

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

1800 Washington Boulevard · Suite 610 · Baltimore Maryland 21230-1719

410-537-3304 · 800-633-6101 · www.mde.maryland.gov



09/04/25 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Google Meet Lead Commission Distributed Meeting Material

- Agenda 250904
- Draft Minutes 250403
- Draft Minutes 250501
- Maryland Lead Commission Strategic Planning Meeting - 6-24-25 Meeting Notes
- Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Strategic Planning Day June 24 2025 AGENDA

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

September 4, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Roll Call for Commissioners
- Approval of Minutes – April 2025 & May 2025
- Old & New Business
 - Overview of Strategic Planning
 - Commission Meeting Schedule Frequency Change to quarterly
 - Lead Week October 19-25
 - Commissioner Re-Appointments
 - Funding Restoration to the CDC
 - Green Environmental Barclay
 - CHIP program/Medicaid Federal unused Medicaid dollars (DHCD)
- Agency Hot Topics/Current Events
 - **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Fred Banks
 - **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Dr. Cliff Mitchell
 - **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter) Dr. Michael Ichniowski
 - **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Manjula Paul
 - **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration) Benita Cooper
 - **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Nicola Tran
 - **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development) Nicole Hart
 - **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Brionna Adams/Camille Burke
 - **BRU** (Baltimore Renters United) Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting set for October 2, 2025

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

April 3, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Adam Skolnik	Cliff Mitchell	Naadiya Hutchinson
Alexandra Nestadt	Fred Banks	Nicola Tran
Barbara Moore	Jacob Benzaquen	Nicole Hart
Benita Cooper	Manjula Paul	Ruth Ann Norton
Christina Peusch	Michael Ichniowski	Susan Kleinhammer

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Dalya Attar	Mary Washington
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Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Ilan Kokotek-MDE	Paula Montgomery-MDE
Anstasia Solano-MDE	Jack Daniels-MD-DHCD	Samantha DiNatale-UMBC
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Rick Kessler-MDE
Angela Hall-GHHI	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD	Samantha
Brionna Adams-BCHD	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD
Carrie Johnson-Public	Kira Videan-MDE	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Chris Corzine-OAG	Laura Nugent-GHHI	Sheneka Frasier-MDE
Chris White-ARC	Leslie Delcid-MDE	Suma Kondle-MDH
Colin Choney-GHHI	Lisa Eibner-MDE	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Cynthia Herrera-GHHI	Lori Tantlinger-JHU	Thelonious Williams-MDH
Dawn Joy-AMA	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE	Tim Rule-MDE
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Wade McCord-MDE
Eunice Johnson-GES	Matthew Koning-OAG	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Felicia Graves-MDE	Nancy Servatius-MDH	William Doyle-HCHD
George Stewart-GHHI	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD	

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes
- Old Lead Frees2

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting began with introductions of attendees, both in-person and via phone

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

- Gemini Note-Taking System: Wendy Phillips announced the use of Gemini for note-taking, a new Google system approved by the State of Maryland's IT department.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Mitchell seconded by Commissioner Skolnik to approve the March 2025 minutes. All present Commissioners were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- **Legislation Updates**
 - [SB0238 / HB0127 - Department of Housing and Community Development - Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program - Local Rehabilitation Program Administration](#): This bill has passed both the House and Senate.
 - [HB1367 - Lead Testing and Inspections - Falsifying Information - Penalty](#): The Lead Commission sent a letter of support to both the House and Senate Committee. The current bill status is that the bill has passed the House and currently in the Senate.
- **Federal Support Changes on Lead**: Commissioner Dr. Mitchell brought up significant changes at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), including staff reductions affecting environmental health programs, potentially impacting cooperative agreements and future programming. He emphasized the uncertainty surrounding the future of these programs. The impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program cuts were also discussed. The commission discussed the potential impact of federal changes and voted to draft a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services to inquire about the future of lead poisoning prevention programs. Commissioner Ichniowski motioned for the Commission to draft a letter seconded by Commissioner Skolnik. There was strong support for writing this letter from the remainder of the Commissioners. Abstentions were Commissioner Dr. Mitchell and Commissioner Paul.
- **Green Environmental Update**: Matthew Koning from the Office of the Attorney General provided an update on the lawsuit against Green Environmental LLC and Rodney Barkley. The case is proceeding, and the defendants have been served. Mr. Koning provided an invalidated lead free list and list for Notice Violations to Wendy Phillips who then emailed the information to the Commissioners.
- **Old Lead-Free Certificates**: Commissioner Kleinhammer highlighted issues with old lead-free certificates, stressing the need for better education, inspection accuracy, and clearer definitions. She explained that current lead-free standards don't guarantee safety and outlined approved abatement methods and safe work practices. Non-traditional methods and evolving regulations suggest a need to revisit definitions and standards, with cleanliness being key to reducing exposure.
- **Spring into Action - Lead Prevention**: Commissioner Banks mentioned the "Spring into Action" campaign to increase public awareness of lead prevention which will be advertised on the MDE social media.
- **Strategic Planning Day**: The commission discussed their meeting schedule, potential consolidation of the June meeting with strategic planning, and the need to select a facilitator and distribution method for a pre-meeting survey. The strategic planning will aim to set a long-term vision for lead and lead poisoning prevention in Maryland over the next 5–10 years, and to establish specific, measurable goals to guide the Commission's work within that broader direction.

