

**Community Advisory Group (CAG)
for the
Omaha Lead Site**

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Omaha Police Department – Southeast Precinct
2475 Deer Park Blvd
Omaha, NE 68105

OLS CAG Members Present:

Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan – *Burlington Road Neighborhood Association*
Janet Bonet – *Citizen at Large*
Sue Casteel - *ATSDR*
Brenda Council - *OLS CAG Facilitator*
Kara Eastman - *Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Bob Feild - *Environmental Protection Agency*
Dr. Adi Pour - *Douglas County Health Department*
Vicki Quaites-Ferris - *City of Omaha Mayor's Office*
Crystal Rhodes – *Neighborhood Center of Greater Omaha*
Chris Rodgers - *Douglas County Board of Commissioners*
Marian Todd – *Omaha City Planning Department*
Vernon Waldren - *University of Nebraska, Lincoln Extension*

Others Present:

Floyd Brown - *Citizen*
Mary Castaneda - *EPA Information Offices*
Lelia Coyne - *Citizen*
Connie Determan – *MFG Inc.*
Tiffany Frezell - *EPA Information Offices*
Laura Hardesty - *Cadmus Group*
Andrew Herman – *Marc Services*
Tom Janssen – *Senator Chuck Hagel's Office*
Matt Manderfeld - *MFG, Inc.*
Khari Muhammad - *Douglas County Health Department*
Jeremy Nordquist – *Senator John Synowiecki's Office*
Jennifer Rawley - *MFG, Inc.*
Dana Richter-Egger – *University of Nebraska – Omaha, Chemistry Department*
Steve Sanders - *Environmental Protection Agency*
Ché Thompson - *Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Cheryl Weston - *Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

1. Discussion on Minutes from the February 13, 2008 Meeting

Ms. Council asked for corrections or additions to the CAG minutes from the February 13, 2008 meeting.

Ms. Rhodes motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Waldren seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0).

2. EPA Update

Contracting

Mr. Feild stated that EPA is continuing to update its strategy for soil remediation and paint stabilization and that contracting for those activities is in progress. Mr. Feild stated that he will have more information on contracting at the next meeting.

Update on Access Contractor Training

Mr. Feild stated that EPA conducted the contractor training course on February 27, 2008.

Community Telecast, Inc. Final Report

Mr. Feild stated that EPA cannot find a copy of the Community Telecast Report in its files and that EPA is in the process of asking the grantees to provide EPA with a copy.

Recontamination Study

Mr. Feild stated that the Recontamination Study is still being developed and that it will be used in the remedy selection process.

Omaha Zoo

Mr. Feild referred the CAG to Ms. Quaites-Ferris for an update on the zoo. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that zoo representatives have assured her that the zoo is taking the necessary precautions to protect visitors from lead exposure. She stated that the zoo is addressing vulnerable areas at the zoo. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that she requested a summary of the zoo's precautionary actions from the Assistant Director and that she will pass the information along to the CAG.

Phosphate Study

Mr. Feild stated that EPA is awaiting the results of the phosphate study.

Sampling Results from the Remedial Investigation Sampling

Mr. Feild stated that the risk assessment results have been sent to Syracuse Research Corp. He added that the results have been deemed adequate for the purpose of the assessment and that no additional risk assessment sampling will be done.

Ms. Coyne asked Mr. Feild what the risk assessment is for. Mr. Feild stated that the risk assessment is a component of the decision-making process and that it works towards establishing action levels and other judgments.

3. Comments on EPA's Remedial Investigation Sampling Plan

Ms. Council asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Remedial Investigation Sampling Plan. Ms. Council stated that MFG Inc. prepared a handout entitled *General Questions Regarding EPA's Final Remedial Investigation Field Sampling Plan and Final Remedial Investigation Quality Assurance Project Plan* that summarizes questions and concerns of the CAG. Ms. Council asked if there were any questions, comments, or proposed additions regarding the handout.

Ms. Council asked if EPA is close to finalizing the Sampling Plan. Mr. Feild replied that the Sampling Plan has been finalized for the work that has been done. Mr. Feild stated that the plan can be altered if additional data is needed.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that she would like additional time to review the *General Questions* handout before discussing it. Ms. Council suggested establishing a two week comment period. Ms. Council stated that everyone could review and on the handout until close of business on March 26, 2008, at which point the comments would provide revisions to be compiled and submitted to EPA.

Ms. Rhodes motioned to establish the two week comment period. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan seconded the motion.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA uses a specific model to assess risk at lead-contaminated sites. Mr. Feild stated that it is EPA's policy to use the IEUBK model to establish cleanup levels.

