hazards in low-income housing across the country. Chair Norton also mentioned recent lead-related cases in Baltimore that underscored the need for improved interagency responses, better standards for landlords and contractors, and more effective communication. She expressed concerns about landlords relocating families to potentially harmful properties and are working on solutions. She also stressed the importance of the commission being committed to improving services for affected families while looking for ways to prevent such situations from recurring.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Anna Davis, seconded by Jacob Benzaquen to accept the June 1, 2023 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- **Commission Meeting Schedule/Motion to vote:** Chair Norton withdrew this item to discuss for the remainder of the 2023 year and asked that it be tabled this until 2024.
- **Commissioner membership updates and renewals due in September:** Paula Montgomery reminded the Commissioners whose membership expires at the end of September 2023 to renew their membership using the online system from the Governor's Appointments Office: [Commissioner Reappointment Application Instructions & Online Application Submittal](#). Expirations are four years from the effective date of the statutory staggering date. Wendy Phillips previously provided an updated list of all current memberships and vacancies with its expirations dates which can also be found on the Lead Commission website under [MDE Membership Positions](#).
- **Lead Commission Awards and Recognitions:** Paula Montgomery reminded the Commission about the yearly Awards and Recognition. An award will be presented for each of the three categories during the month of lead week in October. Wendy Phillips will circulate the nomination form and ask for recommendations by September 15, 2023. The Commissioners vote for their choice of recipients amongst the list of nominees submitted by September 22, 2023. During the October 05, 2023 meeting, the Commission will announce the recipients of the awards.

New Business:

- **MDH Updates:** Subha Chandar gave a presentation which highlighted the mission and vision of the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration; the [Public Health Tracking Portal](#); MDH Lead Testing Form which is available online as a [printable version](#) and a [fillable PDF](#); and the Revised Regulations. A copy of the slide presentation was provided to the Commission prior to the meeting.
- **Compliance and Enforcement (MDE reports run on state FY July 1 to June 30):** Jonathan Klanderud presented MDE's Annual Reports and Compliance numbers comparing FY22 and FY23. A copy of the information was previously provided to the Commission. Jonathan also provided a link to the Lead Rental Certification and Accreditation database ([LRCA database](#)). This database provides tenants the opportunity to look for certificates online and deter fraudulent certificates.
- Paula Montgomery reminded the Commission that a Subcommittee on Inconsistencies with Lead Testing in Homes met a few months ago and provided the Commission with their findings. She mentioned that the current law reads that MDE can share any case information with the health departments, however if anyone including providers wants any case information on the child that they don't already have, they would have to have their own type of HIPPA Release Form signed off by the tenants. Paula provided a sample of what the form could look like.
- **Lead Poison Prevention Week 10/22/23 - 10/28/23:** Paula Montgomery reported that MDE has been meeting with GHHI and MDH on a regular basis. There has been a plan of action developed that will occur during lead week. MDE will be sharing a draft outline of the outreach events and press events that will be occurring during lead week.

- **MD-DHCD – Lead Grant Programs:** Jack Daniels provided information about the efforts made to expand the resources at DHCD to address the issue of lead. DHCD is actively using a One-Stop approach to tap into different programs and funding sources for green, healthy, and safe homes, focusing on lead abatement and related repairs. In the last fiscal year, they allocated \$1.8 million for 41 projects across Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. DHCD is collaborating with MDH's Environmental Health Bureau to enhance outreach, especially with local health departments and vendors. They aim to engage local hospitals and pediatricians in active conversations regarding elevated lead levels and potential resources available to families. DHCD is working on speeding up the approval process and addressing relocation challenges for large projects. They launched the Whole Home HAF Critical Repair program in January 2022, committing \$10 million to various projects statewide. DHCD also initiated the Homeownership Works program, with funds allocated to communities in Baltimore and Cambridge. They are working closely with Habitat for Humanity and managing multiple funding sources to address critical repairs despite staffing challenges.
- **Proposed EPA Rule Changes:** Catherine Lee provided a presentation on the Proposed Changes to EPA Dust Lead Hazard and Lead Dust Clearance Standards. The presentation provided some background and highlighted, EPA justification for new rulemaking; proposed changes to dust lead hazard standards; what impacted entities need to know; and key considerations by EPA for public comments. EPA is seeking out public comments that can be submitted online on the [regulations.gov website](https://www.regulations.gov).
- **DLHS & DLCL Changes - EPA Lead Workgroup:** Paula Montgomery reported to the Commission that MDE has assembled a workgroup, including commission members and outside experts with access to lab analysis, to review proposed rule changes. The workgroup will provide substantive comments to the EPA by October 2, focusing on data analysis rather than simple agreement or disagreement. They are evaluating if current lab analysis at NLAB Laboratories can reach the required detection limit and what instrumentation might be needed if not. The workgroup is also considering the impact on affected properties. The EPA is seeking scientifically-based, data-driven comments to assess health-based standards. If the rule is approved, there's a two-year period for EPA-accredited programs to implement or update regulations.
- **Report on the Commission work done over the summer:** Chair Norton reported that efforts were made to align MHIC work with Maryland lead laws by integrating licensure and training requirements. Additionally, an investigation addressed the recurring issue of insufficient funding for childcare and other spaces, particularly in the context of climate and electrification initiatives, where childcare tends to be a lower priority.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDH (Maryland Department of Health)** Candace Scott reported that MDH launched the registration for the Lead and Healthy Home Workshop that it will have during lead week which is October 25th. MDH has a press conference on Monday October 23 and MDH is still working through the logistics. MDH is also partnering with Baltimore City.

Commissioner Comments and Updates:

Chair Norton announced that Camille Burke was promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff at the Baltimore City Public Health Department and offered congratulations.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, 10/05/23, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- Lead Commission Awards and Recognitions Announcement and Awards Presentation
- Lead Poison Prevention Week 10/22/23 - 10/28/23
- BC-DHCD - Hud Grant Program (Katheryn Taylor)