

Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission 2025 Annual Report

Environment Article Section 6-810(c)

Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission
Maryland Department of the Environment

April 3, 2026



STATE OF MARYLAND

Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission

April 3, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President
Senate of Maryland
State House, H-107
Annapolis Maryland 21401

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Pena-Melnyk:

On behalf of the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission (Commission), please accept this letter as the Commission's Annual Report for calendar year 2025, as required by Environment Article, § 6-810(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. The Commission, established under Environment Article Title 6, Subtitle 8, advises the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the legislature, and the Governor regarding lead poisoning prevention in Maryland and specifically the Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Law.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Commission reviewed, discussed, and monitored several bills related to lead poisoning prevention and housing regulation. All of the bills supported by the Commission were ultimately passed and approved by the Governor.

Senate Bill 250, Department of the Environment – Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation

Proposed increasing rental property registration fees and extending the registration cycle from annual to biennial. The Commission determined the bill would provide additional support for MDE while updating fee structures for rental property owners. The Commission voted to support the legislation and submitted a Letter of Support.

SB321 / HB0352, Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025

Incorporated provisions from SB250, resulting in a \$7.50 annual increase in rental property registry fees. The Commission emphasized the importance of lead registries in supporting program funding and regulatory oversight.

Senate Bill 238 / House Bill 127, Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program – Local Rehabilitation Program Administration

Proposed expanding the number of agencies eligible to administer lead hazard control and other rehabilitation programs statewide, allowing nonprofit organizations to serve as subrecipients alongside local governments.

House Bill 1367, Lead Testing and Inspections – Falsifying Information – Penalty

Proposed enhanced penalties for professionals who falsify lead testing or inspection documentation, addressing potential safety risks from invalid certifications.

During the 2025 Reporting Period, the Commission meetings included the following Updates:

Updates on Lead Testing Drinking Water in Schools

Tim Rule, MDE’s Division Chief for the Water Supply Administration (WSA), provided an overview of lead testing in public and nonpublic school drinking water. The presentation covered statutory background, program applicability, sampling and testing requirements, procedures for addressing elevated lead levels, and MDE’s review of results. Validated data as of January 8, 2025, and school-reported testing outcomes were summarized.

Lead Inspection Contractor Investigation: Green Environmental LLC and Rodney Barkley

Representatives from MDE and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) presented findings from an investigation into lead paint inspection service providers Green Environmental LLC and its owner, Rodney Barkley. The investigation revealed the use of unlicensed testing equipment, failure to submit required project notifications, and the issuance of lead-free inspection certificates that failed to meet standards. In addition to failing to notify MDE of inspections and using unlicensed equipment, MDE identified lead-based paint in properties that were issued lead-free certificates. Consequently, over 1,400 lead-free certificates were invalidated by MDE. MDE notified property owners and tenants accordingly. As a result of these investigations, MDE issued a formal Complaint, which suspended on an emergency basis Green Environmental, LLC and Rodney Barkley’s accreditation in Maryland. Additional actions included impounding equipment and the filing of a lawsuit seeking penalties against Green Environmental, LLC, and Rodney Barkley. MDE also notified other states and territories, including Washington DC, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia of the existing investigations. Public information on lead rental certification and accreditation remains available through MDE resources. A criminal investigation into Mr. Barkley’s actions as an inspector was conducted by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General’s Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit (ENRCU) after a referral from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Criminal charges were filed against Mr. Barkley, and he pleaded guilty in October 2025 in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City to four counts of Falsifying a Lead Paint Risk Reduction Certificate and one count of Operating a Radiation Machine Without Obtaining a License. He was sentenced to 5 years incarceration, all suspended, and 2 years of supervised probation.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development: Healthy Homes and Special Loans Programs

Commissioner Nicola Tran, Director of Housing and Building Energy Programs for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD) presented on the Healthy Homes Production Grant and the Special Loan Program administered by the MD-DHCD. The programs rehabilitate single-family, owner-occupied homes, supporting lead hazard reduction and safe, code-compliant housing statewide. The presentation included an overview of SLP sub-programs, the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program, lead hazard reduction grants and loans, Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids, application procedures, and anticipated new programs.

The Lead Commission has encouraged Maryland DHCD to seek additional federal funding to supplement state Special Loans Program funding for lead hazard remediation and other housing intervention programs. Maryland DHCD received a new grant in 2025 that it successfully applied for and was awarded by HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. Maryland DHCD is implementing a \$4,000,000 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant to conduct lead hazard reduction interventions in pre-1978 homes in Maryland.

Federal Support Changes and Funding Restoration

Commissioners discussed potential impacts of federal staffing reductions at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and program changes at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on lead poisoning prevention efforts. Chair Norton highlighted positive developments in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) funding for home repair and lead hazard control while acknowledging CDC programs are recovering and clarifying operational scope.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Strategies

Commissioners discussed strategies to expand lead poisoning prevention efforts to daycare centers, schools, and owner-occupied housing. Topics included legislative proposals for tracking pre-1978 properties, voluntary registration programs, and targeted education initiatives. Emphasis was on balancing public health protections with potential financial impacts. The Commission established a special meeting to provide guidance on inspection procedures and outreach. It was emphasized during the meeting that more needed to be done to better communicate between the regulators and the regulated community.

Evaluation of Interventions and Universal Lead Testing

Commissioner Barbara Moore, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital (MWPB) highlighted the need to assess the effectiveness of current interventions, review resource allocation, and consider national best practices. Commissioner Dr. Mitchell described the transition from targeted to statewide testing for children at 12 and 24 months, with at least one test required before age six, and documentation requirements for childcare and school enrollment. Commissioner Dr. Michael Ichniowski from the Maryland Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) emphasized the importance of early detection to mitigate developmental risks. Commissioners discussed potential testing gaps between ages two and six, with clarifications on coverage for school enrollment. Commissioners considered potential missed elevations in children between ages two and six, the impact of residential changes, and the use of finger-stick testing to expand screening.

Addressing Gaps in Lead Testing, Adult Exposure, and Outreach

The Commission also reviewed the effects of lead exposure on adolescents and adults, including cardiovascular, renal, and hypertensive outcomes, particularly in black communities. Strategies to improve public awareness included social media campaigns, educational videos for pregnant individuals, and addressing barriers to testing in clinical settings.

Updates on Federal Programs and Local Environmental Impacts

Chair Norton reported that CDC lead programs have resumed, and the EPA reaffirmed lead poisoning prevention as a high priority. She highlighted the ongoing impact of Western Maryland floods, including exacerbated lead hazards in affected homes, and described a coordinated community response scheduled for September 22–26, 2025

Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week (October 19–25, 2025)

The Commission actively supported planning and implementation of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week, held October 19–25, 2025, recognizing its importance in advancing statewide and national lead prevention efforts. Early discussions emphasized aligning Lead Week activities with broader strategic priorities and national initiatives. Outreach and Education staff from GHHI and MDE presented a coordinated schedule of events designed to engage property owners, tenants, parents, guardians, and communities, including educational webinars, community canvassing, tenant education sessions, resource fairs, and lead testing initiatives. Chair Norton encouraged broad collaboration with local agencies and highlighted the importance of promoting available resources such as the Just Communities program and MD-DHCD home repair grants. Planned activities included school-based education, property owner trainings, community “Lunch and Learn” events, family-focused outreach, blood lead testing clinics, and a national webinar featuring the New Jersey Department of Health and Rutgers University on prenatal and perinatal lead and mercury screening, underscoring the Commission’s commitment to education, prevention, and cross-state learning.

