

**Lead Poisoning Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2022**

---

**In Attendance**

Dr. Erin Nozetz (Pediatrician, Associate Director of Yale Toxicity Clinic, Kimberly Ploszaj (State Department of Public Health), Maritza Bond (Director of Health – NHHD), Rafael Ramos (Environmental Health Director – NHHD), Craig Carlson (NHHD), Latoya Glasper (NHHD), Morgan Dufour (NHHD), Amy Marx, Mary, Patricia King (Corporation Counsel), Heather Reynolds, Meredith Williams, Amanda DeCew, Ben Trachten,

**A. Call to Order**

Erin Nozetz called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes were approved. Motioned to approve minutes by Craig Carlson and seconded by Erin Nozetz.

**C. Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted with everyone present introducing themselves by name and title.

**D. Updates:**

Dr. Nozetz:

- New Haven had only one case of chelation, a 3-year-old child originally from Afghanistan. The family has been living in New Haven for only 2 weeks. The Health Department was able to get to the house and figure out the situation with Lead and was relocate the family to Ronald McDonald House. The child's BLL is coming down now, it's not where it needs to be, but it's not at the level where the child would need more chelation therapy.
- Lead Treatment Center has Master of Public Health students working with Yale. There are two students, one of whom is working on a project to see how long on average, it takes for a child who's chelated for the lead level to come down to undetectable. Another project they are working on is the lead levels in children who are from families of refugees. As more data is collected, additional information will be shared at the next meeting.

- The Governor's proposed bill 5045 to the House passed the House appropriations.

Kimberly:

- The bill passed the House appropriations which mean they have reviewed the budget, with 44 yays and 4 nays. It will now go to the Senate and eventually back to the House for final vote.

**E. Discussions:**

- Heather Reynolds questioned if any agencies are partnering with Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) and being proactive in terms of counseling and educating families about lead poisoning.
- Kimberly Answered:
  - They have quarterly meetings with all the resettlement agencies. It was suggested to the resettlement agencies to have additional instruction for their staff who are securing housing for these families as housing can still be a factor because sometimes it is not any cultural products that may contain lead. We offered to do a training on how best for their staff to do a visual assessment of defective paint and stuff so that they can try to have the most protective options.
  - We would like to talk with them about if they want to coordinate doing dust wipes.
  - Another suggestion was if there is any interest in training, we can partner with the woman who runs the Environmental Health portion of Lead in New York.
- Dr. Nozetz:
  - At the Fair Haven clinic, lead screening and education is provided to the refugee families. Specifically asking about Kohl eyeliners, utensils, spices, makeup products and etc.
- Maritza Bond:
  - Action item: Coordinate a meeting with IRIS to discuss how we can streamline the process of educating families of refugees before they reach the medical level. Also assuring we are meeting the health literacy, linguistic, and cultural preferences. Have our materials be available in preferred languages.
  - Director Bond also stated she gave a testimony written and oral, on behalf of New Haven Health Department and the City of New Haven in favor of the Governor's Bill 5045.

**F. Updates from New Haven Health Department (NHHD)**

- **Due to technical issues, Morgan Dufour was unable to share the VEOCI Lead Dashboard with the Lead Task Force.**
- Director Bond:
  - Collectively, as you know, the city of new haven health department was charged upon my onboarding to modernize our systems and to really look at the health department as a whole, but specifically, the lead the vision to

see how we can improve and streamline our state regulatory versus our local regulatory and really be able to track the progress and so really proud of the team and the effort that we did what we worked on in the midst of the pandemic, we were able to still simultaneously revamp the lead division making sure that the staff infrastructure was supported, but, most importantly, making sure that we were protecting the overall well-being of our children that are dealing with Lead poisoning in our city. NHHD has developed a lead dashboard that tracks every regulatory requirement and really is a live dashboard that our inspectors are actively using. There will be a public-facing portion that will be able to be available to the public on our website. Then there will be an internal administrator one where we are tracking it from an administrator perspective for quality assurance as Raphael meets with the staff on a regular basis to look at metrics and deliverables

- Rafael Ramos:
  - NHHD Lead Division is now fully staffed with 6 Lead Inspectors, 2 Community Outreach Workers, a Program Manager, and a GIS Analyst.
  - Lack and unavailability of contractors is an ongoing issue on the lead abatement side. To address that issue, the NHHD is going to provide EPA RRP training, lead worker, and lead supervisor training.
  - Streamlining the intake of lead abatement application process, working on creating a more transparent bidding process as contractors feel the bidding process wasn't as fair.
  - The pandemic has created a constraint in achieving our numbers. Due to lack of contractors, price hikes in the cost of materials, labor, etc. NHHD is working to revise our benchmarks. On an average abatement cost is anywhere between \$15,000 - \$20,000 per unit compared to the \$9,000 per unit allocated through the grant. We will need to strategize differently to still keep the goal of abating 200 units.
- Craig Carlson:
  - Outreach updates
    - Outreach activities were conducted during the National Public Health week through several community events in New Haven. Informational and educational materials were provided to residents of New Haven.
    - Visits to elementary schools are also ongoing. Craig reads Henry and Fred Learn About Lead and Susie and Jerome Learn About a Healthy Home to kids, especially kindergarteners – 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Reading sessions are also happening at libraries.
    - Brainstorming a framework for interactive outreach programming that we can have designed and implemented to be repeated throughout the city going forward.
    - we're working with a consultant that the Health Department has teamed up with to design our branded materials, creating some

brochures that will really help get our message across more effectively.

**G. Updates from the State:**

- Kimberly Ploszaj:
  - we have essentially federal funding we have CDC funding, as well as EPA funding. Our EPA funding allows us to run our licensed workforce, so we do all the applications and everything for abatement workers supervisors and then those that do lead inspections, we also train, as well as do all the refreshers for over 240 local health department staff. Additionally, with our CDC funding, we are able to submit updated budget information for year two of that, so we are going to be doing some additional media campaign stuff this summer, the added focus is concentrating on some Asian pockets, if you will, specifically those that are refugee other immigrant populations that we see where we do see that a lot of the poisoning factors. In addition to that, we are going to be starting a newer partnership with some new faces and WIC. There was an issue identified with us in the eastern part of the state where a lot of children seem to not necessarily be screened for their iron levels and a lot of those children were not screened appropriately. We're going to be trying to work with our WIC program to educate their workforce and those that are.
  - We have been working with the Community health network to try to increase compliance for testing, so the heat is measured for the Community health centers says one test before the age of two, State law requires to test before the age of three so with that we figured that we can piggyback the hemoglobin side on that too. Having CHN reach out to their providers and stuff like that, and again they indicated to us that about 90% of the kids that are on WIC or on husky.

**NOTE: Due to technical issues the cloud recording of the meeting is incomplete.**