

**GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION**

Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore MD 21230

MDE AERIS Conference Room  
May 3, 2018

APPROVED Minutes

**Members in Attendance**

Shana G. Boscak, Benita Cooper, Anna L. Davis, Mary Beth Haller, Susan Kleinhammer  
John P. Martonik, Patricia McLaine, Cliff Mitchell, Paula Montgomery, Leonidas Newton,  
Manjula Paul, Christina Peusch, Adam Skolnik

**Members not in Attendance**

Christina Peusch, John Scott, Barbara Moore

**Guests in Attendance**

Shante Branch (MDE), Camille Burke (BCHD), Jack Daniels (DHCD), Ludeen Green (GHHI)  
Dawn Joy (AMA), Rachel Hess Mutinda (MDH), Bill Peach (HABC), Lan Van De Hei (MDE)  
Chris White (Arc Environmental), Ron Wineholt (AOBA)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Pat McLaine called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM with welcome and introductions. She welcomed new Commissioner John Martonick who is representing pre-1950 Rental Owners not in Baltimore City.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, seconded by Anna Davis to accept the April 2018 minutes as amended. Ten Commissioners were in favor, one abstained.

**Old Business**

Calendar for 2018 – After review of the calendar, a motion was made by Adam Skolnik to approve the calendar for this year, seconded by Anna Davis. All Commissioners were in favor.

State Legislation – Anna Davis noted that SB444 was the only bill supported by the Commission that passed during this legislative session, focused on identifying social factors that drive problems in Baltimore City. Pat McLaine noted that legislation recently passed in New York State enabling educators to learn the blood lead levels (BLL) of children in their schools with a corresponding obligation to provide educational services. Cliff Mitchell noted that MDH and MDE are loading BLLs from the CLR into IMMUNET on a monthly basis. Both Rhode Island and Connecticut have also made BLL data available electronically to providers..

**New Business**

Update on Point of Care (POC) Testing – Cliff Mitchell stated he has not yet talked with MDE about POC testing results for 2017 or with the Laboratories Administration about the results of

proficiency testing of practices now using POC. MDE did a phone reach-out to providers about not using venous specimens and a joint letter was sent to providers from MDE and MDH. Cliff Mitchell stated that a very small number of children were impacted and received follow-up testing. Cliff Mitchell indicated that MDH has no plans to change recommendations on the use of POC testing. He still thinks POC testing has significant advantages as a screening test for lead exposure. Pat McLaine indicated the Commission still wanted the information requested on POC testing

DHCD Third Quarter Update – Jack Daniels reported on progress with lead grant program, administered by the Special Loans Program; a one-page report showing grants and loans by counties was provided. Out of 100 units processed state-wide for lead hazard rehabilitation during the period 7/1/17 through 3/31/18, only three did not meet grant criteria (they received loans). The average per unit funding was \$15,000. On the Eastern Shore, DHCD has done significant outreach, presentations to get non-profits and local groups involved. In Western Maryland, DHCD has also been doing more outreach and training of new staff.

Open Meeting Act – Pat McLaine reported that certain individuals have expressed an interest in being able to audio or video record the deliberations of this meeting. The Lead Commission Meeting is an Open meeting, subject to the laws of the State of Maryland and the opinions of the Open Meetings Compliance Board. As such, the meeting is open to the public and there is no expectation of discussions being private. While the Commission cannot prevent recording, it can set forth reasonable rules governing the recording of our meetings by any media. Pat McLaine suggested that the Commission establish a committee to develop a set of rules and policies that the Lead Commission would abide by. This would be a procedural not a policy change. Model rules are available from the Open Meetings Compliance Board and the Charles County Planning Commission. After discussion, Paula Montgomery, Anna Davis and Adam Skolnik volunteered to be on the Committee. They will meet briefly today following the Commission meeting and will report back their recommendations at the next meeting in June. Manjula Paul noted that free training on Maryland Open Meetings is available ([Link to Maryland Open Meeting Act training: https://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class\\_oma\\_intro1.php](https://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_intro1.php) )