- Commission Recess 2025: The Commission confirmed that it will recess in July, August, and December of 2025.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Commissioner Dr. Mitchell shared updates on home visiting programs, the evaluation of these programs, and the uncertainty surrounding CDC funding for lead-related initiatives
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Commissioner Tran shared updates from the Office of Lead Hazard Reduction programs and the onboarding of local non-profits.
- **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development) Katheryn Taylor reported that BC-DHCD is transitioning between lead hazard reduction grants, with a new citywide grant starting this month pending final approvals. Enrollment of units will begin soon.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Brionna Adams described challenges in recruiting environmental sanitarians for Baltimore City and explained the lead training program, emphasizing the requirement to become a level two and the cross-training opportunities with partners in food and ecology. They noted some individuals prefer food and ecology roles over lead-focused work.
- **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Naadiya Hutchinson provided an update on the lead service line inventory work, focusing on the Santom Winchester area due to ongoing construction that may affect water pipes. Their team aims to prioritize inventory in this area to ensure homes receive lead filters if needed (01:58:33). They also mentioned that they would investigate a Baltimore city lawsuit against the EPA concerning lead and water issues
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Shadia Musa announced GHI's continued participation in Healthy Homes Month in April, despite HUD's non-participation. They detailed plans for a healthy homes tour visiting Baltimore city schools and community centers, as well as a presentation at Red Emma's Free School. Additionally, they publicized the Asthma Summit on May 20th at Morgan State University. The number of attendees for the summit was clarified as approximately 100, with a capacity of 125

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, May 1, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

May 1, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Adam Skolnik	Cliff Mitchell	Naadiya Hutchinson
Alexandra Nestadt	Fred Banks	Nicole Hart
Barbara Moore	Manjula Paul	Ruth Ann Norton
Benita Cooper	Michael Ichniowski	Susan Kleinhammer

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Dalya Attar	Mary Washington
Christina Peusch	Jacob Benzaquen	Nicola Tran

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Ilan Kokotek-MDE	Paula Montgomery-MDE
Anstasia Solano-MDE	Jennifer Thompkins-Verlyn	Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Group	Reva Smith-MWPH
Angela Hall-GHHI	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Rick Kessler-MDE
Bay Hanson-GHHI	Joey Nestadt-Public	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Chris Corzine-OAG	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD	Shamola Dye-MDE
Chris White-ARC	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-MDE
Cynthia Herrera-GHHI	Kira Videan-MDE	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Dawn Joy-AMA	Laura Nugent-GHHI	Suma Kondle-MDH
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Leslie Delcid-MDE	Thelonious Williams-MDH
Devin Valcich-MDE	Lisa Eibner-MDE	Tiffany Price-MDH
Dontrell Jones-MDE	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE	Wade McCord-MDE
Eunice Johnson-GES	Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Felicia Graves-MDE	Nancy Servatius-MDH	William Doyle-HCHD
	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD	

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda 250501
- Minutes 250403

Welcome and Introductions:

Ruth Ann Norton, President of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and Commission Chair welcomed attendees and noted that the meeting would focus on updates on outreach and public events, along with gathering input on a June strategic planning session. Introductions of commissioners and guests followed.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

