

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION September 4, 2025 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Jacob Benzaquen
Dalya Attar	Mary Washington

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Jarren Williams-Public	Rick Kessler-MDE
Adonna Patterson-MDH	Jennifer Thompkins-Verlyn	Samantha
Anastasia Solano-MDE	Group	Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Samantha Keane-MDE
Bay Hanson-GHHI	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Brionna Adams-GHHI	Kathleen Rhinebolt-MDE	Shamola Dye-MDE
Carrie Johnson-Public	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-MDE
Cherelle Conway-Public	Laura Bartock-GHHI	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Leslie Delcid-MDE	Steven Homola-BCDHCD
Chris White-ARC	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE	Thelonious Williams-MDH
Dawn Joy-AMA	Marjorie D'Ambrosio-MDE	Tiffany Price-MDH
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Mark Moore-MML	Tim Rule-MDE
Detrese Dowridge-BRU	Nancy Servatius-MDH	Tria Morris-Public
Eunice Johnson-GES	Patrick Connor-CECS	Wade McCord-MDE
Felicia Graves-MDE	Paula Montgomery-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE
George Stewart-GHHI	Rashad Taylor-MDE	William Doyle-HCHD
Heather Johnson-BRU	Reva Smith-MWPH	

Documents Distributed:

- 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

Welcome and Introductions:

Ruth Ann Norton, President of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and commission Chair provided a welcome to the commission attendees and roll call was taken of the commissioners.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chair Norton provided updates on federal lead programs, noting that the lead program of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has been re-opened and that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reaffirmed its commitment to lead poisoning prevention as a high priority. However, she mentioned that the EPA could not confirm whether provisions on dust standards or the lead and copper rule would be rolled back. Chair Norton also highlighted the ongoing impacts of the Western Maryland floods, particularly exacerbated lead-based paint issues in affected homes, and mentioned a coordinated community push scheduled for September 22-26 to provide resources to families.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc. (MMHA) and commissioner seconded by Frederick Banks, Program Manager for Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) to approve the April and May 2025 minutes. All present commissioners were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- **Overview of Strategic Planning**
 - **Overview:** Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and commissioner provided an overview of the strategic planning day held on June 24, 2025, which included presentations from MDE and MDH on the status of childhood lead poisoning and discussions on institutionalizing lead abatement work.
 - **Strategic Planning Key Themes:** Chair Norton summarized key takeaways from the strategic planning meeting, including strengthening commitment to criminal and civil actions, deepening education resources, and addressing concerns about budget cuts and funding. Laura Bartock, Climate Partners Coalition Facilitator for GHHI added that the day highlighted the need for careful assessment of opportunities and challenges and thoughtful recommendations to the state.
 - **Commission Priorities and Next Steps:** Commissioner Skolnik proposed that the commission define three to five short-term and long-term goals within specific timeframes to guide their work. Chair Norton suggested a survey and formal vote on these priorities at the next meeting.
 - **Re-establishing Working Committees:** West Stewart, Senior Advisor and General Counsel/Maryland Programs Director for GHHI noted that re-establishing working committees was a key aspect identified during the planning day, with interim meetings on specific topics potentially informed by the commission's priorities. He also proposed re-establishing committees for in-depth research, discussion, and best practices, specifically mentioning areas like inspection, testing, enforcement, and funding. Chair Norton supported this idea, noting it could

be a recommendation to establish or re-establish these committees, as they have not been fully functional in the past, but would be beneficial for focused work on enforcement.

- **Motion for Drafting Recommendations:** A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Skolnik to form a drafting committee in order to draft concrete recommendations with timeframes based on the strategic planning notes, to be circulated within two weeks for consideration and a formal vote at the next commission meeting. All present commissioners were in favor and the motion was approved. Volunteers for the drafting committee for the strategic plan recommendations were: Commissioner Skolnik, Chair Norton, Commissioner Dr. Mitchell, and Susan Kleinhammer, President of Leadtec Services, Inc. (LSI) and commissioner.
- **Commission Meeting Schedule Frequency:** Wendy Phillips, Executive Associate III for the MDE Land and Materials Administration (LMA) raised the possibility of changing the commission meeting schedule, suggesting a potential shift to bi-monthly or quarterly meetings starting in 2026. Chair Norton proposed tabling this discussion until after the strategic plan goals are finalized.
- **Lead Week October 19-25**
 - **Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell announced that Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week is scheduled for October 19th through 25th, highlighting its particular significance this year due to strategic planning efforts and national context on lead. Shadia Musa, Outreach and Education Manager for GHHI stated that the EPA is leading the national theme and outreach materials, which are expected in early September, and mentioned a press conference will be held in Baltimore County this year to frame lead as a statewide issue. Activities planned include a lunch and learn with Prince George's County Health Department, a webinar for property managers and owners, canvassing with the Baltimore City Health Department, a tenant-based lead education session, a resource fair, and a testing initiative with GHU HEAT and students from Merit Health Leadership Academy. Chair Norton encouraged other groups to participate and reach out for resources, offering support and publicity for their events.
 - **Engagement and Outreach Efforts** Rick Kessler, Director for MDE's LMA confirmed that MDE has begun discussions to highlight Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week, collaborating with GHHI and the commission to bring attention to the issue. Chair Norton suggested involving agency leads and the Governor's office for messaging videos, emphasizing the importance of publicizing available resources, such as the Just Communities program and Housing and Community Development (DHCD) grant funds for home repair. Commissioner Dr. Mitchell explained that the Just Communities program targets areas disproportionately affected by environmental exposures and adverse health outcomes, including lead poisoning, with efforts to address these historic disparities.
- **Commissioner Re-Appointments:** Ms. Phillips announced that the terms for two commissioners, Commissioner Dr. Mitchell and Alexandra Nestadt, Parent of a lead poisoned child and commissioner, are expiring on September 30th. Ms. Phillips clarified that commissioners interested in reappointment must complete an application on the Governor's website, and they will receive an email with links to facilitate this process. Ms. Phillips will send out an email shortly with the necessary information.
- **Funding Restoration to the CDC:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell explained that the status of CDC funding restoration is uncertain due to Congress not yet adopting a budget, with significant programmatic cuts proposed in the House budget. Dr. Michael Ichniowski, Pediatric Environmental Health advocate for the Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) noted varying reports on funding restoration and expressed concern that cuts to Medicaid funding could impact lead

