

Meeting Location:

Mojo Coffee Gallery 2205 California St Ne, Unit 102 Minneapolis

Members Attendees:

Andre Bornhoft
Annie Krapek
Adam Spees
Gail Brottman
Melissa Newman
Meilsa Illes

Amber Ortiz
Anita Urvina-Davis
Roxxanne O'Brien
John Hemp
Katrina Gordon

Absent: Channy Leaneagh

Lisa Smestad (Minneapolis Health Dept.)

Discussed Lead sources

Found currently in soil and paint however not found in water

Testing

85% of children born in 2014 were tested by age three

There are multiple challenges with reaching those un-reached

EBL rates are coming down, we are on track to have less than 100 children with a venous EBL of ≥ 5 ug/dl.

Resources

Inspections

HUD Grants through Hennepin County and Minneapolis Health Department

Collaborates with community-based non-profits for outreach and education

Investigation

Paint inspection/risk assessment tests all painted surfaces in a home

Dust and soil samples collected from home

if needed family is relocated to lead free home while lead is being abated are made

Most dangerous area "window well" space between window and storm window

As prevention inspections increase lead poisonings continue to come down

Prevention inspections include joint inspections with Regulatory services and Construction Code Services

Ask from committee

Assist in helping locate children's who are affected

Utilizing funds to do outreach, with emphasis on hard to reach families

Sustainable Resources Rachelle Peleska

- Nonprofit org based in Southeast Mpls
- Leady eddy van
- 2016 Sustainable Resources invited to attend National Night Out with city due to the work they had done
- Provide In Home visit for testing
- Referrals can come from city request as well as events

- Focusing mainly on north and south of Minneapolis
- Collaborates with many agency
- Multi language available for residents
- Offers Free testing for children under 6 and pregnant

Northside Neighborhood Hub - Janae Lane

- Works with lead and asthma
- Going into home assessing risk factors
- Looking to continue to connect with the community and city of Mpls to canvas north Mpls area
- Created community event to help with relationship building and connects
- Through doing outreach was able to gain appt to start testing homes
- Still see issues with being able to gain access to rental homes
- One issue - renters have fear of losing housing due to landlord retaliating. A specific story of this emerged in the conversation.

Hennepin County- Melissa Illes

- Program started in 2004 since has treated 4500 homes
- Utilized grant fund to test homes and abate homes
- Demographic of home being abated is currently homeowner. Many barriers to reaching renters (fear of retaliation, fear of displacement)
- Hennepin County has a current HUD grant to provide lead-hazard reduction and healthy home work

Ticiea Fletcher- Community

- Parent of 2 children who were poisoned with lead, 10 years ago
- Wellness check showed high lead levels
- Lead came through dust on the floor
- Was evicted during this process, believed due to lead and asthma attack
- Now focus on home visit to help prevent
- Looking to create a bill against lead and asthma poison
- 829 kids per year have been poisoned (Please ask Ticiea for the source of this data, this does not match any results that I have, might possibly be a number for the entire state)
- At a recent testing event where 5 kids were tested 3 had tested positive for lead, (capillary testing)

Katrina Gordon - Community

- Moved to a new home who believed had lead
- Requested city to come and inspect home
- Sustainable Resource came inspected our home, they were very quick and effective in their process

Questions

1. Why doesn't medical field ask question about Lead and Asthma on intake form?
 - a. MPS school just added
 - b. Believes parents are unwilling to do more blood test
 - c. Amy (no testing is required however suggest at 1 or 2-year checkup)
 - i. Doctors have many other things to screen for (perhaps reluctance on part of doctors or patients to add more)
 - d. One time there was an incentive to test for lead, however no longer available.
2. Is 1-year old checkup too late?
 - a. Can we make sure pregnant women during pregnancy gain info about lead poisoning?
3. What are tangible programs for the families whose homes are found with lead
 - a. How to make resource more obtainable for families
4. Can we educate healthcare provides on asking question of the L&A?
5. How do we know which houses are affected (Roxanne)?
6. Has anyone gone after the paint companies who have been responsible for lead poisoning (Roxanne asked)
 - a. MN has not joined any lawsuits as of now
 - b. CA is the first state to sue and be successful
 - c. Will there be a multi-state lead legal campaign in the future?
 - i. At this time paint companies are winning so other states are in a wait and see status.
7. Are communities really understanding the importance of Lead
8. Do we have the choice to say where the money is going?
9. Is this committee going to make recommendation or implementations? (Anita)
 - i. Some members would like to have the power to implement.
10. Is the city aware of our intention?
 - i. Per charge we are mandated to only recommend not implement
11. Why can't we use the funds for the 3 prominent programs instead?
 - a. North Neighborhood housing association
 - b. Sustainable Resources
 - c. Mpls for lead safe Kids
12. What problems have come up with people housing after the awareness of lead in their homes?
 - a. They get evicted
 - b. Need to create awareness in community
 - c. Landlord should not be able to evict you if you complain. MN law there is presumption if landlord does anything after 90 days it's illegal.
 - d. RSC does inform families that the results will be shared with landlords. Families tend to agree with informing landlord. Seems landlord usually agree and cooperate with led removal program by incentivizing landlord participation and tenant participation.
 - e. Dr. Brottman: low hanging fruit is 2 things. 1) Make sure pregnant women during pregnancy and babies, every mother in the nursery gets information about led poisoning and what to look for. 2) Part of information needs to be about

resources who could help prevent poisoning. People are afraid the results could cost a lot of money. 3) Educate health care providers to talk to their clients about lead. Helping mothers advocate for themselves and their baby.

13. What are the city commitments to make real systematic change to the ideas being presented by the council?
 - a. Policy ideas might come out that do not require money. That is fair game. Put it on the agenda.
 - b. Your recommendations are very important, some of them might fit in allocation of dollar, and some of it could be outside of it. Let's think about the money but also about what other ideas you have.

Proposal

Some council members agree any solution that we have, should prioritize renters.

Issues

Fine print: states cannot sue if lead is found in home (why can we not sue the city)(Roxanne)
Child protection can be called if child has high lead levels and parent refuses
Fear of retaliation from landlords have been a common issue from renters needing their homes abated

Colleen Kelly Legal Aid:

- If landlord raises issues or evict within 90 that is considered retaliation - question was raised about – what about the day after that??
- Resource: Lawhelpmn.org
- Should provide resources for retaliation as well as lead and asthma info

Parking Lot:

Advisory Council member Gail will present on asthma, along with others, at our next meeting.

Next Steps: Sam will work with Lisa and perhaps others to craft an RFP and sit with the three groups that presented tonight to support the development of formal proposals from the three groups that presented today.

Important Note:

- ✓ *Some information presented by some speakers may not be factually based as no supporting data was given*