- **Concerns Regarding Lead Program Funding:** Chair Norton expressed concern over potential funding cuts to federal lead programs, impacting surveillance, epidemiology, education, and housing intervention programs. Chair Norton also highlighted the significant need for lead hazard mitigation across Maryland communities and the urgency of addressing this issue. Rick Kessler, Director of Land and Materials Administration for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) confirmed that the issue was on the MDE's Secretary's radar, and he discussed potential actions, including raising awareness. He also reported that the Secretary was actively raising awareness in the media. Chair Norton committed to meeting with the Secretary of MDE, the new secretary of MDH, and Jake Day to discuss the issue of federal lead program funding and potential strategies for advocacy. Chair Norton proposed drafting a letter to the White House expressing concerns about funding cuts and advocating for restoration of programs. There was general support among the commissioners for drafting this letter.
- **Legislative Outcomes:** Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc. (MMHA) and Commissioner reported on the outcome of House Bill 352, resulting in a \$7.50 per year increase in registry fees. The discussion also covered the importance of lead registries and their role in funding and regulation.
- **Lead Poisoning Prevention Strategies:** Chair Norton discussed strategies to expand current lead poisoning prevention efforts to include daycare centers and schools. She suggested potential legislative proposals to improve tracking and oversight of these facilities. Commissioner Skolnik emphasized the need to track owner-occupied housing, suggesting potential collaboration with realtors and homeowner associations. Paula Montgomery, Lead Outreach and Education Coordinator for MDE's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) indicated that approximately 40% of lead-exposed children live in owner-occupied housing. Susan Kleinhammer, President of Leadtec Services, Inc. (LSI) and Commissioner proposed registration requirements which would include pre-1978 owner-occupied homes, suggesting a registration fee for those seeking public services. Frederick Banks, Program Manager for MDE's LPPP expressed concerns about potential government overreach with mandatory registration for owner-occupied properties, while Chair Norton suggested an opt-in registration program focused on targeted education. Commissioner Kleinhammer raised concerns about the impact of liens on owner-occupied properties, suggesting alternative approaches to avoid financial burdens. Manjula Paul, Nurse Consultant for the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Office of Child Care (OCC) and Commissioner highlighted that OCC requires lead risk assessments for pre-1978 properties and may require retesting every two years depending on the results. She requested guidance and training for lead inspectors on testing procedures, especially in homes near potential environmental hazards. Commissioner Kleinhammer emphasized the need for clarity on inspection requirements for childcare facilities, particularly regarding risk reduction versus lead-free standards. Commissioner Banks proposed creating a special committee to address these issues, including Commissioner Paul and Commissioner Kleinhammer, and potentially including representatives from K-12 education.

