

**GOVERNOR'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION**  
**Maryland Department of the Environment**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

**Documents Distributed:**

2021-02-04 ECP Baby Food Staff Report.pdf  
Draft Minutes 210204.pdf  
Draft Minutes for Subcommittee meeting Feb 16 2021.pdf  
Final Agenda 210304.pdf  
GAP\_StrategicPlanningAnalysisLCActions. Updated on 02-24-21.pdf  
HB636\_2021 Session\_Testimony of Maryland Lead Commission.FINAL.pdf  
Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission Membership.pdf

**Opening Welcome and Introductions:**

Paula Montgomery called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM with welcome and introductions.

**Members Present:**

Dalya Attar	Cliff Mitchell	Manjula Paul
Benita Cooper	Paula Montgomery	Christina Peusch
Anna Davis	Barbara Moore	Paul Rogers
Susan Kleinhammer	Leonidas Newton	Adam Skolnik
Mary Beth Haller	Ruth Ann Norton	

**Members Absent:**

Jill Carter

**Guests Present:**

Chevelle Bash-GHHI	Jack Daniels-DHCD	Kelsey McClain-GHHI
Shante Branch-MDE	Eamon Flynn-MDH	Wendy Phillips-MDE
Camille Burke-BCHD	Sheneka Frasier-Kyer-DHCD	Georgella Samu-MDE
Walter Clews-AmeriSpec	Lisa Horne-MDH	Wes Stewart-GHHI
Shelly Choo-MDH	Dawn Joy-AMA	Marissa Tan-JHU
Patrick Connor-CONNOR	Saeid Kasraei-MDE	
Chris Corzine-OAG	Kaley Laleker-MDE	

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Cliff Mitchell, seconded by Ruth Ann Norton to accept the February 4, 2021 minutes as distributed. All present Commissioners were in favor; the minutes were approved.

**Old Business:**

- 2021 Legislation Discussion: Anna Davis discussed the below bills.
  - HB0049 Letter of Support: The Commissioners previously approved of the Letter of Support which was filed on January 22, 2021. This bill was heard on January 26, 2021.
  - HB0636 Letter of Support: The Commissioners approved of the Letter of Support which supports 5 parts per billion and was filed on February 8, 2021. The bill was heard on February 10, 2021 and is anticipated to be favorable.
- Commission Membership: Paula Montgomery highlighted the vacant member positions and asked that if anyone has any suggestions or recommendations to please let Wendy Phillips and Paula Montgomery know. Ruth Ann Norton suggested that those with expired appointment dates work to renew their appointment. As a reminder, these are voluntary unpaid member positions but reimbursement for travel expenses are permitted.
- Subcommittee Updates lead testing and immunization: The Subcommittee had a very successful first meeting which took place on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Paul Rogers, Chair, shared the minutes with the Commission and provided a powerpoint presentation in which he shared information and data that was discussed at the meeting. Topics of discussion included CME Podcasts; dissemination of the message regarding the dangers of lead poisoning; current hazards and its effects on children; strategies for message awareness; teaming up with other groups such as Women, Infants, and Children and point of care testing; and making the new regulations for lead testing easily available. Paul Rogers asked for suggestions, recommendations, and strategies from the Commission regarding the following three items: 1) drafting a letter to parents and distributed through multiple mechanisms, including; local health departments, WIC Clinics and MCO's to encourage lead testing during well visits 2) obtaining the data for areas where there are high incident areas of elevated blood lead levels and areas where children are under tested in order to target the message the those groups 3) obtaining data on physicians in the areas where testing has declined providing those physicians focused letters and support.
  - Ruth Ann Norton briefly informed the Commission that GHFI set aside some foundation money to help partner with the government on a campaign.
  - Cliff Mitchell added the following points of discussion: 1) A letter was sent to all state clinicians and nurse practitioners regarding the new regulations, new law, and the updated blood testing requisition. 2) MDH offered its first CME event through the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. 3) MDH is interested in providing an effective measure for the medicaid and non-medicaid population by providing a scorecard to providers (i.e. an individual assessment on how providers are doing with their children patients).