Baltimore City Lead Grant and MDH Lead Programs

Katherine Taylor, Program Director of the Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (BC-DHCD), reported that operations continued despite the federal shutdown, with HUD maintaining essential staff. Under the new grant, four units were completed, six are scheduled, and seven are under obligation. Outreach has generated over 100 applications and increased social media engagement. Chair Norton requested monthly dashboard reports tracking applications and completed units.

Maryland Department of Health: Healthy Homes

Theo Williams, Healthy Homes Program Administrator for Maryland Department of Health (MDH), reported that the home visiting program for children with elevated blood lead levels and asthma currently tracks approximately 500 children for lead poisoning, with funding of \$4.5 million fully allocated for the current fiscal year (FY26). Commissioner Dr. Mitchell noted that approximately \$880,000 in the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) funding has been provided over the past three fiscal years (FY23-FY25) to support lead case management in 13 jurisdictions not covered by Medicaid CHIP. Additional Lead Care 2 devices were distributed to enhance screening in Allegany and Garrett counties.

Strengthening Lead Investigation Practices and Oversight of Lead-Free Certification

Commissioner Susan Kleinhammer, President of Leadtec Services, Inc. (LSI) presented the need to strengthen and better align Maryland's lead investigation and certification systems to support evolving public health standards. Commissioner Kleinhammer highlighted discrepancies between current regulations requiring full HUD Chapter 16 Lead Risk Assessments and investigative practices that often focus narrowly on paint, noting that as blood lead level thresholds continue to decrease, more comprehensive source investigations are increasingly necessary. Commissioner Kleinhammer also encouraged the continued efforts needed for MDE to continue performing oversight of lead-free certificates but according to current COMAR regulations, citing the large number of invalidations in recent investigations. Commissioner Kleinhammer also strategically presented on the impacts of certificate invalidations, including increased costs, tight reinspection timelines for occupied units, risks to residents, and unintended pressure on housing affordability when costs are passed to tenants. A recommendation was made to create a housing-focused subcommittee to bring regulators, property owners, and other stakeholders together to develop coordinated, practical solutions.

Elevated Blood Lead Level Case Management and Environmental Investigation

Elevated Blood Lead Level Case Management and Environmental Investigation - The Lead Commission reviewed and discussed with MDE and MDH the state's planning for and current implementation of the lead case management and environmental investigation processes at the lower blood lead reference level of 3.5 µg/dl in Maryland. The State of Maryland passed legislation (HB1110) in 2022 that adopted the Center for Disease Control's new blood lead reference level and lowered the state's public health and environmental intervention response level from 5.0 µg/dl to 3.5 µg/dl for children with elevated blood levels through a staggered implementation schedule.

Strategic Planning

Early in the year, Commissioners engaged in preparatory discussions to define goals, identify recurring challenges, and gather input through a pre-planning survey. This work culminated in a Strategic Planning Day held on June 24, 2025, which included presentations from MDE and MDH on the current status of childhood lead poisoning, followed by facilitated discussions on strengthening prevention, enforcement, education, and long-term sustainability of lead abatement efforts. Key themes that emerged included the need to reinforce enforcement of the regulated community, expand education and outreach resources, address equity in lead exposure, and plan proactively amid funding uncertainty. Following the planning session, the Commission moved to formalize next steps by proposing clear short- and long-term priorities, exploring the re-establishment of working committees to support focused implementation, and initiating the drafting of concrete recommendations with defined timeframes. This strategic planning effort reflects the Commission's commitment to moving beyond reporting activities toward coordinated, outcome-driven action to protect Maryland residents from lead exposure.

The 2025 meeting agendas and approved meeting minutes may be found on the Commission website:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/LeadPoisoningPrevention/Pages/LPPCommission.aspx>

During the 2025 Reporting Period, the Commission formally recognized notable achievements by partner agencies that advanced Maryland's lead and healthy homes efforts.

At its January meeting, the Commission acknowledged the MD-DHCD for securing a \$2 million Healthy Homes Production Grant, supporting expanded housing interventions to reduce environmental health risks. At the March meeting, the Commission recognized the MDE's Lead Program for receiving an award from the University of Baltimore's Schaefer Center for Public Policy, honoring the program's commitment to mentoring student interns and its leadership in cultivating the next generation of public service professionals.

During the 20205 Reporting Period, the Commission meetings included the following Administration/Agency Updates:

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

Throughout the 2025 reporting period, MDE focused on strengthening the state's lead poisoning prevention infrastructure through workforce development, interagency coordination, and regulatory updates. MDE prioritized recruiting and training inspectors, including hosting regional workshops and contractor training to improve capacity and consistency across jurisdictions. The Department worked closely with MDH and local health departments to enhance outreach, case management for lead-exposed children, and community education, particularly in high-risk areas such as Howard County and Baltimore City. MDE also advanced system improvements, including training local health departments on the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHLPSS) software to streamline communication. In addition, the department implemented regulatory and fee updates related to lead-free certification and rental property registration, reinforcing program sustainability while continuing to notify and support affected property owners and tenants.

Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

During 2025, MDH advanced its leadership role in lead case management, data-driven planning, and coordination with state and local partners. MDH evaluated its home visiting programs, working closely with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) partners amid ongoing funding challenges, while continuing to support nurses and lead case managers statewide. The Department secured time-limited State and Territory Health Officials (ASTHO) funding to support lead case management in non-Medicaid CHIP jurisdictions and facilitated discussions among local health departments to address complex cases and share best practices. MDH also collaborated closely with MDE and local jurisdictions to analyze population-level risks, refine lead testing strategies, and strengthen case management systems for lead-exposed children and families, ensuring a coordinated public health response.

Maryland Chapter Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP)

MDAAP played a key role in advancing pediatric lead poisoning prevention through policy advocacy, provider engagement, and public education. Building on its successful advocacy for Rudy's Law, MDAAP supported implementation of new requirements for testing baby food for heavy metals, with phased-in manufacturer testing and consumer transparency measures beginning in 2025. Throughout the year, MDAAP worked with Commission leadership to raise awareness among pediatric providers about lead exposure, programmatic changes, and available resources. The chapter also committed to using professional meetings and social media outreach, including short educational videos, to encourage lead testing and equip pediatricians with consistent messaging to support early detection and prevention.

Maryland State Department of Education / Office of Child Care (MSDE/OCC)

In 2025, MSDE/OCC focused on clarifying and supporting lead-related requirements in early childhood and childcare facilities. MSDE worked with MDE to align water testing protocols for eligible preschool and nursery programs and advanced formal guidance. The MSDE/OCC also assisted childcare providers in navigating lead testing requirements for children, including those entering Maryland from other states. Commissioners noted growing concerns among immigrant families about accessing testing and medical care, highlighting the need for culturally responsive outreach and reassurance to ensure children receive appropriate screening and services.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD)

MD-DHCD worked to expand housing-based lead and healthy homes interventions during the reporting period. The Department secured a \$2 million Healthy Homes Production Grant and a \$4,000,000 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant. MD-DHCD worked to assess potential federal funding impacts while onboarding local nonprofit partners and maintaining service delivery under existing programs. The Department also advanced coordination through the Green and Healthy Homes Task Force and prepared for future energy efficiency and housing improvement programs, with targeted outreach efforts to ensure eligible households are informed and able to participate.

Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)

Throughout 2025, the BCHD strengthened its lead poisoning prevention efforts through expanded outreach, staffing increase, and community partnerships. BCHD focused on lead testing and education initiatives in collaboration with healthcare and community partners, with particular attention to high-risk neighborhoods and underserved populations. The Department faced workforce challenges, including recruitment of environmental sanitarians, while continuing to invest in training and cross-disciplinary capacity building. BCHD also expanded public engagement through resource fairs, media partnerships, and bilingual outreach, including Lead Poisoning Prevention Week activities featuring testing clinics and community events. Leadership transitions and new hires positioned the Department to sustain and grow its lead prevention and education efforts moving forward.

Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development(BC-DHCD)

During 2025, BC-DHCD focused on maintaining continuity in lead hazard reduction services while transitioning between federal grant cycles. The Department completed negotiations for a new citywide grant and initiated implementation activities, including unit enrollment and outreach planning. At the same time, BC-DHCD worked to close out a prior award and conducted targeted outreach to properties affected by MDE enforcement to ensure compliance and protection for residents. These efforts supported Baltimore City's broader goal of reducing lead hazards while maintaining affordable rental housing.

Young Gifted & Green (YGG)

Young Gifted & Green advanced community-based lead prevention through targeted advocacy and direct engagement with residents. In 2025, YGG resumed door-to-door canvassing to support lead service line inventory work, prioritizing neighborhoods affected by construction activity and known lead risks. The organization conducted scratch tests, educated residents, and helped identify homes potentially impacted by lead-related enforcement, connecting households to additional resources when needed. YGG's work emphasized proactive notification, transparency, and resident empowerment, reinforcing the importance of grassroots engagement in statewide lead prevention efforts.

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)

GHHI played a central role in outreach, education, and advocacy during the 2025 reporting period. GHHI implemented tenant-focused lead education and outreach, legal services, expanded staffing, and delivered training for property owners, tenants, and community members on lead laws and healthy homes practices. GHHI was awarded funding through a competitive bid process to facilitate lead poisoning prevention outreach and technical assistance throughout Maryland. GHHI facilitated and led or supported numerous public engagement activities, including National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Healthy Homes Month, school and community center tours, asthma awareness initiatives, and the statewide Asthma Summit. GHHI disseminated thousands of new and improved brochures and info cards on Lead Poisoning Prevention and Legal Resources in multiple languages to community-based organizations, all local health departments, Head Start programs, Judy Centers, and community schools. Each resource connects tenants to interactive digital supports, such as LinkTree resource hubs and virtual compliance checklists, ensuring accessible guidance to promote self-advocacy. GHHI also served as a convener, coordinating advocacy discussions and distributing resources at large public events to raise awareness of lead hazards, available grants, and tenant protections, reaching thousands of Maryland residents.

We appreciate the opportunity to update you on the Commission's work over the past year. We look forward to continuing our work in 2025 to further the Commission's vision of a Maryland in which all children are protected from the harmful effects of lead exposure.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Ruth Ann Norton

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Ruth Ann Norton
Chair

Enclosed Addendum

Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission

Annual Report 2025

Addendum

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION January 9, 2025 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Virtual Meeting Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – November 2024
- Old & New Business
 - Upcoming Legislation
 - 2025 Commission Reporting Calendar (Commissioners)
 - Updates on Lead Testing in Schools: (WSA/Water Supply Program/Tim Rule)
- 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) 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) Jack Daniels
 - **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development) Nicole Hart
 - **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): JulieDiGirolamo
 - **YGG** (Young Gifted and Green): Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Shadia Musa
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
6th Floor Patuxent Conf. Room
 - Legislation Update
 - Ruth Ann to contact (Presenter)
 - Strategic Planning Day
 - MDE - Effectiveness of Enforcement Actions in Making Houses Safer

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION February 6, 2025 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – January 2025
- Old & New Business
 - Introductions
 - Legislation Update
 - Federal Impacts on Lead
 - Strategic Planning Day
- 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
 - **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, March 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:
 - Legislation Update (Subcommittee)
 - Old Lead-Free Certificates: (Susan Kleinhammer/Chris White/Fred Banks)
 - Healthy Homes Production Grant (MD-DHCD/Nicola Tran)
 - Discuss its recent 2 million dollar award for the Healthy Homes Production Grant and discuss where it intends to distribute funds across the state and if the criteria for those grant funds are available

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION March 6, 2025 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – February 2025
- Old & New Business
 - 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
- 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
 - **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, April 3, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:
 - Legislation Update
 - Old Lead-Free Certificates: (Susan Kleinhammer/Chris White/Fred Banks)
 - Strategic Planning

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION April 3, 2025· 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Draft/Approved Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – March 2025
- Old & New Business
 - Legislation Updates
 - Federal Support on Lead (Cliff Mitchell)
 - Green Environmental Update (Matthew Koning)
 - Old Lead-Free Certificates: (Susan Kleinhammer/Chris White/Fred Banks)
 - Spring into Action - Lead Prevention (Fred Banks)
 - Strategic Planning Day
 - Commission Recess 2025
- 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
 - **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, May 1, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:
 - Legislation Outcomes and Next Steps
 - Strategic Planning Day

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

05/01/25 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – April 2025
- Old & New Business
 - Legislation Outcomes Next Steps
 - Strategic Planning
- 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
 - **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, June 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:
 - Commissioner membership updates and renewals due in September (Wendy Phillips)
 - Strategic Planning

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION June 5, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Old & New Business
 - Strategic Planning Retreat - June 24th
 - Update on the federal HUD budget
 - Update on the impact of MAHA
- 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
 - **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates
- Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, September 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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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 October 9, 2025 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Commissioner Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes – September 4, 2025
- Old & New Business
 - Present, Review and Vote on Responses from Survey.
 - Update of Lead Needs in Western MD
 - Just Communities Overview (Requested)
 - Updates from Lead Grantees
 - Lead Home Visiting Program (Cliff/Theo)
 - Updates on Lead Poison Prevention Week 10/19/25 - 10/25/25 (Commission)
- 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 Reminder: Thursday, November 6, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Thursday, November 6, 2025· 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Hybrid Meeting
Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – October 2025
- Old & New Business
 - Results from research of laws that may require the Department of Labor to address the issue of lead certification for contractors (Paula Montgomery)
 - Vacant Housing Plan (City of Baltimore)
 - Monthly Dashboard Report on Lead Program Statistics including applications in the pipeline and units cleared (Katheryne Taylor BC-DHCD)
 - Lead Free Certificates (Susan Kleinhammer)
- 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
 - **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 Reminder: Thursday, January 8, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION January 9, 2025 · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. · Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Jacob Benzaquen	Nicola Tran
Dalya Attar, Delegate	Senator Mary Washington	

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Eunice Johnson-GES	Paula Montgomery-MDE
Adonna Patterson-MDH	Felicia Graves-MDE	Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE
Anstasia Solano-MDE	Ilan Kokotek-Public	Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Jack Daniels-MDDHCD	Samantha Keane-MDE
Angela Hall-GHHI	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Attilah Edges-MDE	Joy McFadden-GHHI	Shamola Dye-MDE
Camille Burke-BCHD	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD
Carrie Johnson-Public	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Lisa Eibner-MDE	Thelonious Williams - MDH
Chris White-ARC	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE	Tiffany Price-MDH
Dawn Joy-AMA	Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Tim Rule-MDE
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Nancy Servatius-MDH	Wade McCord-MDE
Dontrell Jones-MDE	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD	Wendy Phillips-MDE
		William Doyle-HCHD

Documents Distributed:

January Agenda
November Draft Minutes

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. Additionally congratulations were given to Nicola Tran and Jack Daniels for the 2 million dollar award given to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for a healthy homes production grant.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