- **Strategic Planning:** Chair Norton discussed plans for a strategic planning session in mid-June, aiming to finalize the date and facilitator. She highlighted the need for pre-meeting materials, including asset and gap analysis, national best practices, and consideration of issues related to childcare and contractors. She emphasized the importance of establishing three to five concrete annual goals, beyond simply reporting on MDE's work. Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Commissioner raised the issue of equity in lead exposure prevention, questioning whether to focus on certain populations or locations with higher risk.
- **Evaluation of Interventions:** Barbara Moore, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital and Commissioner highlighted concerns about the effectiveness of interventions and resource allocation. Commissioner Moore emphasized the importance of understanding outcomes from current actions, considering universal testing, and exploring national best practices. She expressed interest in understanding what other states are doing, as well as national best practices.
- **Universal Lead Testing:** Dr. Mitchell explained the evolution of universal lead testing in Maryland, highlighting the shift from targeted testing in specific zones to statewide testing for all children at 12 and 24 months of age. He noted the requirement for at least one test before age six and clarified the documentation requirements for childcare and school enrollment. Dr. Michael Ichniowski with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter (MDAAP) and Commissioner stressed the importance of universal testing for identifying lead sources and early intervention, emphasizing the significant developmental impact of lead exposure at younger ages. Dr. Mitchell also presented data showing no change in the number of children with elevated blood levels after the expansion of testing in 2016, suggesting that pediatricians are already testing high-risk children disproportionately. Commissioner Kleinhammer raised concerns about potential gaps in testing between ages two and six, while Dr. Mitchell clarified that tests from 12 and 24 months suffice for school enrollment.
- **Addressing Gaps in Testing:** Commissioner Kleinhammer expressed concern about potential missed elevations between ages two and six and the impact of changes in residency. Dr. Mitchell countered by providing data suggesting pediatricians focus on high-risk children, and Dr. Ichniowski further emphasized the greater developmental impact of lead exposure at younger ages. The discussion also included the benefits of finger-stick testing for expanding screening.
- **Addressing Adult Lead Exposure:** Chair Norton mentioned a recent Journal of American Medicine article linking lead exposure to 5.5 million cardiac arrest deaths, highlighting the need to consider the impact on adolescents and adults. She also mentioned the overlooked connection between lead exposure, hypertension, and kidney impairment in the Black community, as discussed by Ellen Silvergel.
- **Improving Outreach and Education:** Chair Norton suggested various outreach methods such as YouTube videos and social media campaigns to raise awareness among pregnant individuals. Commissioner Moore noted instances where obstetricians discouraged pregnant people from getting tested.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Commissioner Banks announced an in-person inspector contractor training on May 29th. Approximately 1450 certificates will be invalidated, and property owners and tenants to be notified by the end of next week.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Dr. Mitchell discussed the uncertainty surrounding funding for the home visiting program, highlighting its dependence on congressional decisions regarding Medicaid and CHIP.
- **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter) Dr. Ichniowski indicated he would contact AAP leadership regarding lead program cuts and consider presenting resources at their September state chapter meeting. Chair Norton suggested using the AAP conference as an opportunity to distribute resources to pediatricians
- **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development) Katherine Taylor, Director BC-DHCD's Lead Hazard Reduction Program reported on progress with a new grant, including the completion of negotiations and the initiation of the implementation phase. They are also closing out an older grant and planning outreach to homes identified in a fraud case.
- **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Commissioner Naadiya Hutchinson from shared updates from YGG, focusing on canvassing efforts targeting homes with lead paint violations in downtown Winchester, highlighting the need for a discussion on the lead paint violations list and the process for removing homes from it.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Shadia Musa, Outreach and Education Manager provided updates on the activities of GHHI, including successful healthy homes tours, asthma awareness events, and an upcoming asthma summit.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, September 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Strategic Planning Day – June 24, 2025

Attendance:

- Fred Banks
- Jacob Benzaquen
- Sheneka Frasier
- Nicole Hart
- Naadiya Hutchinson
- Dr. Michael Ichiniowski
- Susan Kleinhammer
- Barbara Moore
- Allie Nestadt
- Ruth Ann Norton
- Cliff Mitchell
- Manjula Paul
- Christine Peusch
- Adam Skolnik
- Nicola Tran
- Senator Mary Washington

Morning Session: Grounding in Context

Welcome, Opening, and Charge

- Even after seeing a 99.6% reduction in childhood lead poisoning, we still have work to do for enforcement and tenants' rights
- The Commission is charged to focus on rental housing, but has no tenant perspective and no local health department represented in the members
- There is a focus on Baltimore, but this is a state-wide issue
 - Lead-based paint is also a major problem in Western Maryland
- The hope is to have a full commission by the fall
- Regarding the CDC firings/rehirings: want to question how the Commissioners view the Commission and the charge
 - **How much of the work should be advocacy vs. recommendations and best practices?**

MDE & MDH Presentation: Childhood Lead Poisoning in Maryland

Fred Banks, MDE: Surveillance and Medical Trends

- Lead Surveillance moving away from focusing just on children to including adults too – Childhood Lead Registry to Maryland Lead Registry
 - Trying to get elderly people classified as at-risk
 - **Challenge to surveillance – identifying pregnant people**
- Lead testing numbers in children hovering around 20%
 - Q: Is other information being collected? Gender, race, zip code, type of home residence?
 - Universal testing resulted in an increase of 10-12% across Maryland, but many of these were in places with newer housing
 - Testing also fell during COVID, so they're recovering from that hit
 - **Q: Are previously-tested children removed from the total number in the subsequent age group?** Do these numbers account for the number screened when the provider decided not to test? Do they include religious exemptions?
 - Documentation for lead testing is required for enrollment in daycare and in public and private schools
 - **GAP: How are kids getting into schools without being tested?**
 - Finger-stick testing became available in 2015, but the level of confidence is within 3.3 µg/dL, so if the EBL level keeps falling, this could become an issue
 - Test hesitancy could come from the fear of having kids disrespected, fear of eviction
 - Better enforcement on the provider side – for example, New Jersey includes lead testing in a patient's immunization record
 - **Q: Childcare – do we have any methods of reaching people using informal childcare like NannySharing?**
 - All registered childcare providers have the same requirements for lead testing
 - Nanny Sharing and much of childcare through social media is not legal, so can't be regulated

