

## **GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION**

Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore MD 21230

APPROVED Minutes (6/7/12)  
May 3, 2012

### **Members in Attendance**

Patrick Connor, Dr. Maura Dwyer, Cheryl Hall, Edward Landon, Pat McLaine, Delegate Nathaniel Oaks and Linda Roberts

### **Members not in Attendance**

Melbourne Jenkins, Barbara Moore, and Mary Snyder-Vogel.

### **Guests in Attendance**

Shaketta Denson – CECLP, Wes Stewart – CECLP, Dana Schmidt -MMHA, Margaret Schnitzer – BCHD, Hosanna Asfaw-Means – BCHD, Arthur Gray – Baltimore City/HCD(for Ken Strong), Kathy Howard – MMHA, James Carroll – MDE, Horacio Tablada – MDE, John O'Brien – MDE staff, John Krupinsky – MDE staff, Paula Montgomery – MDE staff, and Tracy Smith – MDE staff.

### **Introductions**

Pat McLaine began the meeting at 9:33 am. Everybody present introduced themselves. Pat McLaine inquired if everyone had an agenda and had signed in. Future meetings are on the agenda.

Minutes from the April Commission meeting were approved by Ed Landon and seconded by Delegate Oaks after minor modifications.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The next Lead Commission meeting will be on Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 9:30 am in the PATUXENT conference room

### **Discussion**

Mr. Jim Carroll, the Program Manager from MDE's Land Restoration Program, discussed lead smelters at several sites in Maryland. In 2001, a graduate student (Sanborn) did a thesis on lead smelters. A list of sites was distributed by EPA in 2005.

A reporter from USA Today contacted MDE last year and interviewed staff. No lead concerns were identified in Maryland, except for two sites (Dixie Metals and 108 E. Barney St in Baltimore) where additional information and data is needed and MDE will be performing preliminary assessments.

Pat McLaine commented about soil being a concern for lead poisoning in children. Paula Montgomery commented that soil testing from bare soil areas would be included in a risk assessment if soil is indicated on a questionnaire for a lead-poisoned child environmental investigation.

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Paula Montgomery confirmed that a questionnaire for every lead poisoned child environmental investigation involves many elements including testing per Chapter 16 from the HUD Guidelines and Healthy Homes questions. Cheryl Hall commented that soil sampling is not standard for child care.

Although focus for lead is to remain on homes, there may be a future link on MDE's web-site related to lead smelters. Patrick Connor inquired if lead in soil was regulated at levels > 400 parts per million.

Jim Carroll explained that lead concerns for public parks could vary depending on the number of days (50 = low, 180 = medium, or 260 = high) that the parks are used. Nothing was represented to be an immediate need based on additional soil screening that MDE performed primarily at parks in Baltimore City. Paula Montgomery said lead could be a concern in the top 1 ½ inch of soil. Patrick Connor commented on lead in soil levels being different for factories (industrial) vs. residential properties.

Horacio Tablada discussed HB 472, HB 644, and HB 1268 (all of which passed during the legislative session.) HB 1268 does not involve the Land Management Administration since this bill involves plumbing (and MDE's drinking water supply program.)

Horacio Tablada will be MDE's representative for a Summer study work group that will be handled by the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) and may begin meeting in May. Nancy Egan, (410) 468-2488, is a point of contact with the MIA.

Horacio Tablada explained that HB 644 involves coordinating lead abatement orders with Health Directors and allowing MDE the authority to adopt EPA's RRP Rule. MDE will provide more updates in June, including possible meetings with property owner associations.

Paula Montgomery commented about a May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Annapolis with the Historic Commission and the authority for ordering lead abatements.

Ed Landon commented about lead-free specific standards for pipe fittings and that HB 1268 will go into effect on October 1, 2012.

Horacio Tablada commented that Andrea Baker and Paula Montgomery will be meeting with regards to explicit authority for lead abatements, including for other counties besides Baltimore City. MDE meets monthly with Health Departments and 2 times/year with Health Commissioners.

Blood lead lab issues (including oversight of Maryland labs) were discussed. Lab oversight is in the Office of Health Care Quality @ DHMH. In order to assure accurate blood lead levels below 5µg/dL, the reporting laboratories' levels of detections (1, 3, or 5µg) are of concern as are the absence of spiked and blind samples.

Patrick Connor commented on the reliability of looking backwards at testing data (including from 2005.) Concerns with using wrong tube cap (lavender) colors and the loss of part of DHMH's blood lab program were discussed. A case where a child had been sent for chelation treatments based on an inaccurate lab result and other errors was discussed. Child blood lead level reports are sent to MDE and electronically recorded in Stellar.

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Pat McLaine commented on approved letters for CDC funding and requested agency updates.

Horacio Tablada commented that an announcement for Alvin's vacant position on the Lead Commission, may be made by next month's Commission meeting.

**Agency Updates**

DHMH - Dr. Maura Dwyer - No updates

DHCD/Ed Landon - commented that DHCD has adopted Green and Livability Codes.

BCHD - The Baltimore City Health Department is working on a plan to address funding cuts. Sanitarians will be kept but the medical side could be affected after August 31, 2012.

Baltimore City Housing received \$2.9 million in funding from HUD and will be hiring 3 or 4 people.

Office of Child Care/Cheryl Hall - No updates

MIA – no representative

Delegate Oaks - No updates

CECLP/Wes Stewart - commented on the inflexibility for replacement wood windows (at a cost of \$800 – 900/window) in historical areas. There was a comment with regards to concerns with the loss of tax credits for historic preservation. Surfaces (cornices, porches, etc.) can be treated but cannot be removed.

Paula Montgomery commented about replacing windows when meeting risk reduction standards for lead poisoned children but not in historical areas. Ed Landon commented that although windows can not be replaced in kind with wood, off-site paint stripping is worse.

After no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.