Chari Norton flagged SB0250 so the Commission can track and discuss and also mentioned the pending ruling from EPA regarding lead in wheel weights. Green and Healthy Homes Initiative is still taking applications for the thriving Community Grant Program.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Health Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) seconded by Commissioner Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc., to accept the November 7, 2024 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- Legislation
 - [SB250-Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation](#): Fred Banks indicated that this bill will help support MDE and will impact rental property owners by increasing the registration fee for the rental registration and extending the collection to every 2 years. Christina Peusch motioned the Commission to send a letter of support for this bill which was seconded by Commissioner Banks.
 - Commissioners in Favor: Fred Banks, Susan Kleinhammer, Ruth Ann Norton, Christina Peusch, Benita Cooper, Naadiya Hutchinson, Dr. Michael Ichniowski, Manjula Paul, Nicole Hart, Alexandra Nestadt, Dr. Cliff Mitchell
 - Abstentions: Barbara Moore
 - Oppose: Adam Skolnik
- Older Lead-Free Certificates: Chair Norton asked Susan Kleinhammer to present in February or March regarding the topic of reviewing properties with older lead-free certificates. Chair Norton asked Commissioner Kleinhammer to meet with Chris White and Commissioner Banks and to come up with proposals and provide background information.
- 2025 Commission Reporting Calendar: The Commission discussed the 2025 calendar and entered requested presentations
- Updates on Lead Testing in Schools: Tim Rule from MDE's Water Supply Administration provided a presentation on Testing for Lead in Drinking Water Public and Nonpublic Schools. Tim presented on the following: Background/Legislation; Applicability; Sampling Testing Requirements; Requirements of Elevated Lead Levels are identified. MDE Review of Testing Results; Summary of Validated Results as of January 8 2025; and Summary of Lead Testing Results Reported by Schools. The presentation slideshow can be found on the Lead Commission's website under "Meeting Materials" [here](#)

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Fred Banks informed the Commission that MDE is trying to recruit more inspectors and in the summer MDE is planning to host a lead workshop for Region 3. The goal is to discuss different strategies for funding, training and development for inspectors, and the status of lead prevention in region three.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Dr. Cliff Mitchell informed the Commission that MDH is reviewing its home visiting program with Medicaid partners and will soon meet with nurses and lead case managers. They are also set to receive ASTHO funding for lead case management in 13 non-Medicaid CHIP jurisdictions until July 31, with more details coming soon. Additionally, MDH plans a session for jurisdictions outside Baltimore City to discuss challenging cases.
- **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter) Dr. Michael Ichniowski informed the Commission that in 2024, MDAAP advocated for Rudy's Law, requiring baby food to be tested for heavy metals like lead. The first phase took effect on January 1, 2025, mandating food manufacturers to test representative batches for lead, cadmium, mercury, and arsenic. By 2026, manufacturers must provide labeling that directs consumers to their website for test results.
- **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Jack Daniels reported that MD-DHCD has been awarded a \$2 million Healthy Homes Production Grant, which it applied for in November. Additionally, it is currently negotiating with HUD and the Office of Lead Hazard Control regarding a \$4 million Lead Hazard Reduction Grant application.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Shadia Musa reported that GHHI is getting started with its MDE grant with its tenant based lead education outreach and education as well as hiring a lawyer to do tenant based lawyer representation.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, February 6, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- Introductions
- Legislation Update
- EPA Release on the Six Indicators of Environmental Health (Grace Robiou-EPA)
- Effectiveness of Enforcement Actions in Making Houses Safer Re: SB250 (MDE/Chris Corzine/Sara Redosivitch from HUD)
- Healthy Homes Production Grant (MD - DHCD)
- Strategic Planning Day

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

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Christina Peusch	Senator Mary Washington
Adam Skolnik	Dalya Attar, Delegate	
Alexandra Nestadt		

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Eunice Johnson-GES	Samantha Keane-MDE
Adonna Patterson-MDH	Felicia Graves-MDE	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Anstasia Solano-MDE	George Stewart-GHHI	Shamola Dye-MDE
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-MD-DHCD
Angela Hall-GHHI	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Brionna Adams-BCHD	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Thelonious Williams - MDH
Carrie Johnson-Public	Leslie Delcid-MDE	Tim Rule-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE	Victor Powell-HUD
Chris White-ARC	Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Wade McCord-MDE
Cynthia Herrera	Nancy Servatius-MDH	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Dawn Joy-AMA	Paula Montgomery-MDE	
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Samantha Jacobs-Cribbs-HCHD	

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

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION March 6, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Benita Cooper	Dalya Attar
		Mary Washington

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Ilan Kokotek-MDE	Rena Boss-Victoria-MDE
Adonna Patterson-MDH	Jack Daniels-MD-DHCD	Rick Kessler-MDE
Anstasia Solano-MDE	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Samantha Keane-MDE
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Joshua Perkins-YGG	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Brionna Adams-BCHD	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Shamola Dye-MDE
Chris Corzine-OAG	Kira Videan-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-MDE
Chris White-ARC	Laura Nugent-GHHI	Suma Kondle-MDH
Cynthia Herrera-GHHI	Lori Tantlinger-JHU	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
Dawn Joy-AMA	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MSDE	Thelonious Williams-MDH
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Tim Rule-MDE
Dontrell Jones-MDE	Nancy Servatius-MDH	Victor Powell-HUD
Eileen Carroll-Public	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD	Wade McCord-MDE
George Stewart-GHHI	Paula Montgomery-MDE	Wendy Phillips-MDE
		William Doyle-HCHD

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:

Commissioner Norton congratulated the MDE Lead Program and acknowledged the award they received from the University of Baltimore Schaefer Center for Public Policy for mentoring student interns and serving as Next-gen Leaders for Public Service.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fred Banks, Program Manager for the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP), seconded by Commissioner Barbara Moore, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital (MWPH) to amend the February 2025 minutes. All present Commissioners were in favor of the amendments; the amended minutes were approved.

Amendments:

The below was added to "Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions"

- **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/>

Old & New Business:

- **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. This bill has been advancing.

- [HB1367 - Lead Testing and Inspections - Falsifying Information - Penalty](#): This is a bill that proposes additional penalties for industry professionals who falsify documentation, resulting in invalid certifications and potential safety hazards. Commissioner Naadiya Hutchinson, Lead Free Baltimore Community Organizer, Young Gifted and Green (YGG) made a motion that the Commission support this bill by sending a Letter of Support to the General Assembly. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Banks. Abstentions are listed below. The remaining Commissioners were in favor and the motion passed.
 - Commission Banks;
 - Commissioner Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc. (MMHA);
 - Commissioner Manjula Paul, Nurse Consultant for the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Division of Early Childhood/Office of Child Care (OCC);
 - Commissioner Nicole Hart from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (BC-DHCD);
 - Commissioner Nicola Tran, Director of Housing and Building Energy Programs for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD);
 - Commissioner Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Health Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH); and
 - Commissioner Jacob Benzaquen, President of JBZ Management
- **Fraud Case for Green Environmental**: Commissioner Banks and Chris Corzine, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Attorney General (OAG) provided information to the Commission. Commissioner Hutchinson requested that information be given as to updates on the number of homes impacted in Baltimore City and notification of tenants.
 - Mr. Corzine reported that MDE investigated Rodney Barkley and his company, Green Environmental, for issuing fraudulent lead-free inspection certificates. The investigation revealed that Mr. Barkley operated with an unlicensed and non-functional X-ray Fluorescent (XRF) machine and failed to submit required project notification forms for oversight. Of 1,100 certificates reviewed, 808 lacked prior notification, and all 133 properties inspected failed reinspection, confirming the presence of lead-based paint. The department revoked Mr. Barkley's accreditation, impounded his XRF device, and filed an injunction against Green Environmental. Additionally, 1,500 advisory letters were sent to property owners and tenants warning that their lead-free certificates might be invalid. The department is pursuing legal action, including default judgment against Green Environmental, while working to serve Mr. Barkley. Kevin Stanley, Environmental Program Manager for MDE's LPPP provided a link to the Lead Rental Certification and Accreditation which can be accessed here: <https://mde-lrca.maryland.gov/Certificates.aspx#certificate>.
- **EPA Release on the Six Indicators of Environmental Health**: Wes Stewart, Senior Advisor and General Counsel/Maryland Programs Director for GHHI provided a link to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) article "EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Announces EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative" The article discusses the Five Indicators of Environmental Health. The article can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-lee-zeldin-announces-epas-powering-great-american-comeback>
- **Healthy Homes Production Grant The Special Loans Programs (SLP)**: Commissioner Tran provided a presentation of all the repair programs at DHCD that can be relevant to lead and rehabilitation of older homes. A copy of the presentation was provided to the Commission prior to the

meeting. The SLP group, part of Maryland's Community Development Administration (CDA), provides financing to rehabilitate and improve single-family owner-occupied homes. Its goal is to preserve and expand affordable, safe, and code-compliant housing across the state. SLP loans are funded by state and federal appropriations and authorized under Maryland regulations. The programs are administered internally and in partnership with local governments. The presentation highlighted the following: Overview of the SLP; Sub-Programs; Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program (MHRP); MHRP Addressable Items; Special Targeted Applicant Rehabilitation Program; Lead Hazard Reduction Grant and Loan Program; Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids (HH4K); How to Apply; and Anticipated New Programs.