testing efforts for children. Chair Norton mentioned good news regarding Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding for home repair and lead hazard control, but observed that CDC programs appeared to be recovering and trying to understand their operational scope.

- **Green Environmental Investigation**

- **GEI Update:** Commissioner Banks provided an update on the investigation into Green Environmental for falsifying lead certificates, stating that over 1,400 certificates were invalidated, and notifications were sent to property owners and tenants in February and June. He indicated that enforcement actions would begin soon against non-compliant property owners, following over 800 calls and hundreds of emails received regarding the incident. He also confirmed that criminal prosecution has begun against Mr. Barkley, but the current status is unknown.
- **Impact on Property Owners and Tenants:** Naadiya Hutchinson from Baltimore Renters United (BRU) and commissioner inquired about the next steps for impacted renters in homes that have not been remediated. Commissioner Banks explained that landlords may need to relocate families or repair defective paint, with each case reviewed individually and inspectors following up to ensure compliance.

- **CHIP program/Medicaid Federal unused Medicaid dollars**

- **Status of the different CDC efforts etc.:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell addressed the agenda item regarding unused Medicaid dollars, clarifying that the CHIP program, which uses federal and state funds for lead abatement in homes with Medicaid-eligible children, is separate from CDC operational funding.
- **HUD Grant Implementation in Baltimore City:** Chair Norton expressed concern about the potential return of HUD lead funds by entities, which could jeopardize future funding for Maryland. Katherine Taylor, Director of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (BC-DHCD) Lead Hazard Reduction Program explained that delays in unit production, particularly with the 2019 grant, impacted their ability to meet benchmarks, but HUD has been understanding, awarding them another grant due to the city's need. Ms. Taylor noted that the new grant is progressing well and requested assistance from the commission in outreach and disseminating information about their programs.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE:** Commissioner Banks reported that MDE and MDH have been working with local health departments, specifically Howard and Baltimore City, to train staff and the community on case management for lead-exposed children and families. Commissioner Banks also mentioned new staff hires and ongoing collaborations with MSD regarding school issues.
- **MDH:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell added that MDH is closely collaborating with MDE and local health departments on lead case management, analyzing population risks, and strategically planning future testing strategies.
- **MDAAP:** Commissioner Dr. Ichniowski shared that the state MDAAP chapter is holding its annual meeting and requested specific points or resources from Commissioner Dr. Mitchell and Chair Norton to share with providers.
- **MSDE/OCC (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care)** Manjula Paul, Nurse Consultant for the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Office of Child Care (OCC) and Commissioner stated that OCC is assisting programs with lead testing requirements for children, including those from other states, and noted an increasing reluctance among immigrant parents to seek medical attention or testing due to immigration concerns

- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development): Nicola Tran, Director of Housing and Building Energy Programs for MD-DHCD and commissioner reported on efforts to launch new HUD healthy production and lead hazard reduction grants, while existing programs continue to serve customers . Commissioner Tran also mentioned the upcoming Green and Healthy Task Force meeting on September 16th, which focuses on holistic home treatment plans, and planning for the next empower energy efficiency program cycle. Ms. Taylor stated that targeted outreach, including door hangers, has begun to boost numbers for their new grant, and they are ready to provide information about their programs.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Brionna Adams, Lead Program Director for BCHD reiterated their focus on outreach, planning at least five events and resource fairs, and partnering with iHeart Radio for outreach, especially in Hispanic communities. They also plan to canvas in Curtis Bay and Brooklyn Park during Lead Week, hosting a large resource fair covering lead education, asthma, tobacco, and other social disparities. Ms. Adams announced that BCHD is seeking a sanitarian supervisor to replace Valerie Millings, who is retiring after 26 years. She also mentioned the retirement of Yolanda, who served for nearly 37 years, and the need for another community health educator. Ms. Adams is working with Human Resources to create a job link and facilitate a smooth transition for the new hires.

Public Comments and Updates:

- **Public Comment and Community Concerns:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. Heather Johnson raised concerns about families evicted due to fraudulent lead certificates, questioning what assistance would be provided to those impacted and expressing a desire for public conversations on these issues rather than offline discussions. Chair Norton requested that Ms. Johnson submit her questions in writing so they can be directed to the appropriate agencies. Chair Norton noted that several of the issues raised intersect with private litigation, state actions, and housing court matters, and assured Ms. Johnson that written submissions would help facilitate more specific responses. Cherelle Conway further pressed for solutions for individuals facing legal housing issues due to illegally purchased lead certificates.
- **Categorization of Lead Certificates:** Patrick Connor, a former commission member, suggested that published information should differentiate between risk reductions, lead-free certificates, and lead-free limited certificates to help the regulated community with appropriate responses.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Banks, seconded by Commissioner Skolnik to adjourn the meeting. All present commissioners were in favor and the meeting was adjourned

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, November 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.