

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION October 3, 2024 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Susan Kleinhammer
Cliff Mitchell

Paula Montgomery
Barbara Moore

Ruth Ann Norton
Manjula Paul
Adam Skolnik

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar
Jacob Benzaquen

Benita Cooper
Senator Jill Carter

Anna Davis
Christina Peusch

Guests Present:

Tyler Abbott-MDE
Adewole Adegborioye-MDE
Fred Banks-MDE
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG
Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE
Jack Daniels-MDDHCD
Leslie Delcid-MDE
Julie DiGirolamo-BCHD
Samantha DiNatale-UMBC
William Doyle-HCHD
Shamola Dye-MDE
Attilah Edges-MDE

Carlie Furtaw-GHHI
Catherine Goughnour-MD-DHCD
Felicia Graves-MDE
Nicole Hart-BC-DHCD
Naadiya Hutchinson-YGG
Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD
Eunice Johnson-GES
Dawn Joy-AMA
Samantha Keane-MDE
Wade McCord-MDE
Joy McFadden-GHHI
Shadia Musa-GHHI
Alexandra Nestadt-Public
Olumide Olorunnishola-Public
Adonna Patterson-MDH

Wendy Phillips-MDE
Kathleen Rhinebolt-MDE
Johnette Richardson-GHHI
Andrew Roelke-MDE
Tim Rule-MDE
Nancy Servatius-MDH
Sandra Simmons-SHHI
Kevin Stanley-MDE
George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
Nicola Tran-MD-DHCD
Chris White-ARC
Latesha White-MDE
Thelonious Williams - MDH

Documents Distributed:

- 241003 Agenda
- 240905 Meeting Minutes
- MDE Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Membership
- HUD Seeking Input on EBLL Threshold

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Health Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to accept the September 5, 2024 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- **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:
 - Wendy Boone was awarded with the Outstanding Child Health Environmental Advocate Award 2024
 - Delegate Sandy Rosenberg was awarded Outstanding Advocate Award 2024
 - Susan Kleinhammer was awarded Special Recognition Award 2024
- **Commissioner Membership Updates:** Recently appointed Commissioners: Nicoel Hart, Naadia Hutchinson, and Alexandra Nestadt introduced themselves to the Commission and told us a little of their background. Wendy Phillips, Director's Office Administrative Officer III for the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Land and Materials Administration updated the status of various Commissioner positions as follows:
 - Appointed Commissioners needing to swear in: Nicole Hart, Naadia Hutchinson, Alexandra Nestadt
 - Pending Appointments: Nicola Tran, Fred Banks, House Member, Senate Member
 - Pending Re-Appointments: Ruth Ann Norton, Barbara Moore, Anna Davis
 - Commissioner Resignations: Dr. Paul Rogers
 - Vacant Positions: American Academy of Pediatrics, MD Chapter and Representative of Owner of rental property built after 1949.
- **Update on Just Communities:** Catherine Goughnour from the Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD) introduced the new Division of Just Communities, established under the Just Communities Act signed in April 2024. This division's goal is to identify "just communities"—areas in Maryland historically impacted by racial segregation, disinvestment, and environmental hazards. The designation will help prioritize state funding to improve racial, economic, and health equity. To determine these areas, MD-DHCD will analyze various indicators, including property values, housing conditions, and health risks. They are collaborating with local universities and utilizing federal tools like the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) screening methods to refine this "just communities" map. They also aim to develop a displacement risk tool to anticipate impacts of reinvestment and ensure data accessibility for state agencies and community stakeholders. Ms. Goughnour provided a description of how MD-DHCD's mapping for housing, equity, and lead relates to the EPA's distressed communities map. During the presentation the following links were shared with the Commission.
 - [House Bill 241 Housing and Community Development - Just Community Designation](#)
 - [Just Communities website and FAQ](#)
 - [Maryland Environmental and Health Data Portal](#)
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Revision to Elevated Blood Lead Threshold (EBLL)** Chair Norton provided a hand out to the Commission titled "HUD Seeking Input on Revision to EBLL Threshold". Chair Norton explained that HUD intends to revise its EBLL thresholds to meet the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) threshold level of 3.5 for children under the age of six, consistent with the CDC standards of reference level and there will be an impact of moving to 3.5. Comments are due April 11, 2024 and GHHI is writing comments and will be happy to share with the Commission when completed. Wes Stewart, Senior Advisor and General Counsel/Maryland Programs Director for GHHI provided the following link: [HUD Public Comments Requested on Proposed Lowering of EBLL Threshold under Lead Safe Housing Rule](#)

