

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

Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore MD 21230

Approved Minutes (10/4/12)  
July 12, 2012

### **Members in Attendance**

Patrick Connor, Cheryl Hall, Melbourne Jenkins, Ed Landon, Pat McLaine, Barbara Moore, and Linda Roberts.

### **Members not in Attendance**

Dr. Maura Dwyer, Delegate Nathaniel Oaks, and Mary Snyder-Vogel.

### **Guests in Attendance**

Shaketta Denson – CECLP, D. G. Johnson – BCHD, Hosanna Asfaw-Means, Genevieve Birkby, Geraldine Woodson – BCHD, Clifford Mitchell – DHMH, Horacio Tablada – MDE, Heather Barthel – MDE, Lisa Nissley – MDE, John O'Brien – MDE staff, Paula Montgomery – MDE staff, John Krupinsky – MDE staff, and Tracy Smith – MDE staff, by phone Renee Webster, DHMH Office of Health Care Quality.

### **Introductions**

Pat McLaine called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves. Motion to accept the draft minutes from the June Commission meeting by Ed Landon and seconded by Patrick Connor; minutes were approved.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The next Lead Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 9:30 am in the Aeris conference room.

### **Discussion**

Updates to the work plan were discussed. The work plan has met four (4) times since the June meeting. A July 13, 2012 draft of take home points from the task force executive summary was provided to attendees and discussed.

A question was raised with regards to a significant drop in the number of registered affected properties. MDE is working with Maryland Environmental Services for cleaning up data, including linking the inspection certificate data base with registration.

MDE is adding resources this year to link registrations with fee payments and information from Department of Assessment and Taxation. This will provide much better data.

Discussion included concerns about Baltimore City being unable to obtain Medicaid reimbursements for environmental investigations. Dr. Clifford Mitchell from DHMH indicated that he has met with the Baltimore City Health Department about this concern. The rate for inspections is \$333; issues with reimbursement include paper submissions (and not electronic billing) for reimbursement processing.

With regards to loss of Federal dollars for lead poisoning prevention efforts, Commissioners were reminded that the Commission sent letters to our elected Federal congressional and senate representatives requesting their support for federal funding. MDE staff indicated that future property registration fees will probably be in the range of \$8-9 million/year, but agreed in principle with a task force suggestion that one third of resources could be used to fund primary prevention efforts. Pat McLaine thanked the task force for their work. The Commission is looking forward to reading their report.

A discussion of laboratory issues raised at the presentation by Dr. Keyvan at the June 7, 2012 meeting followed. There are more tests than children (some of whom are tested multiple times.) Errors increase at lower blood lead levels. Purple (lavender) top tubes do not provide reliable results, should not be used, and can lead to faulty data/levels. Errors in blood lead analysis recently led to a child being admitted and chelation started unnecessarily.

There are currently 13 accredited laboratories. A concern was raised with oversight of draw stations. Submittal of blind/spiked samples to laboratories was also discussed. Concerns with reporting results as venous or capillary was discussed.

DHMH's plan for new CDC recommendations was discussed. DHMH is working with MDE. Letters have been sent out to health care providers informing them of CDC's new recommendations. The recommendations included dropping the term "level of concern", and using the term "reference value".

There is no change in current recommendations with regards to who should be tested. However, DHMH has started a review of more recent Maryland data on blood lead data as the first step in revising the 2004 targeting plan. The goal is to revise the targeting plan by early next year, after reviewing current data, and seeking public comments and recommendations in light of the new recommendations and the goal of eliminating lead exposure.

Critical questions moving forward include:

- a.) How should health departments manage children with BLLs in the 5 – 9µg/dL range, particularly with respect to environmental assessments and clinical recommendations?
- b.) What are the DHMH recommendations for clinical management of children with historical blood lead levels of 5 -9 µg/dL? And how far back should the recommendations apply?
- c.) Lab quality and procedures.

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DHMH is requesting public comments, after which DHMH/MDE will review and present results to the Lead Commission at our October meeting. The Commission meeting would include a public discussion of concerns by key stakeholders and full discussion of recommendations by the Commission.

John Krupinsky noted that regional lead meetings will be held in September, providing an opportunity for further discussion of this topic. Although there is concern for children who tested 5-9µg/dL years ago, our focus should be on follow through with children tested this year.

**Agency Updates:**

**MDE** – working on databases, the RRP (EPA) rule, the MIA study group, and helping DHMH. 2011 blood lead screening report should be available by early August and there may possibly be a media event. Ms. Karen Stakem Hornig is the new insurance commission member. A presentation about lead was made recently to Health Officers. A current case involves the first abatement order in a post-1949 rental property.

**DHMH** – There has been a re-organization. Lead surveillance stats will be available for the August meeting. DHMH personnel may be attending future meetings on a rotating basis. (There is a goal to centralize.)

**HCD** – No report.

**Baltimore City Health Department** – Funding issues continue. BCHD staff have had internal discussions for handling/responding to children with levels between 5 and 9µg/dL.

**Baltimore Housing** – Not represented.

**Child Care** – The Office of Child Care is no longer funding inspectors for Baltimore City.

**Maryland Insurance Administration** – Not represented.

Barb Moore reported that there have been cases of dogs exposed to lead in dog toys, including rawhide toys and ropes from China. One company, Petsmart, has their own inspectors who test these items for lead prior to packaging.

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.