

# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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## LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

November 7, 2023 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting  
Approved Meeting Minutes

### Members Present:

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

### Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar                      Senator Jill Carter

### Guests Present:

Frederick Banks-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD	Wade McCord-MDE
Chevelle Bash-GHHI	Angela Hall-GHHI	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Jason Harding-BC-DHCD	Nekia Randall-Public
Camille Burke-BCHD	Nicole Hart-BC-DHCD	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE	Steven Homola-BC-DHCD	Tim Rule-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Darlene Israel-MDH	Candace Scott-MDH
William Doyle-HCHD	Samantha Keane-MDE	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Shamola Dye-MDE	Comfort Kissi-GHHI	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Jacqueline Kozari-MDH	Chris White-AR

### Documents Distributed:

- Final Agenda 231102
- Draft Minutes 231005
- 2023 Lead Commission Prez

### 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 Norton welcomed everyone to the November 7 meeting of the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission.

Chair Norton highlighted the following items:

- Progress is being made on replacing the current Commissioner representatives of the House and Senate.
- New standards are forthcoming to de-lead the gasoline used in jet aircraft used for commercial transport. The article “Regulations for Lead Emissions from Aircraft” is available in the following link:  
<https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/regulations-lead-emissions-aircraft>.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently put out a health alert and recall on WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree Pouches. The article “FDA Advises Parents and Caregivers Not to Buy or Feed WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree Pouches to Toddlers and Young Children Because of Elevated Lead Levels” is available in the following link:  
<https://www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/fda-advises-parents-and-caregivers-not-buy-or-feed-wanabana-apple-cinnamon-fruit-puree-pouches>.
- The Journal of American Medicine for JAMA published the article “Lead Exposure Might Cause More Deaths, IQ Loss Than Expected” is available in the following link:  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2809890#:~:text=Exposure%20to%20lead%20through,countries%20blood%20lead%20level%20estimates>

### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Anna Davis, seconded by Adam Skolnik to accept the October 5, 2023 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

### **Old & New Business:**

- **BCHD – CLPPP Fiscal Year Report:** Commissioner, Camile Burke presented on the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Commissioner Burke highlighted the following: Social Determinants of Health; Elements of a Healthy Community; Lead Poisoning Data by Fiscal Year; Average Time to Complete Initial Home Visit (Days); 2020-2022 Possible Sources of Lead Poisoning for Pre 1950 Rentals; COVID-19 Impact on Blood Lead Testing; Post COVID impact; Case Management Challenges; Outreach; Partners; Point of Care Testing; 2023 National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week; 2023 Healthy HOMes Workshop Survey Highlights; and Moving Forward. The presentation was provided to the Commission titled “2023 Lead Commission Prez” prior to the meeting.
- **MDE Childhood Lead Registry Report 2021:**
  - Fred Banks presented on the Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance in Maryland Annual Report 2021. Highlights include the following: CY 21 Surveillance; Statistical Report; Reduction in Blood Lead Testing 2020 vs. 2021; Data Quality; Medical and Environmental Case Management in Maryland and Baltimore City; Sources of Lead; Lead Hazards Identified by Housing Type; Challenges and Opportunities; and Goals for Future Data Reporting.
  - Also, During the presentation Chris Corzine, from MDE’s Attorney General’s Office, indicated that the department does file the regulations with regard to scheduling environment investigations which includes the closure of a case. There are protocols set forth in regulation that the department follows. In those cases that are closed, the department is following the procedure it is required to do so before the case is closed. The Environmental Investigation Regulations are set forth in COMAR 26.16.08, with the scheduling governed by 26.16.08.05. The presentation will be provided on the MDE website in the near future which will be available to the public.

## Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Commissioner, Dr. Cliff Mitchell updated the Commission with the following:
  - MDH is continuing to work on its equity assessment of the lead program across its various product lines and service lines including its home visiting program, and its collaboration with medicaid and DHCD. In this effort, MDH will collaborate with MDE.
  - MDH will be working with MDE on Outreach in addition to the Baltimore City Health Department.
  - MDH's preventive medicine resident is actively working on enhancing direct engagement with healthcare providers by detailing information on lead, asthma, and healthy homes to increase provider awareness.
  - MDH is allocating additional funding for a second year, utilizing the remaining balance from the \$500,000 received last year from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). This funding will be directed to 13 local health departments currently not involved in MDH's Medicaid home visiting program, specifically to support case management activities. Each of these local health departments will receive approximately \$15,000 to bolster their case management efforts.
  - MDH is excited about collaborating with MDE for the implementation of HHLPS (Healthy Homes Lead Poisoning Surveillance System). The plan is to partner with MDE to encourage MDH's local health departments to enhance the connection between case management and prevention activities. Additionally, the collaboration aims to improve MDH's statewide visibility regarding case management activities.
- **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter) Commissioner, Dr. Paul Rogers updated the Commission, mentioning his recent email exchanges with the head of California's lead poisoning prevention program. The discussions primarily focused on lead testing of water in schools. Further details about California's labeling process are expected to be provided soon.
- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Commissioner Manjula Paul informed the Commission that she was thrilled to receive a message yesterday from Johns Hopkins, MSDE's collaborator in conducting parent surveys. Recently, Johns Hopkins conducted a survey involving parents of children in childcare programs. Although they anticipated 300 participants, the actual turnout was approximately 600 parents. One of the survey questions focused on late testing and the obstacles parents face in getting their children tested. Johns Hopkins has informed MSDE that the results are now available. Commissioner Paul will share the findings with the Commission once it is published.
- **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development) Katherine Taylor updated the Commission on BC-DHCD's efforts to prioritize vulnerable populations, specifically immigrants and refugees. The department is collaborating with the mayor's office to translate all materials and applications, ensuring better outreach to these groups. Additionally, BC-DHCD is working with various stakeholders known for their immigrant-friendly initiatives to establish trust within these populations, and the progress in this regard has been positive.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Cambille Burke informed the Commission that BCHD is entering into a renewed partnership with the Maryland Homeschool Association (MHA), and they are currently exploring the details of this collaboration. MHA has initiated discussions with BCHD, expressing interest in engaging in conversations about lead. BCHD will keep the Commission informed about the outcomes of these discussions.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative)
  - Wes Stewart reported that GHHI has a dedicated team for outreach and case management to assist individuals in accessing the state's and city's lead grant programs. This support extends to homeowners, rental property owners, and tenants. GHHI can guide them through the process of accessing lead grant programs and connect them with necessary resources. In Baltimore City, GHHI is open to receiving referrals. With \$2.5 million in ARP funding specifically allocated for lead houses in Baltimore City, GHHI is addressing not only lead hazards but also other healthy homes concerns, weatherization, and electrical issues. The focus is not just on making homes lead-safe but also on enhancing the family's long-term financial stability by addressing various hazards, structural defects, and supporting weatherization efforts. GHHI has \$2.5 million in funding earmarked for direct use in addressing lead-related issues.

- Chair Norton mentioned that GHHI is collaborating with Hopkins on an injury prevention study. GHHI is actively seeking 300 families in Baltimore City and Baltimore County with children aged 7 and under to provide injury prevention measures. These measures may include replacing mini-blind cords, installing window guards, or adding grab bars, among other actions. It's important to recognize that injuries affect not only older adults but also children. In the context of any of GHHI's grants, whether focusing on asthma, injury prevention, or weatherization, GHHI constantly checks for lead in houses and addresses it as part of the remediation process. For an upcoming site visit with Fannie Mae, GHHI has identified a family through MDH dealing with asthma. GHHI initially worked on asthma-related issues and expanded their efforts to include broader prevention measures for the family.

#### **Commissioner Comments and Updates:**

Commissioner, Barbara Moore from Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital (MWPH) updated the Commission that MWPH has had an increase in the number of children that have been referred to the clinic. Currently MWPH is up to 46 or 47 new referrals just since January. Baltimore City and the state have been quick and responsive when MWPH asks for reports to be sent to them. MWPH recently had a very complicated case with elevated lead levels and currently has another very complicated case with a child with very high lead levels.

#### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Barbara Moore seconded by Cliff Mitchell to adjourn the meeting. All present Commissioners were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

#### **Future Meeting Date:**

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, 12/07/23, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- 2024 Commission Reporting Calendar (All Commissioners)
- MDE Secretary Meeting Update (Ruth Ann Norton)
- Commission Member Representation (Ruth Ann Norton)
  - Delegate Dalya Attar (House Member)
  - Senator Jill Carter (Senate Member)
- EPA's National Update on GLO (Get the Lead Out) (Assistant Administrator, Radhika Fox, EPA Office of Water)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact on Lead Poisoning Prevention - EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Opportunities (Ruth Ann Norton)
- 2024 Plan for Case Management & Environmental Investigation for moving to 3.5 ug/dl (Jonathan Klanderud)
- Update on the Green and Healthy Homes Task Force and how it relates to Lead (MD-DHCD, Deputy Director, Robyne Chaconas)
- Baltimore City DHCD Updates on Lead Hazard Remediation Funding (Nicole Hart)