

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION October 5, 2023 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Benita Cooper	Cliff Mitchell	Manjula Paul
Jack Daniels	Paula Montgomery	Christina Peusch
Anna Davis	Barbara Moore	
Susan Kleinhammer	Ruth Ann Norton	

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Senator Jill Carter	Adam Skolnik
Jacob Benzaquen	Paul Rogers	

Guests Present:

Tyler Abbott-MDE	Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE
Frederick Banks-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD	Tim Rule-MDE
Chevell Bash-GHHI	Angela Hall-GHHI	Candace Scott-MDH
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Jason Harding-BC-DHCD	Tiana Sheppard-GHHI
Camille Burke-BCHD	Steven Homola-BC-DHCD	Anastasia Solano-MDE
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE	Darlene Israel-MDH	Kevin Stanley-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Dawn Joy-AMA	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD	Comfort Kissi-GHHI	Chris White-AR
Devon Dodson-MDE	Wade McCord-MDE	Latesha White-MDE
Shamola Dye-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE	

Documents Distributed:

Final Agenda 231005

Draft Minutes 230927

Welcome and Introductions:

Commission Chair, Ruth Ann Norton, called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M. with welcome and introductions.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chair Ruth Ann Norton welcomed everyone to the October 23 meeting of the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission, highlighting Children's Environmental Health Month and National Lead Awareness Month. She expressed interest in filling commissioner slots, updating the strategic plan, and presenting to legislative committees in January. She emphasized the need to address the spike in lead cases and improve coordination, compliance standards, and support. Chair Norton thanked various agencies and discussed the goal of reducing the need for pediatric hospitals. She also noted the opportunity for lead removal in housing through funding related to greenhouse gas proposals as well as mentioned the

importance of funding for childcare and strategic planning. Finally, she requested an update on the annual report's status from Paula Montgomery. Lastly Chair Norton requested from Wendy Phillips, the Lead Commission Members' attendance record as she works to try and reach out to the appointed members of the legislature to encourage participation.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Paula Montgomery, seconded by Anna Davis to accept the September 7, 2023 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- **Status of Commissioner Membership Renewals:** Wendy Phillips asked for and was given an update from the Commission Members regarding their status of reapplying for their appointment.
- **Lead Commission Awards and Recognitions Announcement and Awards Presentation:** 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:
 - Manjula Paul was awarded with the Outstanding Child Health Environmental Advocate Award 2023
 - Lateisha White was awarded Outstanding Advocate Award 2023
 - Paula Montgomery was awarded Special Recognition Award 2023
- **Lead Poison Prevention Week 10/22/23 - 10/28/23:**
 - Chevelle Bash from GHHI and her team are actively coordinating a series of events and social media campaigns to raise awareness about Poison Awareness Week. They have collaborated with various organizations, including the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Baltimore City Health Department, to plan activities such as press conferences, presentations at schools, clinic days, and workshops aimed at educating the community about lead poisoning prevention. They are also finalizing details for resource fairs and property owner training events to take place later in the week. She discussed the details of the schedule for the week.
 - Paula Montgomery discussed MDE's regular meetings with state partners and GHHI to coordinate activities during "Lead Week," highlighting the success of these meetings for outreach and education efforts. She suggested continuing these meetings on a quarterly basis. Paula also mentioned Maryland's Lead Paint Abatement Service Provider Program, which regulates around 4,000 service providers and contractors in the state. Additionally, she mentioned upcoming forums in October and November and various outreach events throughout September and October.
 - Cliff Mitchell from MDH explained that they are examining their programs with a focus on health equity and addressing disparities in their services. They assessed their home visiting program for asthma last year and are currently evaluating their Lead Home visiting program and the Environmental Health Bureau's lead abatement program. Their goal is to ensure that children at the highest risk receive lead abatement services, emphasizing a continued focus on this issue in their future efforts.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Fred Banks gave a brief status of the Annual Report and indicated that the 2022 report should be done by the end of October 2023 and then the 2023 report should be ready by mid-February. He plans to ask Jonathan Klanderud to provide an enforcement report in upcoming Commission meetings. Rena Boss-Victoria added that there have been continuing conversations and discussions with MDE's Office of Attorney General in regard to MDE's continued issues and potential real barriers, related to MDE's lab reporting compliance.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Cliff Mitchell mentioned that MDH has collaborated with the Johns Hopkins Preventive Medicine Residency Program and the Baltimore City Health Department to create a program where residents visit physician offices. During these visits, they provide a brief 15-20 minute overview of MDH's home visiting program, lead testing, and services related to lead abatement offered through DHCD and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The goal is to raise awareness of these services within the primary care community. MDH plans to work with Medicaid and MDE to identify potential providers for these visits and may use a few healthcare providers as test subjects to evaluate the effectiveness of this outreach effort. Barbara Moore volunteered to be the first test subject.

- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Manjula Paul informed the Commission that the newly revised Lead form is working well and is more simple and clear.
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Jack Daniels explained that MD-DHCD is collaborating closely with MDH and Medicaid to improve outreach, increase the number of applications, and generate more interest in their programs. This is aimed at enabling MD-DHCD to focus on its core function of facilitating lead abatement and related services. They've already had several meetings to identify actionable steps to boost enrollment and services. MD-DHCD is also working with a family mentioned in the previous meeting, having received their application and coordinating a property visit to finalize the scope of work. Additionally, they are finalizing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with local weatherization agencies to allocate four million dollars towards addressing critical repairs that have hindered energy projects, aligning with their goal to improve homes' energy efficiency, reduce utility bills, and enhance livability.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Camille Burke mentioned that Baltimore City has changed its testing strategy to encompass more than just immunizations. They are now working with organizations like Saint Vincent De Paul Head Start and conducting a testing tour by visiting various locations. This new approach has led to a partnership with the Y Head Start, facilitated in part by Saint Vincent de Paul's efforts to spread the word.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton reported that GHHI has been actively working to promote the Lead Safe Kids Act, which is set to be introduced in the Senate and Congress. This act aims to enhance safety standards in public housing. Additionally, GHHI, along with MDE and other organizations, has submitted comments on the EPA's proposal to lower Dust-led standards. This change would impose stricter regulations on contractors, property owners, and agencies in relation to lead contamination. Wes Stewart asked that MDE update the Commission on its Lead In Water funding for the different jurisdictions.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, November 2, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- 1) BCHD – CLPPP Fiscal Year Report (Camile Burke)
- 2) MDE Childhood Lead Registry Report (Fred Banks / Shamola Dye)