- **GAP: For people moving from newer properties to pre-1978 properties, they might miss the lead testing window and become lead poisoned after already completing mandatory testing**
- MDE legislative efforts:
 - **Proposed changes and increases in fees for Rental Registration and Lead-Free Fees. (HB250)(HB1367)(HB1431) – trying to get rid of lead-free certificates**
 - This option is what they think enabled Rodney Barkley to run the scam of creating thousands of fraudulent lead-free certificates
 - 3 or 4 bad inspectors can create a public health crisis
 - Adam: Removing the lead-free option will be a problem for apartment community owners – this is what motivated them to do major repairs and lead abatement initially
 - Could also consider a change in regulation on what lead-free means
 - For example, recommendation to not include enclosure as part of “lead free” definition
 - New or revised regulations impacting lead testing or prevention efforts. 40 CFR Part 745 (227) – creating higher liability for falsified documents
- Lead poisoning sources:
 - Lead dust is still the primary source of lead poisoning, followed by lead paint, soil, and water, with much fewer occurrences
- Rental properties
 - There are 140,000 registered rental properties in MDE’s database, but there is an estimated 200,000 additional properties that should be registered
 - MDE is planning to do work identifying properties receiving vouchers, etc., that aren’t registered
 - **There has been an increase in new landlords, especially new Latino landlords, who are very knowledgeable about construction but aren’t necessarily familiar with lead laws and compliance**
 - **There’s an opportunity for education as well as increased communication and collaboration**
 - **Need for a liaison or single contact who can be a resource for property managers**
 - MDE will be starting a property owner forum and database

Dr. Cliff Mitchell, MDH: Lead Poisoning in Maryland

- In 2015 we moved from testing just “at-risk” areas to universal testing
- We’ve transitioned from steep drops in cases to steady incremental change
- Began home visiting program in 2017 and developed a lead case management framework
- The odds of being able to identify the source of lead poisoning depend on a) where the child lives and b) the level of lead exposure
 - It’s much harder to identify the source with lower EBLLs or if the child lives in newer housing
- Home visiting for lead poisoning as well as asthma, since both are tied to housing quality, with the goal of improving environmental health conditions
 - Available for Medicaid and CHIP recipients
- **Allegany County – almost no families have had a blood lead test, and lead inspectors are overworked and passing places that are not actually be Lead-Safe**
- **Testing priorities: is universal testing the right strategy?**
 - The increase in lead tests as a result of universal testing came from areas that didn’t necessarily need more testing
 - It’s been more challenging to increase the rate of testing in places like Baltimore

