

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION February 1, 2024 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jacob Benzaquen	Paula Montgomery	Christina Peusch
Benita Cooper	Barbara Moore	Paul Rogers
Susan Kleinhammer	Ruth Ann Norton	Adam Skolnik
Cliff Mitchell	Manjula Paul	Thelonious Williams

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Anna Davis	Senator Jill Carter
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Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Attilah Edges-MDE	Tiffeny Price-MDH
Chevelle Bash-GHHI	Sheneka	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE	Eunice Johnson-GES	Tim Rule-MDE
Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Dawn Joy-AMA	Stephanie Soper-ARC
Christopher Denbleyker-MDE	Wade McCord-MDE	Kevin Stanley-MDE
Julie DiGirolamo-BCHD	Michael McKnight-GHHI	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
William Doyle-HCHD	Angela Perry-Hall-GHHI	Lori Tantlinger-JHU
Shamola Dye-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
		Chris White-ARC

Documents Distributed:

- Cover Page
- Approved Agenda 240201
- Draft Minutes 240104
- MDE Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Membership
- Meeting Schedule 2024
- MDE Lead Commission Reporting Calendar 2024
- LPPC Strategic Plan Presentation

Welcome and Introductions:

Ruth Ann Norton, President of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. with welcome and introductions.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chair Norton extended a warm welcome to everyone attending the February 4, 2024 Commission meeting. Chair Norton emphasized the importance of identifying lead-free housing for children who have been poisoned and need relocation, as well as preventing poisoning in children. Chair Norton discussed the below items and would like further action on the items listed:

- **Educational Programs:** Chair Norton indicated that she would like to invite the Maryland Home Improvement Commission to a future Commission meeting in order to have discussions regarding educational programs.
- **Three Workgroup Meetings:**
 - **Strategies for Reducing Application Fees and Rental Obstacles Work Group:** Chair Norton plans to discuss with Delegate Boyd Rutherford the issue of excessive application fees, particularly for low-income individuals, which often amount to hundreds of dollars and are non-refundable, leading to financial strain. GHHI plans on exploring the possibility of establishing a fund to assist low-income individuals, but Chair Norton believes implementing a universal rental application for Maryland would be more effective in helping families in need of housing. She proposed forming a work group to discuss application fees and rental barriers being faced in order to come up with recommendations and suggestions to present to the Commission. Chair Norton would like the work group to meet prior to the March Commission meeting and provide an update on progress at the March meeting. Wendy Phillips was tasked with setting up this workgroup meeting which will include the below listed Commissioners and guests. The meeting was scheduled for 03/06/24 at 12 p.m.
 - Angela Perry Hall, Case Manager-Family Advocate for GHHI
 - Chair Norton
 - Barbara Moore, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital and Commissioner
 - West Stewart, Senior Advisor and General Counsel/Maryland Programs Director for GHHI
 - Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Commissioner
 - Theo Williams, Special Assistant for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD) and Commissioner
 - Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc. (MMHA) and Commissioner
 - Jacob Benzaquen, President of JBZ Management and Commissioner
 - **MHIC Contractor Education Workgroup:** Chair Norton asked Susan Kleinhammer, President of Leadtec Services, Inc. (LSI) and Commissioner to convene discussions with Chair Norton and Commissioner Skolnik to discuss the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC) Contractor Education Fees. Included in the workgroup are the following Commissioners and guests:
 - Commissioner Kleinhammer
 - Chair Norton
 - Commissioner Skolnik

- **Lead Testing Kit Public Announcement Workgroup:** Commissioner Kleinhammer raised a concern regarding the unavailability of the lead testing kits typically utilized by contractors in the Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP). Many property owners have resorted to using non-approved lead check spot test kits, which are not accurate or endorsed. Paula Montgomery, Lead Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) and Commissioner, highlighted that 3M has ceased production of their lead check swabs due to the presence of a banned chemical. Dawn Joy, Training Division Manager for Aerosol Monitoring & Analysis, Inc. (AMA), confirmed this and stated that 3M discontinued production in October 2023. Currently, the only EPA-approved alternative is manufactured by D-Lead, though it is in short supply. Chair Norton proposed that Chevelle Bash, Outreach and Education Manager for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) head up a workgroup with the individuals listed below collaborate to develop a public service announcement to inform homeowners and the contractor community about the sole EPA-approved lead swab available.
 - Chevelle Bash
 - Chair Norton
 - Commissioner Montgomery
 - Dawn Joy
 - Chris White, Program Manager for Arc Environmental, Inc. (ARC)

