

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

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

February 6, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Barbara Moore
Benita Cooper
Cliff Mitchell
Fred Banks

Jacob Benzaquen
Manjula Paul
Michael Ichniowski
Naadiya Hutchinson

Nicola Tran
Nicole Hart
Ruth Ann Norton
Susan Kleinhammer

Members Absent:

Anna Davis
Adam Skolnik
Alexandra Nestadt

Christina Peusch
Dalya Attar, Delegate

Senator Mary Washington

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE
Adonna Patterson-MDH
Anstasia Solano-MDE
Andrew Roelke-MDE
Angela Hall-GHHI
Brionna Adams-BCHD
Carrie Johnson-Public
Chris Corzine-OAG
Chris White-ARC
Cynthia Herrera
Dawn Joy-AMA
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE

Eunice Johnson-GES
Felicia Graves-MDE
George Stewart-GHHI
Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD
Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
Kevin Stanley-MDE
Leslie Delcid-MDE
Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE
Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE
Nancy Servatius-MDH
Paula Montgomery-MDE
Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD

Samantha Keane-MDE
Shadia Musa-GHHI
Shamola Dye-MDE
Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD
Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Thelonious Williams - MDH
Tim Rule-MDE
Victor Powell-HUD
Wade McCord-MDE
Wendy Phillips-MDE

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda 250206
- Meeting Minutes 250109

Welcome and Introductions:

Commissioner Chair Ruth Ann Norton, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. with welcome and introductions.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

- **Ethics Commission:** Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Director of Environmental Health Bureau for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) reminded the Commissioners to fill out their Financial Disclosure for the State Ethics Commission and the link was provided:
<https://ethics.maryland.gov/employeeofficials/financial-disclosure/>
- **Green Environmental Enforcement:** Chair Norton requested an update be given to the Commission on the enforcement case, reported in The Baltimore Banner, regarding an assessor who issued fraudulent certificates. She emphasized the importance of this update in light of the Commission's previous discussions. Additionally, she noted that certain organizations are eager to support efforts in public education and awareness, particularly regarding banned individuals or entities, to ensure proper outreach and compliance. The article can be found here:
<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/climate-environment/nearly-100-baltimore-area-homes-deemed-lead-free-might-contain-lead-EU43MHSIV5BIHJPRKLUTUGRVJU/>

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Naadiya Hutchinson, Lead Free Baltimore Community Organizer, Young Gifted and Green (YGG), to accept the January 9, 2024 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- Introductions: Chair Norton welcomed, introduced, and welcomed the below listed individuals.
 - Rick Kessler, MDE's new Land and Materials Administration Director
 - Brianna Adams, new head of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Division for Baltimore City
 - Laura Nugent, GHHI's the new attorney for lead poisoned children and family advocate attorney
- Legislation Update:
 - [SB0250 - Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation](#): This bill will increase rental property owner fees from \$30 per property to \$120 and extend the period of the annual registration to every two years versus annually. The Commission supported this bill by sending a Letter of Support to the General Assembly.
 - [SB321 / HB0352 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025](#): The language for SB0250 has been included in this budget bill.
 - [SB0238 / HB0127 - Department of Housing and Community Development - Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program - Local Rehabilitation Program Administration](#): This is the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (MD-DHCD) departmental bill that would expand the number of agencies and organizations eligible to provide services across the state for lead programs and other rehabilitation programs. MD-DHCD is seeking to amend the Special Loans Program to allow nonprofits to serve as subrecipients alongside local governments.
- **Federal Impacts on Lead:** Chair Norton and the Commissioners discussed concerns about the upcoming Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) changes and resource shortages due to the closure of the Environmental Justice Department. They focused on how the Commission will support affected

communities and the potential federal impact on existing programs. Many expressed worries about the loss of environmental justice grants, child health grants, and asthma grants, which have supported lead prevention and other initiatives across Maryland.

- **Strategic Planning Day:** Chair Norton discussed with the Commissioners a possible starting date to begin work on Strategic Planning, with the first week of May 2025 as a potential start date. Commissioner Hutchinson suggested a pre-planning phase to gather questions and identify recurring themes, which could then guide relevant presentations. Chair Norton requested that Commissioner Hutchinson and Commissioner Dr. Mitchell develop a pre-survey, aiming to distribute it within the next two weeks. The survey will consist of two parts: one to gather key questions and desired outcomes, and another to determine scheduling availability. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of incorporating dashboards and data into the planning process.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Commissioner Fred Banks, Program Manager for the MDE's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program reported that MDE is working with MDH to coordinate a major outreach effort in Prince George's County. Additionally, on February 25th, MDE is hosting a training for local health departments on the HELPS software to streamline communication.
- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Commissioner Manjula Paul, Nurse Consultant for the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Division of Early Childhood/Office of Child Care (OCC) reported that MSDE met with MDE's water testing program to clarify which preschool and nursery school programs qualify for pre-water testing outlets. MSDE is finalizing a document for review by the Attorney General's office before submitting it to MDE.
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Commissioner Nicola Tran, Director of Housing and Building Energy Programs for MD-DHCD reported that MD-DHCD is trying to determine the federal impact on their existing programs as well as if the awards won last year would still be available.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Brionna Adams, Lead Program Director for BCHD reported that BCHD will be working with St. Vincent to test children and provide education to families and parents.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Shadia Musa, Outreach and Education Manager for GHHI shared that they are preparing for a property owner training with the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership on April 9th to discuss lead laws. They are also planning a community outreach event for homeowners in September. Additionally, the Asthma Summit will take place on May 13th at Morgan State University, with support from MDH and GHHI. Chair Norton also announced that GHHI will be adding a new outreach staff member soon.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Dr. Mitchell motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Dr. Michael Ichniowski from the Maryland Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics. All remaining Commissioners were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10am

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, March 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- Legislation Update
- EPA Release on the Six Indicators of Environmental Health (Grace Robiou-EPA)

- Healthy Homes Production Grant (MD-DHCD/Nicola Tran)
- Strategic Planning Day