

Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2006

Attendees

Anne Primeau-Faubert	HEALTH
Daniela Quilliam	HEALTH
Ruth Lingberg	HEALTH
Magaly Angeloni	HEALTH
Peter Simon	HEALTH
Bill Hollinshead	HEALTH
Jill Beckwith	RI KIDSCOUNT
Virginia Paine	Woonsocket Head Start
Cynthia Graves	Westbay CAP
Helena Friedmann	CLAP
Doris De Los Santos	HRC
Jan Winter	BVCAP
June Tourangeau	St. Joe's Lead Clinic/Lead Safe Center
Chris Gorham	RI Housing
Cindy Paliotto	BVCAP
Frank Bragantin	RI Apt Association
Simon Kue	HRC

NOTE: CDC cancelled the site visit at the last minute, and therefore did not attend this meeting

Update on Regulations

On June 30, 2006, a community hearing was held at the RI Department of Health to discuss proposed amendment to the Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning. The hearing generated some concerns about section 4.2 (h) of the regulations, with regard to Annual Re-inspection Exemption. As the regulations currently stand, an owner can get an exemption from annual re-inspection if the property meets certain parameters as stated in the regulations and gets a lead safe certificate for three consecutive years. The question arose as to whether this exemption could be transferred to a new owner at the time of sale.

Legal counsel at HEALTH determined that the exemption is limited to the property owner at the time it is issued, and cannot be transferred to a new owner as an exemption to mitigation regulations. Bill Dundulis will revise the language of the regulations to reflect this, then another community review will be held. We anticipate that the community review will be sometime in January 2007.

Several members of the Advisory Committee suggested that the new owner be credited with one lead-safe certificate so that he/she would only need to get two more certificates to get exemption. Daniela passed this suggestion on to Rosemary DiMitre, and asked if this was an option for new owners. Rosemary stated that several suggestions regarding how many and what kind of certificates a new owner would need are currently under review. The options currently being considered by HEALTH may be less restrictive for the new property owner than the suggestion made by the Advisory Committee. Once a decision is made, the regulations will be revised to reflect the options for the new property owner. These revisions will be discussed at the next community review.

May 2007 Progress Report on Elimination

CDC requires us to submit an annual report summarizing our progress toward the elimination of childhood lead poisoning by 2010. We have created a first draft of this report. The report defines our goal and milestone, and describes the four measures that we will use to assess progress toward elimination. The four measures include decreasing incidence, maintaining screening rates, developing proxies to measure affordable housing, and assessing displacement of children.

We currently have data to calculate incidence and screening rates. Incidence for 2006 was calculated as of September 2006. At that time, there were 331 child poisoned statewide- and will likely be approximately 430 children by the end of the year. This far exceeds our goal of 520 incident cases in 2006, indicating that we are making great progress on that part of our goal.

The affordable housing part of the goal continues to be more challenging. We have contracted with The Providence Plan to help us collect housing data and thus far, we have tax assessor data from 17 cities and towns. Data collection for the remaining 22 cities and towns is ongoing.

We have created a table listing incidence by city and town, and low- and moderate-income housing units by city and town (source: RI Housing). This allows you to look at the incidence and the amount of affordable housing in each city and town. We can assess the trends of these two factors over time and use them as an indicator of our progress toward elimination of lead poisoning.

The report also talks about next steps, including collaborating with other agencies to establish and maintain the database.

Several people suggested that it would be useful to know if the housing unit was single-family or multi-family, and whether the property is owner-occupied. Options for obtaining this information may be adding these questions to the closed case report that the lead centers complete, asking inspectors to gather this information when they complete the inspection, or looking up addresses in the tax assessor database (this may be feasible as the number of poisoned children continues to decline).

Please review the draft report and send comments to daniela.quilliam@health.ri.gov by December 15th, 2006.

Data Partnership with the Family Outreach Program (FOP)

The Family Outreach Program offers home visits to high-risk newborn babies (high-risk being defined by an algorithm that incorporates a number of risk factors). Approximately 50-60% of families that are offered a home visit accept the services. There is a high refusal rate in the highest risk areas. Peter Simon suggested that we need a new approach so that we can reach this high-risk population. Perhaps work through the pediatricians, or frame the reason for the visit differently. Families perceive that the visit is offered because they are poor; we need to communicate that services are offered because the neighborhood is old and we want to help protect their children from lead poisoning.

In the past, the nurses who perform these home visits used to complete a form, which included some environmental information. The form, however, was vague and subjective, and the data were not in an electronic format. Ruth Lindberg and others have worked to revise the form so that it asks more specific questions, and collects environmental data that are very useful in terms of evaluating healthy home factors.

The VNA's have been using this new form since July 2006, and that data are being entered into an electronic database at HEALTH. This will be a great source for qualitative environmental housing data, which we will be able to link to the addresses in the lead database.

30th Anniversary of the Lead Program

2007 is the 30th Anniversary that the Department of Health received funding from CDC for a categorical Lead Program. Magaly is planning an event for this celebration in May 2007 and would like to include a trivia section or a jeopardy game, etc. If you have any RI-specific lead trivia, or any other ideas for the anniversary event, please contact Magaly at magaly.angeloni@health.ri.gov.