

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION January 8, 2026 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Mary Washington
Christina Peusch
Jacob Benzaquen

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Felicia Graves-MDE	Paula Montgomery-MDE
Adonna Patterson-MDH	George Stewart-GHHI	Rashad Taylor-MDE
Anastasia Solano-MDE	Jeanny Pope-OAG	Reva Smith-MWPH
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Kathleen Rhinebolt-MDE	Riley Rashon-GHHI
Ardenia Holland-MDE	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Ashley Ray-MDE	Lenora Thompson-GEO	Shamola Dye-MDE
Attilah Edges-BCHD	Leslie Delcid-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-MDE
Bay Hanson-GHHI	Lori DeLester-BCHD	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Blair Adams-BCHD	Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Stephen Sinnott-Public
Camille Burke-BCHD	Mary Beth Haller-BCHD	Thelonious Williams-MDH
Carrie Johnson-Public	Matthew Koning-MDE	Thomas Edward Logue-Public
Chris White-ARC	Michelle Taylor-BCHD	Tim Rule-MDE
Dawn Joy-AMA	Nancy Servatius-MDH	Victoria Minka-BCHD
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Neil Roseman-Public	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Eunice Johnson-GEO	Patrick Connor-CECS	William Doyle-HCHD

Documents Distributed:

- January Meeting Agenda
- November 2025 Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

Ruth Ann Norton, President of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and Commission Chair opened the first 2026 meeting of the Governor's Commission on Lead Poisoning Prevention.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chair Norton noted that federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have maintained their lead programs, with EPA showing initiative on lead in water, the copper rule, and dust standards. Chair Norton mentioned that GHHI won a suit against the EPA resulting in \$180 million, with \$44 of \$48 million having already been distributed to communities for grants to address lead and healthy housing. Chair Norton reported that the state of Maryland is actively moving forward on lead issues with cooperation from Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and Governor Moore has affirmed his commitment to these issues. She was pleased to welcome Dr. Michelle Taylor, the new Commissioner of Health for Baltimore City, praised her previous work in Shelby County, Tennessee, and expressed optimism for the future of the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) under Dr. Taylor's leadership.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc. (MMHA) and Commissioner seconded by Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Bureau Director for MDH and Commissioner to approve the January 2026 minutes. All present commissioners were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- **BCHD Lead Prevention Approach and Commission Discussion on Sustainability and Enforcement:** The Commission discussed BCHD's comprehensive approach to lead poisoning prevention, as outlined by Dr. Michelle Taylor, Commissioner of Health for BCHD, emphasizing primary prevention, healthcare partnerships, community awareness, and support for families—particularly renters. Members addressed concerns about potential complacency given past progress, as well as the need for contingency planning amid uncertainty in federal funding. The discussion also covered communication challenges, workforce recruitment and retention, adherence to HUD investigation standards, and the importance of using testing data to target outreach in high-risk areas. Overall, the conversation focused on sustaining progress through strong interagency collaboration, strategic planning, and data-driven action.
- **2026 Commission Calendar:** The commission decided to maintain the monthly meeting schedule for 2026 for now, while exploring opportunities to hold at least one or two meetings in public, outside of MDE, to improve accessibility. The commission proposed April (Public Health Month), June, or October (Lead Week) as suggested months for public meetings. Susan Kleinhammer, President of Leadtec Services, Inc. (LSI) and Commissioner suggested forming subcommittees (health, housing) to meet more frequently than the full commission. The chair agrees this should be pursued after the subcommittees are officially formed.
- **Legislative Updates and Policy Considerations:** The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is developing proposed legislation that would require lead abatement workers, inspectors, and contractors to obtain bonding or insurance to better protect families and property owners from negligence or misconduct. Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc. (MMHA) and Commissioner requested clarity on the specific coverage requirements and associated cost impacts, and MDE confirmed there will be an opportunity for public comment.

Additional legislative efforts under consideration include strengthening notice and enforcement mechanisms following elevated blood lead level reports, preventing incidents similar to the Rodney Brian Barkley case, exploring reporting requirements related to the Tenants' Bill of Rights, and expanding lead law coverage to certain single-room tenants currently excluded under existing statutes.

- **HB 1367 Implementation, Legislative Strategy, and Enforcement Update:** The commission revisited discussion of House Bill 1367, which established a \$50,000 civil penalty for fraud in lead inspections and is now in effect. Concerns were raised that the commission supported the bill without fully reviewing its final language, with members noting that the statute heightens documentation and accuracy standards and may create implementation challenges. Chair Norton emphasized that, as the law is enacted, concerns regarding fraud, falsification, and regulatory clarity should be addressed directly with the department. Members also discussed adopting a more principle-based legislative approach going forward—identifying key policy objectives rather than endorsing specific bill text, particularly given last-minute amendments. In an enforcement update, MDE reported that while lead paint remains the primary source of exposure, emerging sources such as contaminated spices are being addressed in coordination with health partners, and most compliance matters are resolved without formal enforcement actions.
- **Commission Vacancies:** Commissioner vacancies were noted and discussed, including a representative of the House. Chair Norton plans to draft a letter to the new speaker of the house to address the representative vacancy.
- **New Initiatives:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell reported that MDH is working with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials on a new initiative to provide additional funding for local health departments that do home visiting and increase capacity for case management of lead-poisoned children.
- **Program Updates and Outreach Collaboration:** Michael Ichniowski, Pediatric Environmental Health advocate for the Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) and Commissioner noted that MDAAP is are focused on environmental health issues that will be brought to legislation. Nicola Tran, Director of Housing and Building Energy Programs for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Commissioner announced that her department will soon be posting a position for a program manager for their HUD lead and healthy homes program and asked the group for candidate recommendations. Shadia Musa, Outreach and Education Manager for the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) reported that GHHI is conducting property manager tours and targeted outreach, especially in Baltimore City and County, with packets of compliance assistance information. Additionally, Ms. Musa asked property managers on the call to connect them with their networks for a webinar and robust compliance assistance.
- **Public Comment on House Bill 1367 and Green Environmental** Patrick Connor, President of Connor Environmental Consulting Services raised a question during public comment about whether House Bill 1367 applies to lead paint testing, such as XRF testing for lead-free certifications, since the bill's language only references lead contaminated dust and visual inspections. Jeanny Pope, Assistant Attorney General from MDE confirmed that she would look into the applicability of the bill to paint testing. Mr. also asked for an update on whether MDE will publish the performance of the property owners and their reinspections after the conclusion of the Green Environmental case. He further requested an update on the compliance of property owners following the American Homeowner Services action and was asked to submit a formal request to the Department.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:34am