- Camille Burke shared the following comments: 1) BCHD purchased point of care testing machines for total health care and family health centers of Baltimore. 2) BCHD will be reaching out to partners to provide outreach, education, and develop hubs and anchors for child testing.
- Manjula Paul added: 1) OCC is reminding their licensing staff to check the childrens' records and encourage parents to go to their primary care providers to get their child tested for lead.
- Paula Montgomery emphasized the areas where testing has decreased.
- A Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss and develop short term, mid term, and long term goals; discuss the drafting of a letter to discuss core concerns; discuss the possibility of a CME Podcast; and drafting a targeted letter to physicians where undertesting is taking place.
- Discussion - GAP Analysis Yellow & Green Highlights: An updated report was previously disseminated to the Commission and Paula Montgomery discussed the current status of items highlighted within the report which are progressing.
- Discussion (Consent Decree - Home Depot) Draft Request to DOJ re: SEPs in Settlement Agreements: Ruth Ann Norton previously provided MDE a draft letter addressed to the Department of Justice regarding SEPs in Settlement Agreements. The letter requested for any settlement, that funds as part of the Consent Decree, would be allocated to special environmental projects that deal specifically with lead. The deadline for public comments was February 22, 2021. Wes Stewart recommended that the letter be sent even though it is past the public comment deadline. Wendy Phillips will send out a copy of the letter to Commissioners and a Call to Vote for Commission Members with a deadline of March 12, 2021.

**New Business:**

- Presentation DHCD restructuring Current Status and Future Plans: Jack Daniels gave some updates which included some of the following topics: Pandemic delays, delayed spending on capital allocations, changes within DHCD in new approaches regarding how DHCD is addressing their Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids program, current status of encumbered funds, status of upcoming projects, letter of support and matching funds provided to Alice Kennedy of Baltimore City and Sheneka Frasier-Kyer of DHCD regarding their application for the lead grant, recent executed MOU, and funding replenishment due to the inability to grant extensions on the funding given the current pandemic.
- Baby Foods Staff Report: Paula Montgomery gave a summary of the report and recommends that the Lead Commission maintain awareness and continue to monitor the topic. Paula pointed out that a goal of the Commission should be to look at all potential sources of lead in a child's environment. Cliff Mitchell recommended, and Shelly Choo agreed, that the Commission be vigilant regarding its focus of priorities and recommended that its main priority be on issues that are more within its control.

**Agency Hot Topics/Current Events:**

- **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment): Shante Branch reported that MDE is continuing with environmental investigations and referrals.
- **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health): Cliff Mitchell reported that MDH is starting to plan for public health week which will run April 5, 2021 through April 11, 2021. Additionally, May is asthma awareness month and MDH will be promoting health equity and healthy homes approaches. Regarding COVID, the local health departments are inundated with COVID response. MDH is working with the local health departments to support them in continuing its home investigations and following-up with children who have reduced well child care. MDH is also considering how it can work with its primary care community to catch up with all the deferred care.
- **Maryland DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community) Development: There were no comments or updates provided.
- **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Camille Burke gave recognition to those involved in the waste water initiative which has been successful in Baltimore City. BCHD will be retooling its point of care testing strategy. BCHD continues to work on uploading and transferring all its violations into Housing's chip system.
- **HABC** (Housing Authority of Baltimore City): There were no comments or updates provided.
- **Baltimore City DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development): There were no comments or updates provided.
- **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care): Manjula Paul reported that with regards to the volunteer project of water testing in child care from MDE, OCC leadership team met with its OAG office to clarify the issue related to licensing specifically if the water outlets are found to be with a high level of lead. It was confirmed that this will affect the licensing status of the child care depending on which outlet is being tested with the high level. The information was shared with MDE. Since there is no funding for remediation efforts, OCC is fearful that not many childcare providers will take the free testing opportunity. Manjula is seeking consideration for funding support to childcare providers to support the remediation efforts if their water outlets are found to be at a high level of lead.
- **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration): There were no comments or updates provided.

**Commissioner Comments and Updates:** There were no comments or updates provided

**Public Comments and Updates:**

- Walter Clews asked about the Lead Commission Member application process. Paula Montgomery suggested that Walter Clews go to the Governor's Appointment Office webpage and submit an application for any vacant member positions as long as he qualifies. Wendy Phillips will send an email link to those individuals seeking to apply.

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- Wes Stewart wanted to remind everyone of the grand rounds series. The next grand rounds training by Cliff Mitchell is March 9 and 23, 2021. It is directed to nurses and pediatricians but is open for anyone to join in.
- Sheneka Frasier-Kyers wanted to reiterate that DHCD is not yet permitted to do home visits but it is in the process of creating more marketing tools.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

### **Future Meeting Date:**

The next Lead Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 2021 via Google Meet, from 9:30 – 11:30 AM.