

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

MDE AERIS Conference Room
October 3, 2019

APPROVED Minutes

Members in Attendance

Mary Beth Haller, Susan Kleinhammer, Patricia McLaine, Barbara Moore (via phone),
Cliff Mitchell, Paula Montgomery (via phone), Leonidas Newton, Manjula Paul, Christina Peusch

Members not in Attendance

Shana Boscak, Benita Cooper, Anna Davis, John Martonick, Adam Skolnik

Guests in Attendance

Camille Burke (BCHD), Chris Corzine (OAG), Stephanie Cobb-Williams (MDE)
Ludeen Green (GHHI), Elizabeth Heitz (MDH) Rachel Hess Mutinda (MDH), Lisa Horne (MDH),
Bill Peach (HABC), Michael S. Spangler (CONNOR), Dr. Sarah Vick (MDH)

Welcome and Introductions

Pat McLaine called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM with welcome and introductions.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Christina Peusch, seconded by Cliff Mitchell to accept the September 2019 minutes as amended. All present Commissioners were in favor.

Old Business

Amazon's sale of leaded products – MDE is continuing to work with Consumer Protection on this matter. They reached out to Washington State. More information will be provided when available.

GHHI Asset and Gap Analysis – Pat McLaine shared the letter received from GHHI and email exchange. GHHI clarified that the Executive Director (Ruth Ann Norton) has the authority and did approve this work. Connecticut did not wish to release their report at this time. There were no questions for GHHI. GHHI will get back to the Commission by October 15 with a schedule moving forward.

Nominations for Awards – John Krupinsky, RN, MDE was nominated by Cliff Mitchell and Paula Montgomery, for the Outstanding Child Health Advocate Award. John Krupinsky has Baltimore City Health Department was nominated by Christina Peusch for the Special Recognition award, noting the outstanding lead poisoning prevention work done in Baltimore City over many years. Camille Burke was nominated by Christina Peusch for the Outstanding Advocate Award. Cliff Mitchell moved that all three nominations be awarded; Leonidas Newton

seconded the motion, all commissioners were in favor. The awards will be made at the beginning of the November meeting.

New Business

Cliff Mitchell reported on a meeting on lead held by EPA for the Mid-Atlantic Region, attended by both MDE and MDH, with Secretary Grumbles also in attendance. The focus was on local community involvement and local community solutions. Presentations were made by Hagerstown, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and included discussion of both frustrations and opportunities. The second day included a speaker from national PTA who spoke about getting a law passed in Delaware banning the use of lead based paint on exterior structures (e.g. water towers). HUD spoke about grant availability. The lack of congruence between HUD and EPA was very visible. HUD is talking about trying to reconcile differences between the two lead standards – health-based and clearance. Focus will be primary prevention and source reduction, not on poisoned child follow-up.

Future Meeting Dates

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2019, at MDE in the AERIS Conference Room – Front Lobby, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

Agency updates

Maryland Department of Environment – Barbara Moore noted that there have been two cases in the past month from Prince Georges County where no source was identified but the inspectors did not assess or test spices. She indicated that something needs to be done to encourage assessment and testing of spices. The New York Times article reported the deliberate addition of lead to turmeric in Bangladesh. But there is no FDA standard and no requirement for testing. Many products are brought to the US by families. Barbara Moore asked if this exposure is being assessed – are there standard questions? Not every local health department is collecting samples on the first visit. Stephanie Cobb-Williams indicated some samples may be collected if seen. Inspectors recommend families discontinue use. The Environmental questionnaire is used. Based on responses, some inspectors will take samples. Some will take sample as a secondary analysis. Testing is expensive. Many spices are purchased in bulk containers. The most common spices of concern appear to be yellow including turmeric or turmeric-based curry and chili. Although HUD chapter 16 is the standard for investigations going forward, there should be a systematic uniform way to assess for spices. It is not clear that Consumer Protection could do anything. However, the percent and number of higher BLLs associated with food is growing. MDE may need to do outreach to ethnic stores or to grocers' associations. There are many places where individuals are selling herbs and spices; a more global outreach effort may be needed. A Federal Action level established by FDA would be helpful.

Maryland Department of Health – MDH is meeting to talk about the screening form.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development – no one to report

Baltimore City Health Department – Camille Burke thanked Commission members who participated in recent PR activities. The program joined Manjula Paul to meet with nurses from the Office of Child Care. Baltimore City joined MDE for a CDC site visit. Baltimore City will introduce a toolkit to members of the American Academy of Pediatrics to help increase lead screening. The Health Department is scheduled to hold the last three of six meetings to meet with the Health Commissioner. Camille will send out dates to Commission members.

Baltimore City Housing and Community Development – no one to report

Office of Child Care – Manjula Paul indicated that Rachel Hess-Mutinda and Camille Burke made presentations on lead, asthma and community resources to nurses from the Office of Child Care. The Office will be working on revisions to the screening form.

Maryland Insurance Administration – no one to report

Public Comment – no public comment

Adjournment

A motion was made by Cliff Mitchell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Beth Haller. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:33AM.