- **In an environment of limited funding, is it more important to test everyone, or focus on kids who face the highest risk?**
 - Focus attention on providers and areas with the highest levels? Would potentially require a change in regulations around universal testing
- The recent applesauce contamination wouldn't have been identified without universal testing
- Improving universal testing – finding providers and ensuring that they can do fingerstick testing in high-risk areas
- Obstacles – Medicaid cutbacks and ICE
 - The immigrant community will be hesitant to agree to testing
- **What makes the most sense from an equity and public health perspective?**
- With lower EBLs, we are spending a lot of time identifying the source
 - Secondary sources are much harder to eliminate
- **The lower the population exposure level, the more expensive it gets to remove the toxin from the population**
 - In the 1990s, we knew where lead paint was and what the main sources were of lead poisoning
 - We've exhausted all the easiest ways to lower the level
 - Continuing to lower the level is a very expensive undertaking
 - We'd need money to address housing at a large scale
- **How do we address housing as a social determinant of health?**
 - Potentially shift the focus from lead to children's health and housing
 - Do we want to use children as the indicator?
 - Lead money could shift from the focus to a byproduct of the overall effort
- **How do we coordinate different programs? Make sure that lead abatement and case management programs are not competing for clients**
 - Gap in program enrollment – thousands are identified with EBLs but programs are only working with ~15 projects
 - More funding needed for outreach?
 - Offering lead testing to people who come for other issues?
- **What do we do with non-paint exposures?**
 - What is the right mix of source identification, outreach and education, and testing? What are priorities for case management?
- Affordable housing – housing value, closing the racial appraisal gap
- **Offering lead training and certification for free**
 - Maryland currently has one large trainer for inspectors and contractors
 - Hoping to find a contact to offer trainings in each jurisdiction (e.g. Hagerstown Community College)
 - Susan: used to offer trainings for free in places like Hagerstown, but ran into challenges getting people to come
 - **Attendance might be better if these were made part of construction programs**
 - Could potentially tie to MHIC (Maryland Home Improvement Coalition) to train contractors all over the state
 - Challenge: The Department of Labor oversees the MHIC, so would need to change the regulations to include it as a component of the curriculum
- **Focus on schools and childcare? Where do we put our efforts?**
 - Outreach funding could be statewide, but that's just one option of where to focus attention
- Option of stratifying resources: for EBLs <10 do one approach, offer a different approach for >10
- Availability of lead inspections:
 - Some people are hesitant to get inspections because of the threat of a lean
 - What is available for families to get inspections?
- **Universal dashboard of resources**
- Outreach ideas:

- Combined unified social media campaign
- **Mimic asthma CHW program but for lead outreach**
 - Funding to establish programs in Health Departments and hire CHWs to do lead work (look at daycare lead forms, people's reasons for not testing, etc.)
- Elementary schools offer eye, hearing and speech exams – is there any mechanism to do lead testing in schools?
- DHCD vacant strategy – funding for small landlords (<3 properties) to do home repairs
 - There is a pot of funding to repair and license units, but when health and safety standards are met, landlords charge market rates and some families can't afford rent
 - Money for home repairs and meeting lead standards
- Two potential threads:
 - The child – better care, incentivized testing
 - Asthma, radon, lead – how to get homeowners to be less concerned with potential fallout from acknowledging a problem
 - Messaging around this, emphasis on future generations

Housing Perspectives: Landlords, Renters, & Equity

Adam Skolnik

- Current law does not cover owner-occupied housing, so how do we reach/educate this group on potential lead hazards?
 - **Homeowner education during purchasing process**
 - Home buyers have to fill out the federal lead disclosure form, but it's hard to understand and not in plain language
 - Could have a state disclosure form
 - Incentivizing homeowner/seller lead education – using discounts, mortgage rates
 - Would need to work with the Maryland Board of Realtors and banks/loaning agents
 - **Dust testing in owner-occupied housing up for sale**
- **Rental registries for counties**
- **More education on what lead inspections mean**
- Resources to help families completing applications for lead programs – instructional videos? Video chat?

Naadiya Hutchinson – Baltimore Renters Union gold member

- Lead violations are concentrated in the Black Butterfly
- Many houses have been on the violations list for multiple years
 - Many are landlords owning multiple houses on one block
- Green Environmental lead accreditation scam also affected the Black Butterfly
- In Districts 1 and 13, there is a need for Spanish language materials and communication
- Some people might be more concerned with mice, urgent home repair issues, etc.
- **Renters have a fear of bringing up concerns**
 - There is a lack of information on renters' rights
 - Repairs aren't being done by lead-accredited workers

High-level takeaways/ideas to explore from morning presentations to inform afternoon discussions:

- Lead Exposure & Testing Strategy
 - Funding for universal testing
 - Testing priorities – all populations or prioritizing high risk
 - Immunization records
- Enforcement & Abatement Priorities
 - Lead free certification revision
 - Money for home repairs

- Owner-occupied housing education
- Education and Communication Strategies
 - Tying other certifications to training on lead
 - Fundraising for strategic communications
 - Lead-free/lead-safe messaging – clarity on definitions
- Commission Structure & Role
 - Tenant reps