- Strategic Planning Day: Chair Norton reported that progress is being made. Monday, March 10 at 11:00 A.M. has been set as the preliminary planning date. It was agreed that a facilitator will be hired to assist the group. The Commission will be receiving updates as progress is made. The preferred location will be at MDE.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **YGG** (Young Gifted & Green) Commissioner Hutchinson reported that YGG has restarted its door-to-door canvassing strategy for lead service line inventory work. The first canvassing effort took place two weeks ago in District 1, and the next round is scheduled for March 22nd. The current advocacy focus is to inform residents about the lead service line inventory, with YGG providing advance notification to all homes. During canvassing, YGG will conduct scratch tests and complete the inventory process for homes. This effort may also help identify properties affected by the lead fraud situation, providing an opportunity for additional support.
- **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Shadia Musa, Outreach and Education Manager for GHHI reported that April is healthy homes month. GHHI's new family advocacy or advocate lawyer, will be going to a bunch of different school sites, to talk about tenants rights, lead laws, etc. also GHHI has a presentation next week with Commissioner Moore and Mount Washington Pediatrics as well to really talk about tenant's rights laws. Laura Nugent, Family Advocate Attorney for GHHI is going to do a comprehensive presentation. GHHI also has a webinar on April 9 with the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership for rental property owners. Chair Norton reported that GHHI will convene an advocacy meeting to discuss how the Commission can support over 1,500 families through MDE. A call will go out to all interested groups to join this effort. Additionally, GHHI will have a booth at the Baltimore Convention Center this weekend. If anyone has information to share—such as details on grant programs, outreach initiatives related to lead, or other resources—GHHI can distribute it to the public. The event attracts thousands of attendees, making it a valuable opportunity to spread awareness.

Commissioner Comments and Updates:

Commissioner Susan Kleinhammer, President of Leadtec Services, Inc. (LSI) reported that she met with Chris White, Program Manager for Arc Environmental, Inc. (ARC) to discuss old Lead-Free Certificates. They had a productive conversation, but Commissioner Banks was unable to participate. Commissioner Kleinhammer and Mr. White agreed that to provide the Commission with meaningful insights, they need data from the MDE on the number of children with elevated blood lead levels living in properties with old Lead-Free Certificates. They have outlined key discussion points and believe that before making any presentation, it is crucial for the 3 of them to meet and review these issues together. They plan to present at the April Commission meeting.

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, June 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. which includes the Agenda items below:

- Legislation Outcomes and Next Steps
- Strategic Planning Day

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Land and Materials Administration

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION April 3, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Approved 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.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION May 1, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Approved 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.

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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.

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION October 9, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Jacob Benzaquen
Christina Peusch	Nicole Hart

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Anastasia Solano-MDE	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Shamola Dye-MDE
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Kira Videan-MDE	Sheneka Frasier-MDE
Attilah Edges-BCHD	Lenora Thompson-GEO	Steven Homola-BCDHCD
Bay Hanson-GHHI	Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Thelonious Williams-MDH
Brionna Adams-GHHI	Matthew Koning-MDE	Tiffany Price-MDH
Chris White-ARC	Nancy Servatius-MDH	Tim Rule-MDE
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD	Wade McCord-MDE
Eunice Johnson-GEO	Patrick Connor-CECS	Wendy Phillips-MDE
George Stewart-GHHI	Paula Montgomery-MDE	
Jeanny Pope-OAG	Rashad Taylor-MDE	
Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Reva Smith-MWPH	

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda 10_09_25
- Draft Minutes 09_04_25
- Lead Commission Strategic Planning Survey Results
- Lead Week Information

Welcome and Introductions:

Ruth Ann Norton, President of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and Commission Chair welcomed the Commissioners and guests to the meeting and acknowledged the Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which coincided with the original Commission meeting date. As a result, the Commission rescheduled the meeting from October 2, 2025, to October 9, 2025.

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

- **Legal Proceedings Against Mr. Barkley:** Chair Norton commended Chris Cororsine, Assistant Attorney General for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for bringing charges against Mr. Barkley, whose case was discussed in recent news, regarding environmental fraud against Maryland citizens. The state is pursuing both civil and criminal penalties, and a bill is being pursued to ensure inspectors have liability insurance to prevent similar fraud. Sentencing is anticipated in February, and the environmental crimes unit has sought impact statements from the lead program. Naadiya Hutchinson from Baltimore Renters United (BRU) and Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the criminal charges and inquired about continued coordination between Maryland and D.C. regarding Mr. Barkley's potential accreditation in D.C., to which Frederick Banks, Program Manager for MDE's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) and Commissioner confirmed past information sharing and pledged to follow up.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Adam Skolnik, Executive Director for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association, Inc. (MMHA) and Commissioner seconded by Chair Banks to approve the June 2025 minutes. All present commissioners were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Old & New Business:

- **Survey Results:** Chair Norton provided material titled "Lead Commission Strategic Planning Survey Results" and presented a summary of a commission survey, noting 13 respondents and keeping it open until the afternoon. The top priorities identified were updating regulations regarding lead status of housing, expanding lead safety options for owner-occupied homes, and collaborating with the Maryland Department of Labor on lead worker education and certifications. Chair Norton also noted that funding challenges were ranked as the lowest priority among the options. Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Bureau Director for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Commissioner pointed out that while the strategic plan was not a top choice, it was many people's second choice, and Chair Norton affirmed that all ranked items would be worked on as part of the overarching strategic plan.
- **Proposed Committee Structure and Topics Not Surveyed:** Chair Norton proposed organizing the commission's work into committees focusing on direct services, policy, community engagement, training and accreditation, and funding. Commission members were asked to self-identify their top two committee preferences, with the intent of having commission members chair subcommittees and allowing non-commission members to be invited to participate. Chair Norton also addressed topics not explicitly listed in the survey, such as identifying lead-poisoned children and developing a forum between regulators and inspection companies, suggesting they fall under direct service and training areas, respectively. Chair Norton reiterated the commission's broadening activities beyond lead paint issues, including reviewing the commission structure, transparency, and public involvement mechanisms.
- **Addressing Gaps in Lead Certification and Contractor Oversight:** Mary L. Washington, Maryland State Senator District 43 raised concerns about the overlap in regulation and code between lead

certification and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Nicola Tran, Director of Housing and Building Energy Programs for MD-DHCD and Commissioner confirmed that lead certification for contractors is a state law requirement for their programs but acknowledged a gap in ensuring general contractors adhere to lead-safe practices and training, especially when customers choose their own contractors. Chair Skolnik, emphasized that the Maryland Department of Labor and the MHIC (Maryland Home Improvement Commission) are crucial areas for intervention, as DHCD's involvement in housing is relatively small compared to licensed contractors. Paula Montgomery, LPPP's Lead Outreach and Education Coordinator for MDE advocated for tying MHIC licensure to adherence to state lead laws and requiring lead education for contractors to obtain their license. Chair Norton also suggested that state legislation could instruct local permitting processes to include questions about property age and contractor lead certifications. She also asked that Ms. Montgomery research laws that may require the Department of Labor to address the issue of lead certification for contractors and report in November.

