

**Lead Poisoning Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2021**

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**In Attendance**

Dr. Erin Nozetz (Pediatrician, Associate Director of Yale Toxicity Clinic, Kimberly Ploszaj (State Department of Public Health), Dr. Mehul Dalal (CSA Director), Patricia King (Corporation Counsel), Amanda Decew (Pediatric APRN and Clinical Director for Quality and Risk Management Fair Haven Clinic), Kaitlin Collen, Arlevia Samuel (Director Livable City Initiative), Benjamin Trachten (Attorney), Brooke Logan (NHHD), Rafael Ramos (NHHD), Zarqa Ansari (NHHD), Craig Carlson (NHHD), April Capone (Regional Water Authority), Courtney, Tom Barger, & Sandra Kutzing (CDM Smith)

**A. Call to Order**

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

**B. Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted with everyone present introducing themselves by name and title. 16 persons in total attended the meeting

**C. Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes were approved. Motion made by Erin and seconded by Kimberly.

**D. Presentation from South Central CT Regional Water Authority**

Tom:

- Agenda
  - Lead & Copper Rule and Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)
  - Lead pipes in New Haven
  - Funding opportunities
  - RWA's current plan
  - Coordination with New Haven

Sandra:

- Presented the LCRR Overview- compliance by Oct 2024, stated:
  - that lead and copper rule revision includes it includes that every utility needs to sit together on materials inventory of what schools on the public side and what's on the private side.
  - RWA's goal is to replace all lead service lines in distribution system
  - The new rule requires if there's any unknown if you're not sure if it's lead or not it's going to count as lead so there's another motivation for utilities to have a good handle on WHERE their lead is which ones are not lead
  - another new requirement for clarification of lead and copper rule is that galvanized pipe is now considered a lead service line if there was ever a lead pipe upstream of that galvanized block and that's because

lead tends to release particles into the drinking water drinking water carries that and see that, on the galvanized pipe.

- If there is no lead pipe upstream of that galvanized, it is not considered a low service line, but if there was a lead pipe currently or formerly it's still considered a lead service line

Tom:

- The service line is broken into two segments kind of a water main to curb stops section that the water utility is responsible for and then the curb stop to the premise section up the homeowner is responsible for we typically refer to those as utility side and private side, so when we look at some of the breakdowns here, you can see that we have some galvanized plumbing based on our review or the written record.
- Service Line Summary in New Haven
  - Total Water Service Lines: 24,783
  - Lead Service Lines
    - Lead pipe utility side only: 0
    - Lead pipe private side only: 4
    - Lead pipe both sides: 4
  - Unknowns: (Unknowns are considered Lead until we can prove otherwise)
    - Unknown Utility Side Only: 42
    - Unknown Private side only: 7,922
    - Unknown Both sides: 1,283
- RWA Current Tasks & Plan
  - Current:
    - Inventory of the 15 municipalities RWA serves both public and private side.
      - If we're continuing to work on the inventory of these 15 municipalities that the RWA serves course these municipalities is centered on the City of New Haven, New Haven is obviously the largest to those municipalities in the most complex Having the earliest settlements the earliest service lines We have to do both the inventory on the public side which we have fairly decent records, we also have to introduce ourselves to all of our consumers and knock on doors and in a variety of ways, trying to gather the information that we currently don't have on private side.
    - Verification of unknown service lines
      - Postcard survey/customer self-reporting
        - Ask the consumers to participate and gathering information so some folks may be a little hesitant about folks coming into their home, so we want to provide them with an option, where

they can provide us with the information that we're going to need.

- Door-to-door
- Public outreach
  - there's a lot of public outreach that is going to be necessary we're looking forward to partnering with groups to get that accomplished. I think folks in New Haven have a better appreciation for successful public outreach to the citizens of New Haven, and we'd like to be able to learn about that.
- Future:
  - Develop LSL replacement program
  - Secure funding
  - Implement LSL replacement program
  - School sampling (2025)
- Funding:
  - RWA has replaced majority of the utility-side lines
    - Already replaced the majority of utility side lead service lines, we had a focused initiative to do this in the 1970s. we replaced thousands of lead lines on the utility side at that point in time.
  - RWA is looking into financial assistance for homeowners to help replace private side
    - I know our finance group is looking at things like CT Green Bank and other private lending institutions for input on this as well.
    - American Rescue Plan
    - Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill
- Coordination with New Haven:
  - Critically important as far as inventory assistance, I've already reached out to the Building and Plumbing Department in New Haven to see if they can assist with some records they may have from back in the day. – encouraging survey response.
  - We also anticipate we're going to have to coordinate with communications with the city. April has already reached out and contacted the communications group in New Haven and have received terrific response. Will also coordinate with the folks in your public work.
  - Communication with residents
  - Coordinating with paving and other municipal projects.