Ms. Weston asked if it was possible to get an explanation of the *General Questions* handout. Ms. Council asked if there were any question or comments. Ms. Council asked Ms. Determan to give a brief description of the handout. Ms. Determan stated that handout is a summary of the CAG's comments and requests related to the Remedial Investigation Field Sampling Plan and Quality Assurance Plan. She stated that MFG reviewed the comments and requests, then checked to see if the CAG's input was incorporated into the plans. Ms. Determan stated that the handout summarizes the comments made about the plans and the subsequent revisions, if applicable. Ms. Determan stated that in some cases, the latest comments mirrored the previous comments made about the Remedial Investigation Field Sampling Plan and Quality Assurance Plan.

The motion to establish the two week comment period and submit the comments to EPA unanimously passed (8-0).

4. Dr. Richter-Egger's Presentation

Ms. Council introduced Dr. Dana Richter-Egger of the University of Nebraska – Omaha Chemistry Department and invited him to give his presentation on the University's lead speciation program. Dr. Richter-Egger gave his power point presentation. Dr. Richter-Egger provided hard copies of the presentation.

Ms. Bonet asked if the percent abundance values of each lead isotope displayed on Slide 10 were representative of universal abundances of each lead isotope. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that the percent abundance values were from one specific example and that they are not indicative of universal isotope abundances.

Ms. Weston asked if Dr. Richter-Egger was able to determine the exact source of lead in a specific soil sample. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that his study cannot determine the exact source of lead, such as paint or smelting; however, the ratios of the different lead isotopes serve as indicators of from where the raw lead products were mined.

Ms. Bonet asked why Dr. Richter-Egger focused on the Pb 204 and Pb 206 isotopes. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that the Pb 206/Pb 204 ratios of soil samples illustrate more interesting correlations than ratios of other isotopes.

Ms. Bonet asked if the historic use information of sample sites was known. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that historic use information was not included in the study. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that address and sample locations are recorded.

Ms. Weston stated that the plotted points on Slide 16 show that there is more lead in drip lines of homes that are closer to the ASARCO site. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that he is not sure why that is the drip lines are higher and that it could be for a number of reasons.

Ms. Weston asked if Dr. Richter-Egger and his students have a specific protocol for sampling. Dr. Richter-Egger stated students fill glass jars with a total of approximately ten grams of soil that is collected from four places in a sample area. He stated that the samples are dried, ground-up, split, and analyzed. Ms. Coyne asked Dr. Richter-Egger for the depth to which the soil is sampled. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that the soil is sampled to a depth of one inch.

Dr. Pour asked if risk-oriented coursework is included in the curriculum. Dr. Richter-Egger stated that the health implications are addressed. He added that he has observed students taking a personal interest in the health aspect of the study and in many cases they research lead exposure on their own.

5. OHKA Update

Ms. Eastman stated that the application for an EPA grant for training is due March 31, 2008.

Ms. Eastman stated that there has been an overall increase lead poisoning awareness. Ms. Eastman stated that Boys Town has increased blood lead screening by 145%.

Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA is working with Parrish and Blackburn Schools to produce three posters that can be used to promote lead safety. She stated that they will soon be receiving the materials necessary to make the posters.

Ms. Thompson stated that she will be visiting Parrish School April 1, 2008, to show the movie "Jimmy's Getting Better."

Ms. Thompson stated that the Head Start Health Fair will be held March 29, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the TAC building. She stated that OHKA will be handing out lead testing kits.

Education Committee Update

Mr. Waldren stated that educational magnets are available and invited everyone to take one with them. Ms. Council stated that a Spanish version of the magnet is also available.

Mr. Waldren stated that the OHKA commercial will be run aired on television again. He stated that OHKA still has \$3,000 left in its budget to spend on air time.

Mr. Waldren stated that members of the Education Committee had the chance to speak with 44 people about lead safety at the Restore Omaha Conference. Mr. Waldren stated that they also handed dust testing kits.

Mr. Waldren stated that Walgreens now sells lead dust testing swab kits and that the committee discussed providing Walgreens with additional information to put next to the kits.

Mr. Waldren stated that the Douglas County Health Department has put together an initial survey aimed at determining the effectiveness of public outreach efforts.

Mr. Waldren stated that Mr. Erickson was able to get 100 people to fill out surveys related to lead-safe landscaping practices. He added that 75% of those surveyed said that they would incorporate lead-safe practices into their landscaping procedures.

Mr. Waldren stated that flyers promoting lead safety will be mailed out to every home containing one or more Omaha Public Schools (OPS) students. Dr. Richter-Egger asked if the flyers will be going out to everyone. Mr. Waldren stated that the flyers will be going to OPS families only, which is a total of about 30,000 total residences. Mr. Waldren stated that the flyer could be sent to others.

Mr. Waldren stated that he had recently become aware of a lead poisoning case involving dentistry. Ms. Thompson stated that a 73 year-old woman was recently treated for lead poisoning caused by lead in a metal crown on her tooth.

Ms. Coyne stated that she gave out several dust test kits and swab analysis kits at the Restore Omaha Conference. She said that someone from the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association took several dust test swab kits from the booth when she was not looking. Ms. Coyne stated that she was concerned because the person took the kits before she could explain the limitations of the tests. Ms. Council asked Ms. Rhodes to look into the matter and make sure that the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is informed of the

limits of the dust testing swab kits. Ms. Coyne stated that encourages people that are in search of additional information on the subject to call the OHKA phone number to obtain the EPA hotline number.