- **Updates on Lead Poison Prevention Week 10/20/24 - 10/26/24:**

- Commissioner Paula Montgomery, Lead Outreach and Education Coordinator for MDE Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) shared that multiple Maryland health departments, along with the Baltimore City Health Department, have been meeting weekly to plan for Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, which starts on October 20, 2024. This year's focus will not only highlight federal messages on lead prevention but also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 1994 Lead Risk Reduction in Housing Act. This law aimed to prevent childhood lead poisoning while preserving affordable housing in older rental properties by requiring specific safety treatments. Lead Poisoning Prevention Week includes a range of activities: a press event on October 21 at 1:00 p.m. in Baltimore, followed by a community gathering, and a lead-awareness event in Prince George's County later in the week. A social media campaign will also run throughout the week, focusing on lead testing for children and expanding awareness to pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant, with a different theme each day.
- Shadia Musa, Outreach and Education Manager from GHHI announced that a press conference and Community Day will be held on Monday, October 21, with the press event from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. at Baltimore Unity Hall in Baltimore City, followed by Community Day from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Utah Meridian Park. This event will include educational activities on lead poisoning prevention, such as a "lunch and learn" in partnership with Prince George's County and a school tour in Baltimore featuring "Derek the Dinosaur" to educate families and students. Additionally, GHHI is planning a canvassing effort with Young, Gifted, and Green to promote lead pipe testing.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment):** Fred Banks, Program Manager for MDE's LPPP reported that LPPP is concluding a large round of violation notices, leading to a high volume of phone calls. Community response has been strong, with many property owners registering their properties and updating their compliance. He also mentioned collaborating with Baltimore City on a few challenging cases.
- **MDH (Maryland Department of Health) Commissioner Dr. Mitchell** shared that MDH is actively collaborating with MD-DHCD and Medicaid on complex lead abatement and home renovation projects under the Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids program. They are also updating promotional materials and exploring ways to use Medicaid and The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds for lead abatement in owner-occupied homes, particularly in rural areas like Washington County and the Eastern Shore, where resources are more limited. In addition, MDH is updating the Environmental Public Health Tracking portal with new data from the childhood lead registry. Dr. Mitchell noted that lead and asthma case detection rates have returned to pre-COVID levels as more people resume regular medical care.
- **MSDE/OCC (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care):** Commissioner Manjula Paul, Nurse Consultant for MSDE's Division of Early Childhood OCC reported that, following an August listening session for licensed childcare providers, there has been an increase in calls about children who missed lead testing during COVID and are now entering pre-K programs. She shared news about the informal childcare program, where family members serve as unlicensed yet approved childcare providers, receiving scholarships if they qualify. This year, around 200 families in the informal childcare program must submit lead screening forms for their children. Chair Paul has been conducting training sessions on lead screening and safety for these providers and families, which will conclude this evening.

- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Nicola Tran, Director of Housing and Building Energy Programs for MD-DHCD shared that efforts are underway to streamline access to both repair and energy programs, allowing applicants to use a single process to apply for both types of funding. The website is being updated to better reflect this integration, with the new version expected to launch within a month. Additionally, they have applied for federal funding through HUD's Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program to expand lead remediation efforts and are awaiting a response.
- **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development):
 - Nicole Hart, Deputy Commissioner, Homeownership & Housing Preservation, announced that BC-DHCD is holding its second Town Hall meeting as part of creating Baltimore's first citywide housing plan. These meetings aim to present actions, share data-driven results, and involve the community in the planning process. The upcoming meeting will be held in person at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and online this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., with details available on BC-DHCD's website. She also mentioned ongoing work on a strategy to reduce vacant properties and introduced a new Assistant Commissioner. Ms. Hart provided the following website links:
 - <https://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/your-voice-matters>
 - <https://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/events/citywide-housing-plan-town-hall-0>
 - <https://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/news/news/2024-10-01-mayor-scott-council-president-mosby-introduce-affordable-housing-tif>
 - <https://dhcd.baltimorecity.gov/news/news/2024-07-17-mayor-scott-dhcd-announces-effort-establish-citys-first-ever-comprehensive>
 - Katherine Taylor, Director of Lead Hazard Reduction Program shared that BC-DHCD has applied for HUD's new Lead Hazard Reduction Grant to expand lead remediation efforts in Baltimore City and is awaiting the award decision. BC-DHCD currently has an active grant making good progress and is working to add more contractors to accelerate the work. They have also been participating in community events and recently updated their flyers and brochures to be available in five different languages.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Julie DiGirolamo, Director of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, mentioned that her team is preparing for "Lead Week." A key activity will be testing at their immunizations clinic on Thursday, the 24th, at 1200 Fayette Street. They are focused on promoting this event.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Chair Norton announced that GHHI has received a contract worth over \$400,000, approved by the Board of Public Works on October 6, 2024. This contract aims to reinstate legal and tenant counseling services under Maryland's Lead Risk Reduction and Housing Law. GHHI will promptly begin efforts to hire a legal services attorney who will advocate for families and children, ensure effective law enforcement, and help tenants understand their rights and responsibilities.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Adam Skolnik, Executive Director at the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc., made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Barbara Moore, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: November 7, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- 2025 Commission Meeting Calendar (Commissioners)
- 2025 Commission Reporting Calendar (Commissioners)
- EPA's efforts on "Get the Lead Out" Campaign (EPA Region 3 Environmental Justice Coordinator, Carol Ann Gross-Davis)
- Updates on Lead Testing in Schools: (WSA/Water Supply Program/Tim Rule)