

TN CLPPP Advisory Committee Meeting
June 26, 2009
Hamilton County Health Department/Chattanooga
MEETING MINUTES

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A list of all meeting participants is attached.

CLPPP Director Judith Baker called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM, after which time she briefly described the structure of CLPPP for those who were attending their first meeting. She spoke about two of CLPPP's challenges and added that these would be major discussion points at the next CLPPP Advisory Meeting.

- Challenge #1: Labs that are not reporting to the surveillance system. Should we approach all labs with stern reminders of the necessity of reporting or only those that are not currently in compliance?
- Challenge #2: Some providers across the state are merely asking lead screening questions, rather than performing blood lead tests.

Judith announced that Rebecca Walls will be leaving her CLPPP position to work with newborn health and hearing screenings.

CLPPP grants for the coming fiscal year are still pending. Judith reported that they are cycling through the system in Finance and Administration. She will keep relevant parties posted as to their status and continue to probe for updates from F & A.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Hamilton County:

Patti Gervin and Tom Rucci reported that there have been no new cases of elevated blood lead levels since January. Home visitation programs continue to be a fertile source for outreach on lead poisoning prevention. Other outreach efforts include education in Section 8 housing, TennCare delinquency lists for EPSDTs, and the continuation of the outreach to pregnant women in Silverdale Prison.

TN CLPPP Advisory Committee Meeting

June 26, 2009

Page Two

Sullivan County:

Cindy Mottern commented on the decreasing number of lead poisoning cases in their area, a not-surprising effect of the cutback in production at the EXIDE plant.

RENOVATION, REPAIR, and PAINTING RULE:

Liz Wilde, Regional Coordinator for EPA, outlined the fundamentals of the new Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule, which was finalized in April of 2008 and will become fully operational on April 22, 2010.

This rule greatly expands the existing Pre-Education requirements for renovation, to apply to both pre-1978 housing *and* child-occupied facilities. Any pre-1978 home or building that contains more than six square feet of lead-based paint internally or 20 square feet of lead-based paint externally must be in compliance with the law that stipulates a certified renovator is directing the project. The project directors are responsible for training their own workers in the lead-safe practices and must themselves be onsite for a portion of the project.

Certification may be achieved through training from the EPA, or—more commonly— from state programs that are eligible to train agencies within their own borders. Liz is optimistic that the certification fees may be adequate to fund a lead-based paint program and accompanying outreach and education. At this time, 75 EPA trainers are available nationwide.

Liz spoke on the differences between renovation and abatement, noting that lead abatement is uncommon in any but HUD housing. The new renovation rule, however, will have far wider applicability. It is estimated to apply to as many as 160,000 agencies in Region IV (the southeast) alone.

As a regulatory agency, EPA is charged with developing and enforcing the RRP rule. Both HUD and the CDC will cooperate with EPA to make agencies aware of the new regulation.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS:

James Adkins explained that, in Tennessee, TDEC serves in EPA's stead in certifying those who work in lead abatement practices (whether related to soil, water, or dust.)

At this time, ten environmental investigations are remaining to be accomplished. Jim noted that consumer goods imported from other countries often prove to be the source of lead in Tennessee households and reiterated his oft-stated warning on the use of vinyl mini blinds, which, as they deteriorate, shed significant amounts of lead dust.

Adrienne White subsequently spoke on TDEC's progress in becoming the RRP certifying source for the state of Tennessee (an authorization package should be submitted by October 1, 2009). TDEC also anticipates application (with other partners) for a HUD Lead Hazard Demonstration Grant. Adrienne remarked that many states are scrambling to formulate partnerships around lead issues, while Tennessee's relationships are vigorous and secure.

TDEC will administer a new asbestos abatement program effective June 25, 2009. This will include asbestos inspections in schools and PCB inspections statewide. Adrienne noted that asbestos is showing up in *new* schools, the result of contaminated imported building materials (such as drywall and cinder blocks). Anyone who suspects asbestos contamination may report their concerns to TDEC, who treats all complaints anonymously.

Federal stimulus money to support neighborhood stabilization projects is forthcoming. Receipt of federal funding is contingent upon compliance with lead-based paint regulations, another safeguard in the battle against childhood lead poisoning.

Pam Franklin, from Adrienne's staff, described efforts to develop a Logic Model for CLPPP evaluation.

TN CLPPP Advisory Committee Meeting
June 26, 2009
Page Four

LEAD SURVEILLANCE:

Advisory Committee members received a copy of the EBLL incidence rate, by county, for the years 2006 through 2008. Dr. Martha Keel spoke briefly about the mechanisms by which laboratories report their results to UT Extension, adding that future plans include converting LeadTRK to a web-based system.

TN LEAP (Lead Elimination and Action Program)

Dr. Kathy Mathis explained that LEAP is now in its third year of funding, with a current focus on lead remediation in the homes of Knoxville and east Tennessee. Funding is available for 100 homes.

MTSU may apply for a HUD grant focusing on the technical aspects of construction.

EDUCATION and OUTREACH:

Bonnie Hinds reviewed the information, centered on new lead research, in each participant's folder. Of particular interest was the result of an Emory University Hospital trial, in which the detection of elevated lead levels was accomplished through oral fluid testing, rather than blood testing.

Judith Baker asked everyone to review the draft of the EBLL Guidelines and to e-mail her with any recommendations for improvement.

The meeting concluded with a viewing of the DVD "Lead's Revenge," produced by the California Department of Health. Anyone who would like a copy for their outreach efforts should e-mail Bonnie Hinds.

In response to a question raised during the meeting as to where one might research some of the behavioral effects of lead, members suggested:

American Academy of Pediatrics - www.aap.org
New England Journal of Medicine - www.nejm.org
Pub Med -- www.pubmed.gov

TN CLPPP Advisory Committee Meeting
June 26, 2009
Page Five

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

Mark your calendars now for the next CLPPP Advisory Committee meeting, to be held on **FRIDAY, September 25, 2009, in Knoxville.**
Exact location to be announced at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Hinds