

# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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## LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION January 4, 2024 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Approved Minutes

### Members Present:

Benita Cooper	Cliff Mitchell	Manjula Paul
Anna Davis	Barbara Moore	Paul Rogers
Susan Kleinhammer	Ruth Ann Norton	Thelonious Williams

### Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Senator Jill Carter	Christina Peusch
Jacob Benzaquen	Paula Montgomery	Adam Skolnik

### Guests Present:

Tyler Abbott-MDE	Attilah Edges-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE
Frederick Banks-MDE	Felicia Graves-MDE	Andrew Roelke-MDE
Chevelle Bash-GHHI	Jason Harding-BCDHCD	Tim Rule-MDE
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Nicole Hart-BC-DHCD	Aaron Sanzenbacher-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Steven Homola-BC-DHCD	Margret Schnitzer-BCHD
Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD	Kevin Stanley-MDE
Jack Daniels-MD-DHCD	Christopher Johnson-GES	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Christopher Denbleyker-MDE	Eunice Johnson-GES	Lori Tantlinger-JHU
Julie DiGirolamo-BCHD	Samantha Keane-MDE	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
William Doyle-HCHD	Wade McCord-MDE	Kira Videan-MDE
Shamola Dye-MDE	Angela Perry-Hall-GHHI	Chris White-ARC

### Documents Distributed:

- Approved Agenda 240104
- Draft Minutes 231207

### Welcome and Introductions:

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission (Commission) Chair, Ruth Ann Norton, called the meeting to order at 9:45 A.M. with welcome and introductions.

### **Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:**

Chair Norton extended a warm welcome to everyone attending the January 4, 2024 Commission meeting. She emphasized the significance of maintaining the Commission's clear purpose as it enters the new calendar year. During this year, the Commission members and guests should aim to update its strategic plan, ensuring alignment with the needs of various stakeholder communities. Additionally, she highlighted the Commission's commitment to securing resources for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD) so these state departments can focus on preventive measures through education during the legislative session. Chair Norton also highlighted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently enlisted the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) to spearhead a \$50 million fund aimed at enhancing environmental justice and addressing issues related to healthy housing in Region 3. The exciting aspect of this opportunity lies in collaborating with various organizations across the state that can contribute their expertise. GHHI will be actively seeking out such organizations to identify areas where it can make a positive impact and enhance capacity throughout Maryland.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Moore to amend the December 7, 2023 minutes. All present Commissioners were in favor of the amendments; the amended minutes were approved.

### **Amendments:**

- “Steward” was changed to “Stewart” under Agency Hot Topics/Current Events for GHHI.
- “November 7” was changed to “November 2” under the Approval of Minutes section.

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

- **Commission Membership:** Chair Norton provided an update, stating that on January 3, 2024, she met with Delegate Robbyn Lewis. During the meeting, Delegate Lewis expressed her intention to explore the House's ability to appoint a potential replacement for Delegate Dalya Attar if she decides to step down from the Commissioner role. In addition, Senator Jill Carter verbally confirmed with Chair Norton that she couldn't continue serving on the Commission. Chair Norton formally requested Senator Bill Ferguson to appoint a new member from a Senate Committee. The Commission intends to ensure that the vacant appointments will be filled.
- **EPA Technical Assistance Center Presentation:** Chair Norton contacted the University of Maryland, Sacoby Wilson Group to request a representative attend the January 2024 Commission meeting and give a presentation on the EPA Technical Assistance Center. Unfortunately, a representative was unable to attend. Chair Norton gave some brief background information on the topic and indicated that she will work to reschedule the presentation for a future date.
- **Strategic Plan:** Chair Norton, alongside the Commissioners and guests, explored potential strategies for the Commission in the upcoming 2024 calendar year. Dr. Mitchell proposed that the Commission focus on strategies that prioritize equity and public health impacts. It was emphasized to take into account the varying effects of different lead levels and to identify areas with high lead concentrations, even if the impact on children is minimal. Dr. Mitchell recommended that state departments explore alternative strategies, evaluating their cost and effectiveness. Additionally, seeking assistance from academic institutions and experts was suggested, with the possibility of having these experts attend future Commission meetings to discuss and provide insights on potential strategies. Chair Norton and Dr. Mitchell will work together over the upcoming months to put together a panel of experts that can

come speak to the Commission. Also during the meeting, the Commission discussed ways to help the public and other agencies like Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, The Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Office of Child Care (OCC), and others. Commissioner Moore suggested ways the Commission could assist, focusing on the challenges faced by low-income families seeking lead-free housing. She stressed the need for a practical government-established certification and registry system, accessible through a website, listing lead-free homes. This would streamline the process for families, preventing them from applying to multiple places without certainty about lead-free options. Nicole Hart from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (BC-DHCD) shared a link to the BC-DHCD portal, which already provides some relevant information that the public could use: The link to the Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development Property License and Registration Search can be accessed here:

[https://cels.baltimorehousing.org/reg/Reg\\_MFD\\_Search.aspx](https://cels.baltimorehousing.org/reg/Reg_MFD_Search.aspx). BC-DHCD also provided a helpful link to the Baltimore Service Line Partnership Lead and Copper Rule Revision Program Frequently Asked Questions: [https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/LCRR.FAQs\\_.pdf](https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/LCRR.FAQs_.pdf)

- **Legislation Subcommittee:** The Commission's Legislative Subcommittee for 2024 will include the following individuals: Theo Williams, Manjula Paul, Anna Davis, Tyler Abbott, Paul Rogers, Jacob Benzaquen, and Adam Skolnik.

#### **Agency Hot Topics/Current Events**

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Tyler Abbott, Director for MDE's Land and Materials Administration, reminded the Commission that MDE has federal funding for lead service line replacements. Some of that money is available for the survey's themselves. MDE will be working with GHHI on advancing the Climate Plan. MDE will now be conducting environmental investigations based on 3.5 blood lead reference value and now with the lower level MDE expects to see a tremendous increase in the number of investigations.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Dr. Mitchell informed the Commission that MDH continues to work with MDE on all issues related to lead and the new implementation of the 3.5 blood lead reference value. Dr. Mitchell also introduced Dr. Lori Tantlinger who is MDH's new preventative medicine resident from Johns Hopkins and who will be working with Dr. Mitchell and MDE on outreach to providers. Additionally, discussions are underway regarding how many kids were affected by the contaminated applesauce. MDH and MDE will continue to remind people about the dangers of other sources of lead such as in food products.
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Commissioner Theo Williams reported that MD-DHCD is still waiting to hear back from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on the Healthy Homes Production Grant Program.

**Future Meeting Date:**

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, 02/01/24, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- Presentation: “How people can more readily report on things that are in products (not related to lead in paint, water, or soil)” (FDA Consumer Product Safety Commissioner)
- Commission Membership Updates (Wendy Phillips)
- 2024 Commission Meeting Calendar Discussion/Motion to vote (Commissioners)
- 2024 Commission Reporting Calendar (Commissioners)
- Update on Housing Strategic Plan on Lead (MD-DHCD Theo Williams/Jack Daniels)
- Impact of Greenhouse Gas Dollars on Lead (Michael McKnight/Cynthia Herrera)
- Legislation Updates (Subcommittee)

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:00a.m.