- **Legislative Action and Enforcement for Lead Safety:** Senator Washington expressed willingness to sponsor legislation to address the identified gaps, including potentially eliminating variances in local laws to ensure adherence to state lead standards. Chair Norton along with Chair Skolnik, Ms. Montgomery, and Susan Kleinhammer, President of Leadtec Services, Inc. (LSI) and Commissioner will work to craft legislation to address the MHIC issue and that instructs local permitting processes. Chair Hutchinson and Chair Kleinhammer will help with the committee structure work to ensure functionality. Chair Norton also discussed the possibility of strengthening federal disclosure laws to require lead testing as an active part of the home sale process, rather than just disclosure of known lead. A participant added that buyers can already request a lead paint inspection as a contingency of their offer.
- **EPA RRP Rule vs. Maryland Law:** Chair Norton raised a concern that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) rule is significantly weaker than Maryland law in terms of occupant protection. However, Chair Kleinhammer respectfully disagreed, stating that the RRP rule requires remodelers to test surfaces for lead paint before disturbance and use lead-safe work practices similar to Maryland abatement regulations, with the primary difference being that dust testing is optional under RRP. Chair Norton maintained their concern about the RRP's training being weaker and its vagueness in enforcement, suggesting that it provides an underlying baseline but should not be considered sufficient for contractors working on rental properties in Maryland.
- **Addressing Lead Exposure in Western Maryland:** Chair Norton highlighted the critical issue of severe lead exposure in almost every house in Western Port, attributing it to recent climate-related flooding. She mentioned that an 11-agency response, including emergency management and DHCD, is working to permanently address housing issues in Western Port, where a 16-year-old died from a mold-induced asthma attack as a direct result of the floods. Chair Norton also noted that efforts are underway to secure supplemental funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including those previously returned by Baltimore City, to support lead remediation and home repair, which is necessary before new heating systems can be installed.

The group will receive an update in the next meeting from Nicola and the other two healthy homes production grantees.

- **Baltimore City's Lead Grant Update:** Katherine Taylor, Director of the Baltimore City-DHCD Lead Hazard Reduction Program provided an update on their federal lead grant, reporting that their operations have not ceased despite the federal shutdown, with HUD maintaining essential staff to support their work. She announced that four units have been completed under the new grant, exceeding quarterly expectations, with six more scheduled to start and seven others under obligation. Ms. Taylor also highlighted successful outreach efforts, resulting in over 100 applications from interested individuals in Baltimore City, and mentioned increased social media engagement and upcoming participation in Lead Week with the Health Department. Chair Norton requested Ms. Taylor to provide a monthly dashboard report on lead program statistics, including applications in the pipeline and units cleared.
- **MDH Lead and Asthma Program Funding:** Theo Williams, Healthy Homes Program Administrator for MDH reported that MDH's home visiting program for children with elevated blood lead levels and asthma currently has approximately 500 children enrolled for tracking, encompassing several fiscal years. He clarified that the program's current award, including state and federal Medicaid matching dollars, totals about \$4.5 million, which has been fully disbursed to 11 local health jurisdictions, a nonprofit partner, and internal EHB costs. Mr. Williams confirmed that no additional funds from this program will be available for new lead projects until the next fiscal year's renewal in July, following the state legislature's budget allocations.
- **Supplemental Funding for Lead Case Management:** Commissioner Dr. Mitchell clarified that while MDH does not have specific intervention funding for lead remediation beyond durable goods, they have received and dispersed approximately \$225,000 in Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) funding for the last three years to support lead case management in 13 jurisdictions not covered by the Medicaid CHIP program, including Allegany County. Commissioner Dr. Mitchell also noted that three Lead Care 2 devices, received from the EPA by GHHI, have been dispersed, with one specifically allocated to Allegany County to increase screening in Western Maryland. Chair Norton added that three more test kits were shipped to a doctor in Allegany and Garrett County.
- **National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Activities** Shadia Musa, Outreach and Education Manager for GHHI outlined a comprehensive schedule of events for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, occurring from Sunday, October 19th, through Saturday, October 26th. Activities include a read-aloud with "Derek the Dinosaur" at Harford Heights Elementary, a webinar on lead laws and tenants' rights for property owners, and a "Lunch and Learn on Lead" followed by a community resource fair in Cambridge, Maryland, in partnership with the Dorchester County Health Department. Additional events include a "Trunk or Treat" at the GHHI office and blood lead testing and a community resource fair at Curtis Bay Elementary School in partnership with the Baltimore City Health Department. Chair Norton also announced a national webinar on October 23rd with the New Jersey Department of Health and Rutgers University, presenting lessons from prenatal and perinatal population screening for lead and mercury.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Chair Banks reminded the Commission that renewal season is coming. MDE increased the fee for Lead Free Certification from \$10 to \$30. By the end of the year the increases for the registration fee will be posted online changing from \$30 to \$75 every 2 years.
- **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter) Dr. Michael Ichniowski, Pediatric Environmental Health advocate for the Maryland Chapter, MDAAP and Commissioner will be making a short video to be uploaded to social media to encourage lead testing.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Brionna Adams, Lead Program Director for BCHD announced Camille Burke's promotion to Chief Operating Officer and introduced Jennifer Martin as the new Assistant Commissioner over lead and other agencies within the Baltimore City Health Department. They reiterated the department's participation in Lead Week with blood lead testing on Friday and a resource fair on Saturday at Curtis Bay Elementary School, emphasizing the importance of bringing educational materials and accommodating Spanish-speaking families with translators. Brionna Adams also shared that the Baltimore City Health Department has hired more community health educators and will hold a walk-in lead testing clinic on October 14th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the immunization clinic at 1200 East Fayette, with a goal to circulate future testing dates.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:00

Future Meeting Date:

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

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 November 6, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Hybrid Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Anna Davis	Jacob Benzaquen	Nicole Hart
Christina Peusch	Mary Washington	

Guests Present:

Adewole Adegborioye-MDE	George Stewart-GHHI	Nekia Randall-BC-DHCD
Amanda Selig-Public	Jennifer Corder	Patrick Connor-CECS
Anastasia Solano-MDE	Jennifer Martin	Paula Montgomery-MDE
Andrew Roelke-MDE	Jeanny Pope-OAG	Rashad Taylor-MDE
Ashley Ray-MDE	Jonathan Riddix-BC-DHCD	Reva Smith-MWPH
Bay Hanson-GHHI	Katherine Rush-Public	Rick Kessler-MDE
Brian Mead-Public	Katherine Taylor-BC-DHCD	Riley Rashon-Public
Brionna Adams-GHHI	Kevin Stanley-MDE	Shadia Musa-GHHI
Carrie Johnson-Public	Kira Videan-MDE	Shamola Dye-MDE
Chris Cicero-Public	Lenora Thompson-GEO	Sheneka Frasier-MDE
Chris White-ARC	Leslie Delcid-MDE	Stephanie Cobb-Williams-MDE
David Griffin-MDE	Maria Prawirodihardjo-MDE	Steven Homola-BCDHCD
Dawn Joy-AMA	Marjorie D' Ambrosio-MDE	Thelonious Williams-MDH
Denifah Bun-Tejan-MDE	Matthew Koning-MDE	William Doyle-HCHD
Eunice Johnson-GEO	Miranda Salters-Public	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Felicia Graves-MDE	Nancy Servatius-MDH	

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda 11/06/25
- Minutes Draft 10/09/25

Opening Remarks, Acknowledgements, and Other Discussions:

In response to the survey that Ruth Ann Norton circulated to the Commissioners, she indicated that she will proactively assign and call members in the next week if they do not assign themselves to a committee.