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Moore to accept the January 4, 2024 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- **Presentation: “How people can more readily report on things that are in products (not related to lead in paint, water, or soil)”:** The FDA Consumer Product Safety Commissioner was unable to attend the meeting and will be scheduled for a future date.
- **Commission Membership Updates:** Wendy Phillips, Executive Associate III for the Maryland Department of the Environment’s (MDE) Land and Materials Administration (LMA) provided a brief update to the Commission that there are currently two position confirmations that are awaiting approval from the Governor’s Appointment Office and the Commission currently has four vacant positions. Commissioner Skolnik indicated that he will help find qualified candidates for the “Representative of a child health or youth advocacy group”.
- **Ethics Financial Filings:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell reminded the Commission that the ethics financial filings are currently in the open period. Individuals who are required to submit their information will receive communication from the State Ethics Board.
- **2024 Commission Meeting Calendar Discussion:**
 - The following items were added to the agenda for the March Commission meeting:
 - Workgroup Updates
 - Strategies for Reducing Application Fees and Rental Obstacles Workgroup Updates (Angela Perry Hall)
 - MHIC Contractor Education Workgroup Updates (Susan Kleinhammer)
 - Lead Testing Kit Public Announcement Workgroup (Chevelle Bash)
 - Thriving Communities Update (Ruth Ann Norton)

- [HB0241/SB0308 - Housing and Community Development - Just Community Designation](#): This bill would prioritize existing state funding from MD-DHCD going to “Just Communities”. This bill would authorize the Governor, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, to designate certain areas as Just Communities based on certain criteria; and provide for the prioritization of State funding for Just Communities to increase racial, economic and health equity in the state. Chair Norton recommended that a letter of support be sent to the House and Senate. Commissioner Moore made a motion to send a letter of support seconded by Christina Peusch, Executive Director of the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) and Commissioner. Abstentions were as follows: Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, Commissioner Montgomery, and Commissioner Williams. All other present Commissioners were in agreement.
- [HB0351/SB0361 - Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023](#): This bill would increase the special loan program to four million dollars. This bill would authorize the creation of a state debt in the amount of \$1,792,830,000, the proceeds to be used for certain necessary building, construction, demolition, planning, renovation, conversion, replacement, and capital equipment purchases of the state, for acquiring certain real estate in connection therewith, and for grants to certain subdivisions and other organizations for certain development and improvement purposes; etc.
- [SB0481/HB0693 - Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024](#): This bill would limit the security deposit to one month's rent. This would eliminate the first month's and last month's rent practice. This bill increasing maximum surcharges for certain eviction proceedings from \$8 to \$93 and prohibiting the district court from assigning the surcharge against a tenant; altering the priority and criteria in the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program that are followed by the Department of Housing and Community Development and public housing agencies for providing vouchers and housing assistance payments to families; limiting the maximum security deposit required by a residential lease to 1 month's rent; etc.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health): Commissioner Dr. Mitchell wanted to give a shout out to the Washington County Health Department, the Frederick County Health Department, GHHI, MDE, DHCD, the employees at Medicaid, and MDH for their collaborative work on a case to help a family in need. MDE is implementing a new healthy homes and lead poisoning surveillance system to replace Stellar, the previous childhood lead registry. Meanwhile, MDH is collaborating with MDE and local health departments to ensure the successful rollout of this system at the local level. MDH aims to effectively utilize this system for case management, possibly replacing or integrating it with the existing Red Cap system used in MDH's home visiting program across 11 jurisdictions. Close coordination between MDH and MDE is crucial for the success of these efforts.
- **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development): Katherine Taylor, Director of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (BC-DHCD) Lead Hazard Reduction Program reported that BC-DHCD has two grants still going. Its older grant is ending in March. BC-DHCD is expecting to do more unit production and off the quarter.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Chevelle Bash reported that GHHI is preparing for outreach events at several locations, including Head Start centers operated by the Y of Central Maryland in both Baltimore City and Baltimore County, scheduled for February and March. Additionally, GHHI will be conducting presentations for parents at Catholic Charities in Baltimore City. The Y of Central Maryland Head Starts hosts monthly parent meetings and has requested GHHI's presence to deliver presentations

on lead poisoning prevention, along with information on other available green and healthy homes initiative programs and services that parents may be eligible for. Chair Norton reported that GHHI is going to be in the workforce marketplace posting significant jobs as it expands some of its work for thriving communities including a project director for the 50 million dollar grant fund. GHHI has position openings in policy. Also GHHI intends to expand openings around its intake and community engagement.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:10 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:

- FDA 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)
- MDE Annual Report Review for the governor (Paula Montgomery/Wendy Phillips)
- MDE - Compliance and Enforcement (Fred Banks)
- FY2022 Report or Update from MDE (Fred Banks) [FY21 Report](#) is found on MDE webpage
- WorkGroup Updates
 - Strategies for Reducing Application Fees and Rental Obstacles Workgroup Updates (Angela Perry Hall)
 - MHIC Contractor Education Workgroup Updates (Susan Kleinhammer)
 - Lead Testing Kit Public Announcement Workgroup (Chevelle Bash)
- Thriving Communities Update (Ruth Ann Norton)
- Legislation Update (Subcommittee)