

GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

Via Google Hangouts
May 7 2020

APPROVED Minutes

Members in Attendance

Anna Davis, Mary Haller, Patricia McLaine, Cliff Mitchell, Paula Montgomery, Barbara Moore, Manjula Paul, Christina Peusch, Adam Skolnik

Members not in Attendance

Jill Carter, Benita Cooper, Susan DiGaetano-Kleinhammer, Shana Greenstein (Boscak), Leonida Newton

Guests in Attendance

Shante Branch (MDE), Stephanie Cobb-Williams (MDE), Jack Daniels (DHCD), Eamon Flynn (MDH), Sheneka Fraasier-Kyer (DHCD), Ludeen Green (GHHI), Elizabeth Heitz (MDH), Lisa Horne (MDH), Dawn Joy (AMA), Catherine Klinger-Kutcher (GHHI), Kaley Laleker (MDE), Jamal Lewis (GHHI), Ruth Ann Norton (GHHI), Teresa Pfaff (BCHD), Wendy Phillips (MDE), Georgella Samu (MDE), Wes Stewart (GHHI), Edward Thomas (HUD), Patrick Wallis (HUD)

Welcome and Introductions

Pat McLaine called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM with welcome and introductions.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Anna Davis, seconded by Adam Skolnik to accept the April 2020 minutes as amended. One Commissioner abstained; all other present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old Business

Update on Asset and Gap Analysis – The document was sent to Commissioners today. Ruth Ann Norton thanked the entire GHHI team and students from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health for their work. An addendum will be added to the document thanking contributors. The Analysis is a living document for the Commission, with more to be added in the future. Ruth Ann Norton urged Commissioners to look at the impact of lead on racial disparity, the economy, the elimination of poverty and efforts needed to address the social determinants of health. Based on a deeper look at data around compliance, the Commission should provide support for a new data platform. Having virtual platforms might significantly enhance Maryland's work with lead. Ruth Ann Norton thanked MDE, MDH and DHCD, Baltimore City Health Department and County Health Departments that participated in the Analysis. GHHI also has a power point presentation available.

Pat McLaine suggested that Commission convene in three sub-groups to review the Analysis and report back recommendations at the June 4, 2020 meeting. The three groups are: (1) Blood Lead Testing and Case Management – convened by Barbara Moore, Manjula Paul will join; (2) Environmental Investigation and Enforcement – convened by Adam Skolnik, Paula Montgomery will join; (3) Grant & Loan Resources and Outreach, Education and Testing – convened by Anna Davis, Chris Peusch, Barbara Moore, Manjula Paul will join. Pat McLaine will notify other commissioners of group assignments by email.

New Business

MDE Regulations – new regulations have been proposed, published in the Maryland Register on April 24, 2020. The comment period is open until May 26. A link to the notice was sent to Commissioners and guests. The regulations will be finalized before July 1, 2020. MDE anticipates receiving comments but does not expect significant opposition. Eamon Flynn, MDE, reviewed the 3 parts of the proposal: (1) new chapter detailing the process for Environmental Investigation; this tracks closely with the HUD guidelines; (2) stronger standards for post-abatement clearance dust testing in sync with existing standards; (3) changes/updates to blood lead level (BLL) reporting that conform with CDC requirements and are consistent with lowering the BLL to 5-9µg/dL. MDE will send slides out to Commission and guests.

Baltimore City HUD Grant – Sheneka Fraiser-Kyer reported that Baltimore City is in start-up mode for the 2019 grant. They have completed benchmarks and work plan and are working on the environmental review and revising forms for the program. Outreach is being done by phone and email to prepare the pipeline. Staff are reviewing scopes of work and RFPs. Twenty five (25) risk assessments have been completed this quarter, 63 since December 2019. The program is not in production right now and has not completed any units due to COVID restrictions but is trying to figure out a strategy to increase unit production. Ed Thomas stated that HUD is working with grantees on local strategies. Various cities and regions are opening up at different times. He indicated that HUD will be flexible, working with the grantees to meet their goals.

Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) – Pat McLaine read an update from William Peach who was not able to attend the meeting. In 2019, three HABC sites were turned over to HUD Residential Assistance Development (RAD) Program developers. Properties will be completely renovated, residents will be able to move back into the units after construction with no increase in rents. Two children living in HABC's Cherry Hill Homes development, certified lead-free, were identified with elevated BLLs. Although advised that the children were exposed to lead prior to moving to the site, maintenance staff continue to monitor units and address defective paint when identified. HABC maintenance staff are addressing emergency work orders but turnovers and re-occupancy is on hold until the shelter-in-place/COVID-19 requirements are lifted by Governor Hogan.

Future Meeting Dates

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2020, via Google Hangouts Meet, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

Agency updates

Maryland Department of Environment – Paula Montgomery reported that MDE’s grant from CDC was slated to end on September 30, 2020 but a new NOFA was cancelled and the existing grant extended one more year. MDE will submit a supplemental application to extend the existing grant that will fund operations at a level not lower than the existing level of support. MDE has a new data base project; Shante Branch is working with a contractor to link the LRCA and OLRR databases, starting with the accreditation section. The project is expected to be completed in November 2021.

Maryland Department of Health – Cliff Mitchell reported that MDH is very busy with COVID. Some lead work is going on at local health departments with CHIP programs. MDH has received questions about changes in the management of children at lower levels as a result of HB1233. Local health departs have been incredibly challenged with COVID and the need to do contact tracing. MDH is trying to figure out what this will look like going forward. With so many families home, MDH is concerned about more kids being exposed to lead in their homes. Pediatric visits of all kinds are down, with lower immunization rates and lower lead testing rates expected. MDH will stress the need for vaccination and lead tests as part of well child care. MDH will work with MDE to try to secure Medicaid billing for environmental inspections for children with BLLs of 5-0µg/dL. Medicaid has been meeting with Maryland DHCD.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development – Jack Daniels indicated that even though construction is slow, the Department is still reviewing and accepting scopes of work and setting aside funding. DHCD should set aside close to 2.4 million this fiscal year. DHCD is finalizing the interagency agreement to continue the Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids program for five years. The program is at a point now where it is looking at ideas for how to grow. This is a pilot program and DHCD has done a lot to reduce the burden of information required so that they can get to work quickly. There are still some barriers but DHCD is seeing success and other states are replicating Maryland’s work.

Baltimore City Health Department – Mary Beth Haller reported that BCHD is still offering telephonic case management and education for new cases. A summer social marketing campaign at bus shelters focused on BLL testing is planned. The posters are black and white featuring a child with an apple.

Baltimore City Housing and Community Development – no representative present.

Office of Child Care – Manjula Paul reported that essential child care centers have been set up to meet the needs of essential workers. State-wide, 3,786 sites are open serving 25,000 plus children between the ages of two weeks through school age; 2,000 are less than one year old. Chris Peusch noted that more essential personnel are going back to work. Manjula Paul indicated that OCC is working with Cheryl DePinto for care and contact investigation when a

positive or possible COVID case has been identified in child care setting. Sites have closed for deep cleaning and OCC has sought continued guidance regarding re-opening sites.

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Maryland Insurance Administration – no representative present

Public Comment

Barbara Moore reported that a patient on the Eastern Shore needed to have her father's wheelchair tested for lead. The local health department was unable to test. Calvert County worked with Shante Branch (MDE); MDE did make a visit but the wheelchair still has not been tested.

Ed Thomas, HUD gave an update on grants. A Notice of Funding Availability will be available on May 18th. Lead Technical Studies will have \$2 million available; Healthy Homes Technical Studies will have \$5 million available. Grants will be available at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), FR-6400-10-15. The pre-application is due June 15, 2020. The Lead NOFA will be going to OMB shortly. HUD projects it will be released the end of May 2020. New funding is also expected for weatherization and healthy homes coordination grants. Weatherization programs can apply for five awards of \$1 million each in August or September. MDE will send information out to the Commission mailing list.

Pat McLaine announced that she is retiring from her position at the University of Maryland on June 1st. She plans to attend the Lead Commission meeting in June and possibly in August but will be stepping down because she will be moving to Vermont sometime this summer. Commissioners congratulated her, thanked her for her efforts to guide the work of the Commission and wished her well.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Anna Davis to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cliff Mitchell. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 AM.