Approval of Minutes:

Adam Skolnik, CPM, ARM, CAE made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, which was seconded by Fred Banks. All Commissioners were in favor and the minutes were adopted.

Old & New Business:

- **Agenda Changes and Committee Sign-ups** Ruth Ann Norton noted changes to the agenda, specifically the absence of the Just Communities program or Sheriff Kogan, which they plan to reschedule for the December 4th meeting. She also requested that members assign themselves to at least one committee using the Google or SharePoint sign-up link provided in the chat, stating that proactive assignments would occur if not completed.
- **Legislation and Outreach Activities** Ruth Ann Norton mentioned potential pending legislation from the Maryland Department of the Environment and current discussions between GHHI and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg regarding legislation to address fraudulent certificates, enhance penalties, and connect Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC) licensure to compliance with lead risk reduction housing law. Chair Norton also provided an update on the government shutdown, noting that HUD grant funds related to healthy housing and lead are still active. She expressed gratitude for the work done during Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week by MDE, the Maryland Department of Health, and various teams, and outlined plans for convenings and major events throughout the next year focused on application assistance, advocacy training, and legal rights.
- **Research on Contractor Licensure** Paula Montgomery from the Maryland Department of the Environment presented research results on laws that might require the Department of Labor to address lead certification for contractors, focusing on tying rehabilitation permitting to contractor accreditation for work on pre-1978 residential rental properties. Paula Montgomery discussed the shift from specific Department of Housing and Community Development regulations to the adoption of the International Building Code and the International Existing Building Code, noting a lack of ties in the latter to compliance with local, federal, or state codes, which would have required contractors to comply with accreditation requirements.
- **Addressing MHIC Licensure and Enforcement** Chair Norton suggested requesting an opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding MDE's power to communicate with MHIC and sanction a contractor's licensure for violating the Maryland lead risk reduction in housing law. Paula Montgomery and Adam Skolnik, agreed on the need to explore enforcement levers, particularly concerning owner-occupied properties, which account for about 33 to 35% of poisoned children. Adam Skolnik, emphasized the need for legislative action to mandate lead training for contractors working in pre-1978 houses, regardless of whether the property is a rental or non-rental.

- **Future Legislative Discussions and Concerns** Nadia Hutchinson raised an issue regarding the most recent state-wide Tenant Bill of Rights, effective July 1st, 2025 [HB0693/CH0124](#), which mentions lead paint but omits specific references to lead certificates. Ms. Hutchinson provided the link: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Tenant-Landlord-Affairs/Documents/Tenant-Bill-of-Rights-V2.pdf> to the document from the Maryland Housing and Community Development regarding the Tenant Bill of Rights. Chair Norton suggested this could be easily amended for clarity and agreed to schedule a panel of tenant advocate lawyers to discuss the Bill of Rights at the next meeting. Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer requested a discussion on the interpretation of House Bill 1367 (Falsifying Information and Penalty), which went into effect October 1st, concerning inspector fraud and the interpretation of the 24-hour notice and specified time requirement for inspections in the LURKA system. Chair Norton suggested an AG opinion might be needed on HB 1367's application, though they and Frederick Banks clarified that current enforcement focuses on patterns of non-notification or misnotifications rather than precise adherence to the hours and minutes.
- **Policy Follow-ups and MHIC Issues** Paula Montgomery agreed to look into the MHIC issue further, working with Frederick Banks and potentially the AGs to formulate talking points and a request for an opinion. Chair Norton stressed the need to crosswalk regulations for contractors and inspectors and to seek clarifying language for the Tenant Bill of Rights, ensuring that the certificate requirement for rental units is included. Chair Norton also mentioned that the Department of Housing and Community Development could not present on the vacant housing plan due to a change in commissioner, and asked Nicola Tran -DHCD- to find out who is running that plan and who is in charge of the Tenant Bill of Rights for DHCD.
- **Baltimore City Lead Program Statistics** Chair Norton requested MDE to send an invitation for the new Baltimore City Health Commissioner to address the commission at the next meeting and moved to the monthly dashboard on lead program statistics. Katherine Taylor presented an overview of the Baltimore City grant, which began in April, outlining an award of \$5.85 million, with \$5.2 million for lead remediation and \$650,000 for healthy homes funding, with goals to complete 225 units for abatement or interim control, 120 units for healthy home hazards, and 325 units for lead inspection and risk assessment. Katherine Taylor reported that as of the meeting, nine units have been completed, exceeding the initial projection of zero for the startup quarters, and 108 risk assessments have been tested so far.
- **Grant Eligibility and Implementation** Barbara Moore inquired about the qualification criteria for the grant, and Katherine Taylor explained that eligibility requires income qualifications, the presence of a child (visiting or living) or a pregnant person, location within Baltimore City, and the house being built before 1978; the minimum time for a child's presence in the unit is six hours a week. Brian Mead, a real estate agent, asked how the funds work for rentals, and Katherine Taylor clarified that the funds go to the contractors, but for rentals, owners must provide a 20% match toward lead remediation work and enter into a contract with the program. Katherine Taylor confirmed that referrals for children with Elevated Blood Levels (EBL) can be made directly to their program, or through the Health Department, and that they have an expedited process for EBL situations.

- **Health Department and Grant Program Processes** Brionna Adams, from the Baltimore City Health Department, clarified that the Health Department's investigation process prioritizes finding the source of lead exposure, typically testing the location where the child spends the most time, such as a primary home or a relative's home, without strict hour minimums for investigations. Chair Norton distinguished that the Health Department's process is for investigations and case management, while Katherine Taylor's six hours a week is the minimum qualification for receiving grant assistance. Katherine Taylor explained that if a unit does not enroll in the grant program after a risk assessment, the client still receives the lead inspection copy from Arc Environmental and is educated on the results, including which areas are hazards.
- **Program Enrollment and Information Sharing** Katherine Taylor confirmed that information is still provided even if individuals are not enrolled in their program, with the ideal goal being enrollment, possibly through other grant sources if the current one is not applicable. Chair Norton questioned the practice of only providing the risk assessment to the owner, citing a 1996 Baltimore City incident where inspection notices were manipulated, leading to a requirement for notices to go to both owners and residents. Chair Norton urged the city and state to quickly review this practice to enhance disclosure and transparency.
- **Risk Assessment Protocols and Data Sharing** Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer asked if the risk assessments for the program follow HUD Chapter 16 protocols, regardless of an elevated blood level (EBL) child, and if redacted reports could be shared with the commission for learning about lead sources. Katherine Taylor clarified that their program, being HUD-funded, focuses solely on lead-based paint and dust hazards and follows all required HUD guidelines for risk assessments. Kevin Stanley supported this by citing 24 CFR 35.125A, which requires the designated party to provide a notice of evaluation to the occupants, including the owner.
- **Unifying Approaches for Lead Investigation** Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer raised concerns about potential conflicts between Maryland regulations, which mandate risk assessments following Chapter 16 regardless of an EBL child, and the focus on paint-only investigations, suggesting that more comprehensive source investigation is needed as EBL standards lower. Chair Norton agreed that there is an opportunity for a unified approach, and Katherine Taylor confirmed that units being worked on due to an EBL child have generally already been involved with the Baltimore City Health Department or MDH case management. Brionna Adams opted not to comment on this discussion at the time.
- **Challenges with Lead-Free Certificates and Data Sharing** Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer initiated a discussion on lead-free certificates, emphasizing the need for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to share more data with the commission, citing major cases like American Home Owner Services and Green Environmental involving approximately 10,000 invalidated certificates. She pointed out that there were no standardized protocols for lead paint inspections resulting in lead-free certificates between 1996 and 2008, and that current practices using a "one reading, one XRF reading per testing combination" may be insufficient.