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2018, at MDE in the AERIS Conference Room – Front Lobby, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

### **Agency updates**

**Maryland Department of Environment** – Paula Montgomery reported that MDE will have a table about lead at the Dundalk Housing Fair on Saturday, May 12. The Housing Fair is very well attended. A “Waste-free Lunch” Campaign is underway in middle schools around the state, focused on recycling and other health topics. MDE is developing training curricula for public schools. MDE is also scheduled to go to Shady Grove on May 19 for an outreach and education

event. Finally, MDE is working with MDH to address needs of the refugee/immigrant population. They are planning a training session this summer and outreach to the refugee community. Paula Montgomery reported that last year approximately 45 immigrant children living in Maryland entered the US with high BLLs.

**Maryland Department of Health** – Cliff Mitchell praised GHHI for their recent summit on asthma which included a lot of discussion of lead outreach as a comprehensive approach. With regards to the MDH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Environmental Case Management Program, eight out of nine counties are up and running and seeing patients. Case Managers and Community Health Workers are going into homes, making referrals for hazard abatement, providing cleaning and cleaning equipment to families. The next step will include local health department staff reporting relevant information to the child's primary care provider to make sure they understand what is happening in the home. Cliff also noted that the Environmental Public Health Tracking program is funding IMMUNET development work to provide provider access to BLLs going forward. If schools have electronic access to BLLs, parents don't need to provide forms documenting BLL testing.

**Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development** – Jack Daniels reported that Program 1, providing lead abatement and lead-related activity repairs, is doing well, fine tuning the process, shortening information from the family and getting to inspection more quickly. The first two projects are going into construction. Letters have gone out to people identified with a good response from local health departments who are bringing people in. Some concern was raised about the consent language but that has been addressed. Two open staff positions are now filled. DHCD has a RFP out for contractor-enhanced weatherization and other activities. Medicaid will reinstate funding in July to a full \$4.167 million.

**Baltimore City Health Department** – Camille Burke reported that BCHD has been holding seminars and interviews with students at Carver High School. BCHD is in the process of hiring a new attorney and is interviewing now. BCHD is partnering with Baltimore City Housing and Community Development (BCHCD) and has been talking with housing people and with lead people to link up code enforcement.

**Baltimore City Housing and Community Development** – Bill Peach, at HABC, one of the largest housing authorities in the State of Maryland, started a lead program early in the 1990s and said he thought the efforts were pretty successful. Now HABC is trying to transition poor people to using electronic documents. Communication is very important. Paula Montgomery noted that HABC has been doing a great job; she added she has visited HABC properties and observed good staff and good property maintenance.

**Office of Child Care** – Manjula Paul stated the asthma summit was great. A number of Head Start programs from Baltimore City and Baltimore County attended. Also Community Health Lead Commission Minutes

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Workers were present, talking about the type of work they are doing. There is much interest at the Office of Child Care about water testing. Manjula Paul stated she has been reviewing articles about testing child care centers. All child care centers and family centers follow local code and test after two years. In Carroll County, testing is done for the initial application. In other counties, the county Health Department helps review the results. The OCC inspectors test water and check for presence of peeling chipping paint. Camille Burke said she would send information about testing at two years to the Commission. Paula Montgomery asked if a child care center had a risk assessment, should the Center test for water if risk is indicated? She asked if there was an Office of Child Care Advisory Council and requested that MDE be informed if such a group existed.

**Maryland Insurance Administration** – nothing to report

**Public Comment**

Ludeen Green from GHHI reported that their meeting yesterday on asthma had 100 participants, many from St. Mary's County and Baltimore City. The program looks at asthma as a healthy homes issue. Next month is Healthy Homes Month; outreach events are planned for summer. GHHI will announce plans for this work next month. With regards to legislation and HB 304: seven other states have adopted similar legislation. It is a good idea for communities to keep their foot on the gas pedal. Ludeen Green also reported that CDC's budget for lead had been increased from \$17 to \$30 million and HUD funding was increased from \$145 to \$230 million/year.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Adam Skolnik to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anna Davis. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.