

**SHIP Environmental Risk Factors and Health
8/9/16 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Andrea Boissevain (DOH, Stratford); Ruth Canovi (American Lung Association); Caleb Cowles (New Britain HD/CAHCEO); Judith Dicine (Dept Criminal Justice); Karen Futoma (Newington Human Services); Christine Hahn (DPH); Eloise Hazelwood (Wallingford HD); Carol LaBrecque (Newington Human Services); Adam Libros (Town of Vernon/ CT Fire Marshalls Assoc.); Robert Nakano (DCP); Mike Santoro (DOH); Tiziana Shea (DPH); Kristin Sullivan (DPH); Krista Veneziano (DPH); Carolyn Wysocki (ECHO/CCHD)

I. Lead Update

a. Reviewed outstanding items from 8/1 Coalition meeting

- i. 3.0% prevalence rate reduction as target value in objective
 1. Discussion around what the target should be
 2. Should we change the target from 3.0 to 2.9, or should the target be more aggressive
 3. Healthy People 2020, 10% drop; model and pinpoint a scientific way, found that the 10% drop over longer timeframes was a good call
 4. Reviewed 2014 Surveillance Report to try and determine how much we should reduce the % by
 5. Krista emailed Tracy Hung, DPH Epidemiologist in the Lead Program, during the meeting to gain her reasoning for suggesting 2.9
 6. Tracy explained that a decrease of 0.1 (3.0 to 2.9) will result in a decrease of 75 childhood poisoning cases
 7. Value of services provided? Evaluation of services to see if prevention efforts work

b. Reviewed the strategies for the 2017 Action Agenda

- i. Christine presented two versions; one updated and consolidated the current strategies from nine strategies to six, the other version was three new strategies recommended by Sandy Gill from DPH which sought to establish three themes based on the existing strategies
 1. Group voted to keep the existing strategies
 - a. Group voted to combine Strategies 1 and 6, as both are related to data
- ii. Final Strategies for 2017 Action Agenda
 1. Encourage local, state, and other federal agencies to facilitate data-sharing between health and housing agencies and ensure lead data is shared in a timely manner
 2. Increase preventive lead-safe housing standards enforcement for rental and owner-occupied housing.
 3. Identify financing for lead hazard remediation and lead abatement for residential properties statewide.
 4. Educate families, service providers, advocates, and public officials on sources of lead in homes and other child-occupied facilities, so that lead hazards are eliminated before children are exposed.

5. Promote environmental assessments (inspections and risk assessments) to identify and mitigate lead hazards in homes before children demonstrate BLLs above the reference value.

II. Healthy Housing Update

a. **Judy met with the Office of Policy Management first week of August to discuss the condition of existing housing in our state and adopting the Property Maintenance Code (PMC)**

- i. OPM's focus is on housing substance abuse community; stable housing makes it easier to keep a stable job for a stable life

b. **Formal review of Property Maintenance Code (PMC) to take place in coming months**

- i. SHIP HH Coalition, in addition to town officials and representatives will be invited to a series of meetings to review the PMC before it is proposed
 1. Caleb Cowles, asked the CAHCEO Board if they would support co-leading the review process
 - a. Unanimously voted in favor
 2. Ray, talking to CBOA Board over next week to act as other co-leader
- ii. Propose the PMC two ways this year:
 1. Legislature – proposal from an agency, Advisory Council
 2. Code and Standards Division of Construction Services – faster
 - a. It was decided that this is the route that would be taken
 - b. Propose code in October 2016 and if passed it would go into effect in 2018

iii. Second objective: Incentivize property owners to comply

1. Help them do the housing improvements
2. Energy \$, CBDG, Weatherization; there is money to improve existing housing
 - a. Eversource convenes a group of funders
 - i. They produce a flow chart with funding sources for property owner's reference in the event they need financial assistance to make home improvements. Application information also included.

iv. Questions

1. Carolyn, Implementation of PMC: Would it apply to all housing or just complaints? Relevant to incorporating hoarding and blight?
 - a. Judy: Implementation – PMC will apply to all housing, but we need to figure out what people will agree to during the review.
 - b. Would it be on complaint or universal inspections of every rental property? – complaints take up all their time but it opens up the opportunity to obtain a CAO prior to renting a property
 - i. There is an obligation to respond to complaints
2. Will things be retroactive if PMC standard is higher than local regulation?

c. **2017 Action Agenda discussion points**

- i. Add action step: reconvene group to review PMC
- ii. Add action step for hoarding; quantify hoarding statewide

1. Need a system to house data; there currently isn't a system that collects statewide data
2. Data collected at local level; need to bring up the task force because they have the system already in place that hoarding could be added (CAD system)
 - a. CAD System could help emergency response personnel if hoarding issue exists and presents a safety concern in the home
 - b. Andrea asked: is the CAD system queriable?
 - i. Judy: it is for law enforcement purposes only
 - ii. Andrea: will go back to her town (Stratford) and ask
- iii. Group voted to not add sober housing; reference elsewhere in Action Agenda, but not its own action step
- iv. Remove Strategy 3
 1. Make it an action step under Strategy 2

III. Air Quality Update

a. DEEP involvement

- i. DEEP representative was unable to attend this meeting
- ii. Carolyn spoke with Ric Perolli
- iii. Andrea initially created the Air Quality Action Agenda by pulling together evidence based strategies, but there is currently no champion for this group
- iv. Point was made that work is still being done in this area outside of the SHIP
- v. Andrea, question: do we put air on the back burner and start looking at water or rework the
 1. Carolyn – frustrated that air quality was going to be pulled out; there is a need and there has been a lot of work done by DPH, DEEP, ALA
 2. DEEP bad air quality alert was sent out to DoH
 3. Alert of bad quality days was being put on website
- vi. Ric Perolli expressed via a phone call that DEEP could not take the lead; will continue to do what they are already doing to create awareness
 1. Rick suggests that we work with the LHDs to get this alert out to the schools
- vii. Krista: DEEP doesn't report the great work they are doing; someone needs to report it or we are just winging it
- viii. Carolyn says that she will persevere and talk to DEEP
- ix. Ruth from ALA may help to be an intermediary with DEEP

b. Condensing 2017 Action Agenda

- i. ALA rep and Carolyn going to work together to brainstorm two strategies for Action Agenda
 1. ALA - A new champion has been identified!

IV. Drinking Water Discussion

- a. Tiziana from DPH private wells program spoke about capacity to join SHIP
 - i. Private wells are not regulated
 - ii. 23% of CT drinking water is supplied by private well
 - iii. Is there available data to inform measureable outcomes
 1. CDP/DEEP well drilling reports

2. Incomplete data on well testing
 - a. No statute requiring testing, except during real estate transaction
 - b. Tiz: well water analysis reporting within six months of real estate transaction must go to the local level and DPH
- iv. Eloise: "semi-public well" term not defined
 1. Tiz: definition is forthcoming, referenced in the statute
 2. Tiz: all well information to be placed in one place, B101
- v. Carolyn: proposed adding water quality as the Environmental Risk Factors and Health fourth objective
 1. Andrea: as a developmental goal it might be tough; we could explore taking on water quality in the future (need to determine if there was data)
 2. Kristin: if there is no data, then it knocks back the credibility of the SHIP; data helps to see
 3. Eloise: private wells are not in every community in CT, does not impact all of CT
- vi. A SHIP water quality concentration area would have to include public drinking water as well, not just private wells