

**Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Advisory Committee  
April 11th, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Christina Londono, Family Service	Ita Principe, RI Housing
Jan Moore, Blackstone Valley CAP	Dr. Robert DiDomenico, Westbay CAP
Helena Friedmann, Childhood Lead Action Project	Brian Campbell, HEALTH
June Tourangeau, St. Joseph Hospital Lead Center	Anne Kineavy, Hasbro Lead Clinic
Beth Andrews, United Healthcare	Peter Simon, HEALTH
Marie Stoeckel, HEALTH	Magaly Angeloni, HEALTH
Nolan Byrne, DHS	Monica Staaf, RI Association of Realtors
Bill Hollinshead, HEALTH	Simon Kue, HRC
Anne Primeau-Faubert, HEALTH	Ewa King, HEALTH
Theresa Hancock, RI Kids Count	Ruth Lindberg, HEALTH
David Johnston, City of PVD Lead Program	Chris Gorham, RI Housing
Daniela Quilliam, HEALTH	
Frank Bragantin, RI Apartment Association	

**Open Meetings Web Site:**

Magaly Angeloni informed members of the committee that all agendas and minutes from the Advisory Committee meetings would now be posted on the Open Meetings Web Site in order to comply with the Open Meetings Act. The public can visit <http://www.sec.state.ri.us/pubinfo/openmeetings> to view agendas and meeting minutes.

**Elimination Plan Progress and Objectives for 2005:**

Magaly Angeloni provided committee members with a background on the Rhode Island Plan to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning. The initial plan was developed, with input from the committee, for the period 2004-2010. In order to focus goals and objectives, the Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (RI CLPPP) has decided to do an annual progress report with revised and updated objectives. Daniela Quilliam passed out drafts of the Progress Report and 2005 Objectives to the committee.

Peter Simon discussed the difficulty in measuring our elimination goal, and stressed that lowering lead poisoning incidence is only one piece of a very difficult goal. Elimination, as defined by the committee, will not be met with out increased or sustained access to safe, affordable housing for families with children in Rhode Island. Dr. Simon described some of RI CLPPP's efforts to develop an indicator to monitor access to safe, affordable housing. These include working with RI KIDSCOUNT to analyze the free and reduced lunch data in each city and town as a proxy of which cities and towns in Rhode Island are gaining or losing low-income children each year (and thus a proxy of where low-income families are able to afford to live). Additionally, RI CLPPP has established a working group to develop both short-term and long-term indicators for access to safe, affordable housing. The progress of this working group will be reported at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Helena Friedmann raised the question of whether or not the general public, and more specifically, legislators, understand that the elimination goal has a strong focus on housing, not just on lead poisoning incidence. Dr. Simon expressed concern that legislators and the public are being misinformed by the media efforts of lobbying organizations opposed to the

current structure of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law. Monica Staaf asked Health Department staff to clarify that recent media advertisements of the REALTORS have not been misleading. Many committee members agreed that there is confusion among the public and legislators about the elimination goal. Suggested outreach strategies to clarify the housing focus of the elimination goal included the use of the KIDSCOUNT factbook, and constant repetition as committee members testify at the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law Commission hearings and other legislative venues.

Committee members were asked to read through the draft Progress Report and send comments to Daniela Quilliam by Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005.

### **Lead Poisoning Prevention Month 2005:**

Ruth Lindberg described some of the major initiatives for Lead Poisoning Prevention Month in May 2005. The Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program will host its annual awards event on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. Rebecca Morley, Executive Director of the National Center for Healthy Housing, and Mary Jean Brown of the Centers for Disease Control will be speaking at the event.

Other initiatives for the month of May include a school outreach effort to Rhode Island elementary and preschools to educate families about lead poisoning, as well as a kick-off outreach effort at Earth Day at the Roger Williams Zoo on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.

### **Rhode Island College Nursing Student Pilot Program:**

Ruth Lindberg informed committee members of a pilot program that HEALTH will be conducting in conjunction with the Rhode Island College School of Nursing on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Students from the Community Health Nursing Program will spend an 8-hour 'clinical' day learning about environmental health hazards such as lead, radon, mold, fire, home injury, and carbon monoxide. Students will also learn to conduct a thorough home visual assessment through a hands-on demonstration at the Walker House, a Preserve Rhode Island property. The property has been preserved to show multiple layers of construction, and is ideal for showing structural damages, water damage, chipping and peeling paint, and other hazards. The students will be instructed by June Tourangeau of the St. Joseph Hospital Lead Safe Center and Chris Dillon of the City of Providence Code Enforcement how to conduct a visual assessment of a home, looking for lead, fire, and other environmental hazards.

A number of committee members representing organizations such as the Lead Centers expressed an interest in receiving a similar training. HEALTH representatives expressed an interest in offering similar trainings to other groups, however funding to sustain the project and to compensate instructors in the event of a long-term, ongoing process will need to be investigated. It was resolved that the pilot will be conducted as scheduled, and afterward an assessment of what went well, what was useful, and how the project can and should be sustained can be conducted.

For more information about the Walker House, visit:

[http://www.preserveri.org/index.cfm/ID/14/Page/Walker\\_House](http://www.preserveri.org/index.cfm/ID/14/Page/Walker_House)

### **Next Meeting Dates:**

Next meeting dates for 2005 are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 2005, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. in DOH Room 302
- Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 2005, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. in DOH Room 302