**E. Update on Lead Division – Craig Carlson**

- Craig gave an update on what is happening in the Lead Division with NHDD. Introduced/Updated three new team members, Rafael Ramos, Environment Health Director, Zarqa Ansari, HUD Program Manager & Morgan Dufour, GIS Analyst.

- Stated two more team members will be joining in the coming months
- Quarter 4 Updates (Sept. 1 – Dec 31. 2021)
  - New Cases: 54
  - Inspection Completed: 41
  - HUD Process: 28 Pending Overall
- Gave update on the outreach done during the quarter.
  - National Lead Poisoning Prevention week
    - Activities on social media
  - Education to elementary school students, read books about Lead to students approx. 125 students
  - Special Events – Nature Pals, YARD Paint Night, Haunted Road, Turkey Giveaway over 1,000 families reaching
    - Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway was very helpful to expand outreach
    - Halloween candy giveaway received one cases just by speaking to family at the event.
- Special Projects for 2022
  - EPA RRP Training courses, one per quarter total of four
  - EPA Lead Worker Training courses, two total
    - Currently in the works – submitted as requests for Proposals
  - Lead supervisor course once the above two are sorted out.
  - Interactive educational programing- designing a replicable educational program to thoroughly engage community members and improve awareness of lead and other home hazards.
- NHHD Received an additional Healthy Homes Grant for \$2,000,000 to address home hazards, including, but not limited to lead.
  - City of New Haven is one of only two recipients in the State of Connecticut.

F. **Rafael Ramos**

- Stated we will be having a Project Manager for Healthy Homes and a part-time outreach worker with the Healthy Homes Grant.

G. **Erin Nozetz**

- Notified everyone of the new blood lead level reference range level of 3.5.
  - It's been a little challenging for Yale New Haven labs as they do not report in decibels and neither does Quest.
  - Yale New Haven labs should be able to pivot to a three to a decimal system short.
  - Quest is another situation, if you have a 4 is it 3.5 or if you have a 3 is it 3.5?
    - We have advised community providers is, if you have a three or four you have it unless it's under two it's undetectable you should check it again just until we get the decimal sorted out because 3.5 is considered elevated so a three which could actually be a 3.5 is considered an elevated blood level.
  - We are still sticking with a five in New Haven.

H. **Kim Ploszaj**

- Meetings with management and the new Commissioner, getting ready to gear up for the legislative session, conversation with the Governor's office to update regs in our statutes which are about 30 years old.
- This level of CDC is based on the percentage of children.
- Trying to change system in our urban packets – 70% of our kids are poisoned and five times based on our data.
- Challenges with the inhouse labs that the pediatricians are using, CDC and FDA are involved in to resolve the issue.
- Number of kids that will test as low as 3.5 and need the Venus test will be about a 46% increase for our workload of what we see statewide for local health, as well as our staff.
- Hoping to get support with primary prevention efforts so that it doesn't wait till the kid gets to a 3.5.
- What we are planning from my program standpoint is more or less summarizing things that we feel should be updated and how that should be reflected, especially when a child, sometimes an inspection gets done let's say because of real estate transaction and there's defective lead paint from there, and another, the six so that triggers are regulations, but that's based on a healthy child, so we want to change things like that to consider remediation which as Craig mentioned would be like the EPA RRP role versus full abatement.
- Looking other New England States that are doing similar work and pulling off positive models, taking a look at what we can do differently here in Connecticut

I. **Heather Reynolds asked:**

- Do we have any idea to the percentage of children who might be exposed to cookware, in reference to the large influx of immigrants and refugee families that maybe using cookware?

J. **Kim Ploszaj answered:**

- Two families last year that were poisoned because of cookware, we had one child that was hospitalized at I think it was a 69 Venus and both parents also have levels. Another family with children with a level of 16 due to cookware.
- Not common in ton of kids, about 8 kids in 16 years.
- Stated they will be teaming up with New York City to do a material review and see what we can get out there proactively to try to really increase that messaging, but it's definitely interesting stuff.

K. **Erin Nozetz adjourned the meeting.**

L. **Next meeting in three months from Jan 18, 2022.**