Afternoon Session: Identifying Strategic Questions

Naming Cross-Cutting Themes

Lead Exposure and Testing

- Finer-scale breakdown of EBLLs
- Strategies for increasing testing
 - Pregnant people and babies, and their obstetricians/midwives/doulas
 - **Combination of testing and screening for non-priority areas**
 - **Screening questions might not be effective to catch possible EBLLs**
 - **What can be done to improve the framing of the questionnaires?**
 - **Education around why parents should ask for the test**
 - Penalties for healthcare providers not offering tests – MCO report cards?
 - MDE has a list of providers who never submit lead tests, but attempts to contact them have not been successful
 - **Could combine screening questionnaires with lead education – mandate distribution of EPA lead brochure?**
 - **Lead testing as part of immunization forms would normalize it for parents**
- Common other lead exposures
 - MDE has never detected water as a primary or secondary lead poisoning source
 - Ensure that our data collection is correct
 - There's lots of money currently in replacing lead pipes so it's important to remember the significance of funding for other issues
 - **Spices as a secondary source**
 - Families are asking for a way to test spices for lead at home, but this isn't possible
 - Dream scenario: MDE can collect spice samples and MDH can test them
 - **There is a need for regulatory standards and research around lead in spices, incense, etc.**
- Property age:
 - There is a big difference in likelihood of lead exposure for a pre-1978 house build in 1970 vs. one built in 1930
 - Finer detail than pre-1978 could be useful for identifying target areas
 - Worry that specifying farther than pre-1978 would be less compelling for communication/getting people on board
 - Even in newer houses, people can still have lead paint from antiques
- **Two trends:**
 - **Looking at poisoned neighborhoods rather than individual poisoned children**
 - **Testing regardless of where people live**

Enforcement and Abatement

- **Lead-free: changing/updating regulations**
- Rent court – need more coordination between District Courts and MDE but it's challenging because District Courts are still digitizing
 - Local rental registries
- **Updating Department of Labor CEUs to include lead certification and education**
 - Do we have enough qualified lead workers?

- Standards for lead in renovation and retrofits
- Do a cost analysis for if we did lead abatement on all the houses that have lead hazards
- Following HUD guidelines for lead hazard control, as well as for inspections
- **Owner-occupied houses need additional strategies for lead safety**
 - DHCD look into incentives for making houses lead-safe
 - Could require lead inspections for access to city housing grants

Education and Communication

- **Outreach and education materials that highlight solutions, not just the problem**
- Education on the state law protecting you from eviction based on lead
 - Education on Notice of Defect
- **Broad communication strategy discussion needed**
 - **Resource dashboard**
 - MDE can publish materials in different languages upon request, but doesn't inventory them
 - Public campaigns for educating realtors/homeowners
 - **Reach people using social media for nannies/rental units that may be illegal**
 - **Communication needs to be easy – create a workflow for people because they won't know which agency to contact for what (“the government is the government”)**
 - **Interagency strategic communications**
 - What channels can we utilize and how can we improve state-provided materials?
- **Education for OBGYNs and doulas (enter houses)**
 - **Lead testing before and after giving birth**
 - **Many OBs are refusing lead tests, have a misconception that they can't do anything for a pregnant person with lead poisoning**
- No public demand for lead poisoning prevention until after a child is already poisoned
- Encouraging pregnant people to have their homes tested – but inspections usually happen after someone is poisoned

Commission Structure and Role

- **Could make these themes into 4 ongoing working committees**
 - **Bi-monthly full meetings, committee meetings on the alternate months**
- **Representation:**
 - Tenants/renters
 - Geographic distribution
 - Owner occupants
 - 3 spots open for Pre-1978 housing representatives:
 - *According to Maryland Law:*
 - *A representative of owners of rental property located in Baltimore City built before 1950;*
 - *A representative of owners of rental property located outside Baltimore City built before 1950;*
 - *A representative of owners of rental property built after 1949;*
 - Lawyer
- **Would need to make legislation recommendations for seats on the Commission**
 - The charge is linked to lead risk reduction for rental properties, so you would need to change the charge – hasn't been updated since 1994
 - **Make recommendations by no later than October, then would need MDE to sign off**
- Opportunities for public engagement
 - Public hearings on strategic plan
 - **All meetings are open to the public, but need to make changes to make them more accessible**
 - **Holding meetings in public spaces**
 - **Using Zoom instead of Google Meet**

- Changing meeting time to 12:00pm so people can join during their lunch hour
- Posting agenda further ahead of time so people can plan if they want to come
- Consent agenda
- If we stick to the 12-month format, have some months be travel meetings so that they are accessible to people in other counties
- Committee meetings could also be held as travel meetings to make them more accessible to people in other jurisdictions

