

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21230

APPROVED MINUTES (5/7/09)

Thursday, April 2, 2009

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Eric Lomboy, Alvin Bowles, Cheryl Hall, Melbourne Jenkins, Edward Landon, Patricia McLaine, Valerie Paton, Linda Roberts, and Pam Putnam (replacing Dr. Lee Woods).

COMMISSIONERS UNABLE TO ATTEND

Patrick Connor, Barbara Moore, Delegate Nathaniel Oaks and Mary Snyder-Vogel.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Ruth Ann Norton – CECLP, Mary Johnson – DHMH, Lou Dorsey – Legal Aid Bureau, Glenn Thompson – DHMH, Nancy Palmer – DHCD, Madeleine Shea – BCHD, Sarah Norman – BCHD, Kelley Ordonio – JHHC, Paula Montgomery – MDE, Ralph Markus, Michael Papi – JHHC, Shirley Corbin – MIA, Molly Call – CECLP, D. Goode – CECLP, Donna Webster – Wicomico County Health Department (via conference phone) and Tracy Smith – MDE.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OLD BUSINESS

The minutes for the March 5, 2009 meeting were approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Lead Commission 2009 Meetings – first Thursday of every month. ***NO meetings are scheduled for July, August or November.*** All meetings are scheduled to meet 9:30 – 11:30 AM at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230. **The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2009**

IV. UPDATE ON DATA SYSTEMS

Eric still waiting on comments from presentations last week on Data Systems. Discussions to transpire at next commission meeting

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Ralph Markus, Director of Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP)

- OHEP helps low income MD residents pay their energy bills via the following programs:

- **The Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)**-provides assistance on heating bills on an annual basis. Assistance is based on household income. Funding comes from Federal grant. Administered through the Dept. of Health and Human Service

- **The Electrical Universal Service Program (EUSP)** - started in 2000 as a result of deregulation. State mandated & administered by the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to assist low income customers with their electric bills. Maryland ratepayers (mostly industrial and commercial) subsidize \$36 million dollars to the program through electric utilities collected and submitted to MD comptroller by utility companies. One Million Dollars goes to the Weatherization Program. Additional subsidies through State funds. Benefits based on income and how much electric or gas is used. There are differential benefits for subsidized housing because these individuals already receive allowance for electric and heat. Two components (a) Bill Payment Assistance- cost reduced by awarded benefits from \$48-\$1,800; (b) In rears component- Money awarded for past due bills (must be at least \$300), will pay up to \$2,000. If more than \$2,000 they will be referred to fuel fund. Currently, residents are only allowed to get this once in a lifetime. However, current legislation will allow residents to receive funds once every 7 years.

NOTE: currently a moratorium on service terminations for customers. Work group plan in the process for those individuals that are not low income, but are in the rears.

- **The Utility Service Protection Program (USPP)** - Program of the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the utility companies designed to help low income families with utility terminations. This may include waiver of security deposits and reconnection fees. Must be MEAP eligible and be on budget billing. USPP helps to bring down customer's bill the bills and than put you on a monthly budget billing. The customer and MEAP would pay jointly. Customers who do not pay their bills timely or at all may loose this benefit.

OHEP makes referrals to Fuel Funds across Maryland for those families that do not meet the criteria for the program s above.

B. Glen Thompson, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

- The DHCD Single Family Special Loans Program (SLP) administers the following program, which helps low income households with the installation of energy conservations materials.

- **The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** - Program helps to reduce consumption of energy and maintenance cost for Maryland residents. Funding provided by U.S. Department of energy and the EUSP, along with BGE and Washington Gas. Funds based on applicants' income. Owner must be able to prove ownership. Landlords may apply

- but must prove ownership and agree to participate and invest. Priority is given to HO that is elderly and families with children. Once determined to be eligible there will be an inspection to determine the applicants needs. Such services include insulation, hot water system improvements, furnace cleaning and safety.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Pat McLaine wanted to know if there was a possibility of adding a window replacement component to the WAP program. Mr. Thompson commented that with the limited funds they receive they would not be able to accomplish this, but that makes referrals to other funding sources if the applicants need additional work not covered by WAP.
- Eric Lomboy also commented that due to the constraints of grant permissions (even if monies were available) that windows may not be considered.
- End of discussion due to time allowances

AGENCY UPDATES

Maryland Department of the Environment - Alvin Bowles

Nothing to report at this time

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Pam Putnam

Nothing to report at this time

Department of Housing and Community Development – Ed Landon

Nothing to report at this time

Baltimore City Health Department - Sarah Norman

- First Latino training transpired
- The Baltimore City Health Department's Lead, Asthma & Injury Prevention bureau is working with the BCHD's Immunization bureau to input lead data into the Baltimore Immunization Registry Program so that physicians will be able to easily look up lead tests at the same time they look up immunization records. This improvement in lead screening data systems will help increase lead screening.

Office of Childcare-Cheryl Hall

- Baltimore City will be training child care providers & licensing staff on health homes

Maryland Insurance Administration – Valerie Paton

Nothing to report at this time

Coalition to End Childhood Lead Posing – Ruth Ann Norton

The City of Annapolis Launches Lead Safe Annapolis

- Introduced new employees to CECLP (Molly and Sarah)
- CECLP has completed outreach to District Court Judges
- CECLP will be doing outreach at the African American History Festival

Legislative Updates

- Demolition Bill defeated
- Dust Testing Bill- Environmental Matters Committee biggest opposition. Committee believes that if you test more children BLL will decrease. CECLP is requesting continued support
- Lead Paint Bill- Not brought forward for comment
- City Bill will allow for Baltimore. City to get into multi-family dwelling units to proactively inspect all units and to bring more in line with MD laws

Update on constitutionality of the Maryland Lead Law

- CECLP has a copy of the brief for internal review

Meeting Adjourned 11:30 am