- **Consequences of Invalidation and Inspector Concerns** Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer noted that the lowering of the EBL threshold and older inspection protocols have led to more environmental investigations and increasing certificate invalidations, which she noted causes anger among property owners who followed regulations and hired accredited inspectors. She raised concerns about the cost of retesting, the tight 30-day timeline for retesting occupied units, and the risk to occupants who may be living in properties found to contain lead. Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer also stressed the commission's goal to maintain low-cost affordable housing, which is challenged when property owners increase rent to cover the costs of reinspections.
- **Proposed Solutions for Lead-Free Certificate Issues** Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer suggested that MDE should take paint samples to confirm if enclosure is a factor in positive readings, revise the regulation protocols for lead-free status, and consult with the original inspection company's paperwork before performing oversight inspections. She also proposed a triage system to assess the risk of potentially inadvertently issued certificates or those where protocols were followed but lead is still present. Susan DiGaetano Kleinhammer suggested establishing a housing subcommittee to address these issues holistically, involving MDE, property owners, and other stakeholders.
- **Discussion on Reinspection Timeline and Rental Costs** Naadiya Hutchinson agreed that the costs of reinspection are often passed to tenants, leading to significant rent increases during a housing crisis. She expressed hesitancy about lengthening the 30-day reinspection timeline, fearing it would harm renters in potentially hazardous homes. Chair Norton agreed that once a certificate is invalidated, the turnaround time should be shorter, not longer, and suggested that while legislation might not be the answer, solutions should be explored to prevent costs from being passed to tenants. Brian Mead suggested subsidizing the cost of lead-free inspections, noting that the higher cost compared to regular inspections pushes landlords to choose the cheaper option.
- **MDE Transparency and Inspector Accountability** Fred Banks clarified that information on the 1,400 invalidated certificates is posted on MDE's website, and they strive for transparency. raised concerns about the process for removing inspectors from the accreditation list, noting a lag time between identifying an inspector under investigation and their removal. Banks suggested MDE consider temporarily suspending inspectors' public credentials during a valid investigation to reduce public and MDE liability. Fred also corrected an assumption, stating there is no requirement for a lead-free property to be reinspected at change in tenancy or occupancy.
- **Critique of System Effectiveness and Data Mining** Adam Skolnik, argued that the system worked because it caught the "scofflaws," like Green Environmental, and suggested that massively changing a working system is not the right solution. Naadiya Hutchinson disagreed, arguing that the system was not effective because hundreds of homes were impacted before the fraud was caught, causing a breach of trust due to the delay in notification. Patrick Connor expressed curiosity about how MDE leverages its database to detect fraudulent activity, citing examples where Green Environmental posted multiple unique certificates for the same property on the same day or hours apart.

- **Child Screening and Lead-Free Certificates Data** Chair Norton reiterated the commission's focus on protecting children and adults from harm. Barbara Moore asked if there is a data report available with the number of lead-free certificates, categorized by year, and required dust and XRF testing. Mr. Banks confirmed MDE regularly looks at this data, noting there are tens of thousands of lead-free certificates, and MDE prioritizes looking at properties with people at risk first.
- **Inspection Standards and Health Department Follow-up** Ally Nesdat shared their personal experience in an owner-occupied home that was previously a rental, where their son had astronomical lead levels despite a recent inspection. Ally Nesdat noted that a private inspection conducted by Susan found hazards the Health Department did not. Chair Norton asked Brionna Adams to look into why the private inspection picked up more hazards than the Health Department's, emphasizing the need for standardized inspections regardless of who is conducting them.

Agency Hot Topics/Current Events

- **MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment)** Frederick Banks announced that renewal season is underway, reminding property owners that fees will increase on January 1st and that renewals must be submitted by December 31st to avoid being late. A change in the budget bill mandates that registration renewal for lead-affected homes will switch from one year to every two years, effective January 1st. MDE is conducting a social media campaign to share this information.
- **MDH (Maryland Department of Health)** Cliff Mitchell acknowledged the fine work done by staff at MDH, local health departments, and GHHI for Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, highlighting successful efforts in Dorchester County. MDH is considering a future event in Western Maryland to discuss the problem there. Cliff Mitchell also noted ongoing opportunities to improve communication among Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development, and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development regarding efficiency in providing relief to homeowners and renters. Cliff Mitchell mentioned that MDH is watching the federal budget situation closely, particularly regarding the impacts on Medicaid and the state budget, noting that quick, nimble response will be required once clarity is available.
- **MDAAP (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter)** Dr. Michael Ichniowski shared the [social media link](#) of the AAP chapter's video about screening children and locating heavy metal testing results on baby food packaging, with the commission.
- **MSDE/OCC (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care)** Manjula Paul reported that the Office of Child Care sent out information on lead poisoning prevention, including the importance of testing children and providing a lead-safe childcare environment. Paul also shared that they met with MDH and MDE regarding water testing in child care centers, with plans for 20% volunteer testing related to the upcoming Lead Copper Rule.
- **MD-DHCD (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development)** Nicola Tran reported that DHCD is working to launch two new HUD programs, hampered by staffing positions tied up in the hiring process. DHCD has seen an uptick in applications for existing rehab programs, attributing this to including rehab programs in the energy program application. Tran also expressed concern about LIHEAP funding with the heating season approaching.

- **BCHD (Baltimore City Health Department):** Brionna Adams reported that the Baltimore City Health Department is actively looking for a sanitarian supervisor. Adams thanked everyone for their help during lead week, noting that Baltimore City was present at nine outreach events in October, tested 24 children, and reached 62 individuals with information.
- **BRU (Baltimore Renters United)** Naadiya Hutchinson noted that Baltimore Runners United has been uplifting various programs offered by the Baltimore City government for residents impacted by the federal government shutdown, such as rental assistance for furloughed workers and food banks.

Public Comments and Updates

- **Lead Certificate Cleanup and Reporting** Patrick Connor encouraged monthly reporting on cleaning up 1,400 certificates, specifically those related to "lead free" and "lead free limited" inspections, which impact thousands of units. Fred Banks acknowledged being on the same page as Mr. Connor, explaining that some earlier anomalies were "legacy certificates" migrated to the LRCA database, which is currently in version one. They noted that they are working on IT upgrades and trying to implement automatic notifications in the system to prevent future anomalies, while also being careful not to prevent inspectors from performing their jobs. Fred Banks discussed challenges in validating inspection timing, mentioning situations where an inspector might log multiple inspections within a short timeframe, prompting the MDE to reach out to confirm how the inspections actually occurred. Patrick Connor expressed appreciation for the explanation, particularly concerning items like risk reductions, but raised concern about the volume of limited and one-time lead free certificates processed by Green Environmental, especially given that the company reportedly did not have an X-ray fluorescent analyzer at certain times.
- **Investigation Methodology and Next Steps** Chris Cicero, representing Reliable Property Management Company, requested that more comprehensive investigations be considered before assigning liability to landlords, noting that it is often unclear when lead exposure occurred. Patrick Connor responded to Chris Cicero's concern by reiterating the expectation of receiving an investigation in accordance with HUD chapter 16, which should provide a solid pathway for determining sources of exposure, often revealing multi-source contamination.

Adjournment:

Meeting ended at 11:30 am

Future Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, January 8, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.