Themes & Next Steps

Key Themes From The Day:

- How the Commission can build on success to fill remaining gaps:
 - Outreach needed for pregnant people and owner-occupied housing
 - Revisiting and revising lead-free certificates
 - Better messaging and communication
- Maryland was essentially "the first one through the door" on lead poisoning prevention, and now it's time to take a step back and assess what's still working and what needs to be updated

Next Steps:

- Develop road map for priority areas:
 - Strategic communications
 - Changes to commission structure
 - Addressing interrelated challenges on exposure, testing, enforcement

Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Strategic Planning Day – June 24, 2025

Goals for the Day

- Acknowledge and begin addressing big-picture strategic questions that shape the Commission's future direction.
- Reflect on the historical, policy, and housing context of childhood lead poisoning prevention in Maryland.
- Identify cross-cutting themes and critical questions to guide Commission efforts over the next year.
- Establish a clear path forward for strategic conversations and legislative engagement.

Morning Session: Grounding in Context

9:00–9:10 AM | Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speaker: Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment (invited)

- Welcome and charge to the Commission

9:10–9:30 AM | Charge from the Chair & Overview of the Day

Speakers: Commission Chair Ruth Ann Norton; Laura Bartock (Facilitator)

- Purpose of the retreat
- Goals and structure of the day
- Overview of strategic planning process ahead

9:30–10:15 AM | MDE & MDH Presentation - Childhood Lead Poisoning in Maryland: A Brief History

Speakers: Fred Banks (MDE), Cliff Mitchell (MDH)

- Surveillance and medical trends
- Housing policy and abatement history

Facilitated Reflection

- What surprised or stood out?
- What questions does this raise about our current approach?

10:15–10:45 AM | Legislative Context Presentation

Speaker: Wes Stewart (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative)

- Overview of state and federal legislation
- What has been effective? What has stalled?
- Clarifying the Commission's distinct role in policy advancement

Facilitated Reflection:

- How have these legislative milestones shaped Commission priorities?
- What implementation barriers persist?

10:45–11:30 AM | Housing Perspectives: Landlords, Renters & Equity

Speaker: Adam Skolnik (Maryland Multi-Housing Association), Naadiya Hutchinson (Sustain Our Future Foundation), Ruth Ann Norton (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative)

- Explore how both landlords and renters experience the implementation of Maryland's lead laws
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of property owners in ensuring lead-safe housing
- Consider barriers to compliance and challenges renters face in addressing lead hazards

Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Strategic Planning Day – June 24, 2025

Facilitated Reflection:

- What tensions or gaps emerge between different housing stakeholders' experiences?
- How should the Commission incorporate both property owner and tenant perspectives in its housing-related strategies?
- What equity considerations should guide enforcement and accountability efforts?

11:30–11:40 AM | Break

11:40–12:00 PM | Group Reflection: Where Are We Starting From?

- What tensions and themes are emerging from this morning?
- How do they reshape our understanding of the Commission's role and charge?
- What strategic questions do we need to ask?

12:00–12:15 PM | Framing the Afternoon

- Introduce key strategic themes for breakout discussion
- Clarify purpose: to name questions, not finalize solutions

12:15–1:15 PM | Lunch & Networking

Afternoon Session: Identifying Strategic Questions

1:15–2:15 PM | Small Group Activity: What Questions Should Guide Our Work?

Format: Breakout groups by theme:

- Lead Exposure & Testing Strategy
- Enforcement & Abatement Priorities
- Equity & Public Health Tradeoffs
- Commission Structure & Role

Goal: Generate a list of a short list of 3–5 critical, strategic questions under each theme

2:15–2:30 PM | Break

2:30–3:30 PM | Full Group Reflection: Naming Cross-Cutting Themes

- Each group shares their strategic questions
- Facilitator leads synthesis to identify overlaps and tensions
- Full group discussion:
 - Which questions feel most urgent?
 - Where do we need more clarity, research, or voices?
 - What role should the Commission play?

3:30–4:15 PM | Looking Ahead: Goals & Process for the Year

- Define next steps to continue the conversation
- Consider timeline for revisiting questions and developing a strategic plan

4:15–4:30 PM | Closing Reflections

- What's one question you'll carry with you from today?
- What support do you need to engage in this process over the next year?