

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION June 6, 2024 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jacob Benzaquen	Cliff Mitchell	Manjula Paul
Benita Cooper	Paula Montgomery	Christina Peusch
Anna Davis	Barbara Moore	Adam Skolnik
Susan Kleinhammer	Ruth Ann Norton	Thelonious Williams

Members Absent:

Delegate Dalya Attar	Senator Jill Carter	Paul Rogers
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Guests Present:

Tyler Abbott-MDE	Attilah Edges-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Fred Banks-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MDE	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE
Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE	Felicia Graves-MDE	Johnette Richardson-GHHI
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Angela Hall-GHHI	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD
Colin Choney-GHHI	Nicole Hart-BC-DHCD	Tim Rule-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Steven Homola-BCDHCD	Nancy Servatius-MDH
Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Naadiya Hutchinson-YGG	Sandra Simmons-GHHI
Jack Daniels-MD-DHCD	Samantha	Anastasia Solano-MDE
Samantha DiNatale-UMBC	Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD	Kevin Stanley-MDE
William Doyle-HCHD	Eunice Johnson-GES	George (Wes) Stewart-GHHI
Shamola Dye-MDE	Dawn Joy-AMA	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD
		Chris White-ARC

Documents Distributed:

Agenda 240606
Draft Minutes 240502

Welcome and Introductions:

Ruth Ann Norton, President of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. with welcome and introductions. Chair Norton introduced Johnette Richardson, the new Senior Vice President of Maryland Programs at GHHI. Ms. Richardson will be taking over the responsibilities previously handled by Wes Stewart, then Senior Advisor and General Counsel/Maryland Programs Director for GHHI, allowing Mr. Stewart to concentrate on developing and advancing GHHI's legal services work.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Health Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of the Health (MDH), seconded by Commissioner Paula Montgomery, Lead Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to accept the May 2, 2024 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chair Norton reported that GHHI is adding a "Thriving Communities" page to its website, which can be found at <https://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/thrivingcommunities/>. This information will also be available on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website. GHHI will include details about regional technical assistance centers, which provide education and capacity-building support for organizations addressing lead issues and environmental concerns like water, soil, air, and paint. Chair Norton plans to invite the University of Maryland to a future meeting.

GHHI is launching a portal on August 1st for community organizations to apply for funding to support initiatives in environment, equity, health, climate, tenant counseling, and more. This effort is in partnership with Howard University, Delaware State, Children's National, and an 11-member Advisory Board. GHHI plans to share this information with Commissioners and the public.

There will be a series of meetings in Baltimore, including a substantial Region 3 visit to the Brooklyn Curtis Bay area in July, where lead issues will be a key topic. GHHI will provide updates on these events. The meeting will also discuss the federal Inflation Reduction Act resources and the Governor's "All of Government Climate Executive Order," which includes advancing a zero-emissions heating standard in buildings. This will impact rehabilitation programs as they transition from gas to electric systems.

The state of Maryland is pursuing funding for lead initiatives, and GHHI plans to collaborate with MDE to organize a robust Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week in October. They also aim to engage various regions of the state, revisiting the asset and gap analysis conducted previously.

Old & New Business:

- **Story Map Initiative - Mapping Statewide Efforts in Housing, Equity, and Lead Prevention:**
Commissioner Dr. Mitchell recommended that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD), MDE, and MDH review statewide activities, including those in Baltimore city and county, related to housing, medicaid programs, and more. He suggested creating a story map focused on housing, equity, and lead to showcase the state's extensive efforts in these areas, emphasizing both human surveillance and lead prevention. Commissioner Theo Williams, Special Assistant for MD-DHCD and Tyler Abbott, Director of the Land and Materials Administration (LMA) from MDE,

noted that this idea aligns well with both the agencies' ongoing "Just Communities" and "Environmental Justice" work. Chair Norton asked them to provide relevant updates on their work in September.

- **Commissioner membership updates and renewals:** Wendy Phillips, Executive Assistant to MDE's LMA, reminded the Commissioners whose term expires in September to please submit their application in order to continue serving as Commissioner to the Lead Commission. Applications can be submitted here: <https://govappointments.maryland.gov/>. If anyone has any recommendations they can submit recommendations here: <https://govappointments.maryland.gov/>.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment): Mr. Fred Banks, MDE's Program Manager for the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP), shared LPPP's recent reporting statistics. He also reported a significant increase in confirmed cases since the blood lead reference level was lowered to 3.5. MDE is working to inform parents about steps they can take while awaiting inspections.

University of Baltimore interns are helping with data cleaning, and MDE has sent an advisory letter to labs about missing information. MDE is also collaborating with Commissioner Dr. Mitchell to ensure labs provide timely data. The Outreach and Education Request for Proposal (RFP) closes on June 14, and MDE is preparing a new multi-year, multi-lab contract to improve sample processing.

MDE is working with the Water and Science Administration, daycare centers, and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) on lead in water lines. Additionally, MDE will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the "Maryland Lead Law." Also, MDE is hiring a new staff member to focus on pregnant women, adults, and occupational lead exposure. Chair Norton requested a dashboard to display all reporting numbers that can be shared with the Commission.

- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Commissioner Dr. Mitchell acknowledged the tremendous collaborative effort by individuals who provided housing for a family for over a month, allowing them to care for their child. The family has since relocated. He also shared a case study to illustrate the complexity of some of these situations.
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Commissioner Williams reported that the Board of Public Works (BPW) approved MD-DHCD's new list of contractors. He also mentioned that after their debrief with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) about the grant funds they didn't receive, they learned that their score had notably improved from previous years. The meeting provided valuable insights to help them revise their application and collaborate with the right partners to secure funding for the upcoming grant.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Mr. Stewart reported that GHHI has been conducting training sessions for new homeowners, new homes, and rental property owners on lead safety practices and responsibilities. For the next meeting, he suggested that the Commission should discuss the EPA's recent reduction in lead screening levels for soil and play areas. Chair Norton requested that Mr. Stewart, Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, and Commissioner Manjula Paul, Nurse Consultant to MSDE's Office of Child Care (OOC) collaborate and present this information at the September meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, September 5, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Annual Report, 2023 (Wendy Phillips)
- Lead Commission Awards and Recognitions (Wendy Phillips)
 - Nominations due 09/13/24 & Votes due 09/20/24
- Lead Commissioner Members Update (Wendy Phillips)
- MDE - Compliance and Enforcement (Fred Banks)
- Story Map Initiative - Mapping Statewide Efforts in Housing, Equity, and Lead Prevention (MD-DHCD, Tyler Abbott)
- EPA's New Lead Screening Levels for Soil and Play Areas (Wes Stewart, Manjula Paul, Dr. Cliff Mitchell)
- Lead Poison Prevention Week 10/20/24 - 10/26/24 (Commission)