Housing Committee Update

Ms. Todd provided an update on the Housing Committee. Ms. Todd stated that a handout about institutional controls is available on the handouts table. She stated that Mr. Feild discussed institutional controls at the Housing Committee meeting. Ms. Todd stated that institutional controls would continue to benefit the community long after the lead cleanup is complete.

Ms. Todd stated the Housing Committee meets at OHKA's office the Tuesday before each CAG meeting.

6. Douglas County Health Department Update

Dr. Pour stated that she does not have any new information. Dr. Pour stated that Health department has obtained new blood lead data that she may share with the CAG at the next meeting. Dr. Pour stated that the ATSDR grant for increases in blood lead screening will not be renewed despite the correlation between grant funding and increases in awareness. Dr. Pour stated that incentives have increased awareness and screening.

Ms. Council stated that continued demonstration of increases in awareness will help secure local funding.

7. City Update

Ms. Todd stated that the City is preparing to resume paint stabilization activities.

Ms. Todd stated that the City is currently interviewing construction specialist candidates and that they hope to have the position filled by April 7, 2008. Ms. Todd stated that there is a need for coordination with EPA with regards to paint stabilization and that she will ensure coordination.

Ms. Todd stated 100 residences have been completed through the City's Lead Hazard Control Program and that 65 more are underway, including one multi-family unit. Ms. Todd stated that the application process can take a long time due to ownership and management changes. Ms. Todd stated that a list of properties that are enrolled in the program or are applying for assistance is periodically given to EPA.

Ms. Todd stated that the City is in the process of interviewing City Planner candidates.

Ms. Council encouraged everyone to review the handout regarding institutional controls. Ms. Council stated that institutional controls are an important part of keeping Omaha safe from lead after EPA completes its removals. Ms. Council urged everyone to submit comments related to institutional controls to MFG, Inc. so the CAG can develop a

collective position on the issue to be submitted. Ms. Council encouraged members to come to Housing Committee meetings to participate in the ongoing discussions.

Ms. Bonet asked if it was possible to obtain a transcript of city council discussions on institutional controls. Mr. Feild stated that the possibility of institutional controls is an issue for the State to address. Mr. Feild stated that when discussing institutional controls it is important to understand the distinction between how contamination was addressed at the former ASARCO site, where the contamination was contained and covered, versus how it was addressed at residential properties, where contaminated soil was removed. Mr. Feild stated that there are institutional controls in place at the former ASARCO site so that lead contamination is not uncovered by construction activities.

Ms. Bonet asked if institutional controls will include limitations on house demolitions, residential yard disturbances, and other activities. Ms. Bonet stated that issue of demolition is something that needs to be addressed because homes that are demolished recontaminate the replaced yards with lead-based paint. Ms. Council stated that issues such as demolition are the reason why review of the handout and subsequent comment period is so important. Ms. Council stated that various ordinances may be necessary. Ms. Council stated that community input on the issue is important and encouraged everyone to email comments to MFG, Inc.

8. NDEQ Update

No update.

9. LSOC Update

No update.

10. Other

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that the Burlington Road Neighborhood Association performed toy testing on February 16, 2008. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that eight families attended the event.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that she is still in contact with the Amazing Pizza Machine and is continuing to pursue the owner to remove lead-containing prizes from the business. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that she continues to find toys with high concentrations of lead, even after she switched machines.

Ms. Eastman stated that she spoke with someone at the Amazing Pizza Machine. Ms. Eastman stated that like other businesses, they do not change their processes, noting that their toys contain tolerable lead concentrations according to ASTM standards. Ms. Eastman stated that companies either do not have or do not implement solutions to the problem of lead-containing toys, and that perhaps legislation is needed.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that she is trying to set up a meeting with the Vice President of the Amazing Pizza Machine and that she received a gift card from the business.

Mr. Brown stated that items found to contain lead could be taken to the lab on 120th Street for official lab analysis. Mr. Brown stated that the official results provided by the lab should be sent to businesses distributing the items so they can be held responsible. Mr. Brown stated that XRF analyses are seen as quick screens and that lab analyses can be used to hold businesses accountable. Mr. Brown stated that businesses need to be made aware of lead in their toys and held responsible.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that BRNA Day will be held June 14, 2008 from 12-4p.m. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan invited others to set up displays at the event.

Ms. Bonet stated that many thrift stores have stopped selling toys due to increased awareness of lead in toys.

Mr. Brown stated that the main problem with lead in toys is that China does not have the same restrictions as manufacturers in the U.S. Mr. Brown stated that it becomes the responsibility of businesses owners to prevent distribution of lead-containing toys once they are made aware of the risks.

Dr. Pour stated that toys are produced according to two separate standards, depending on where they are going to be sold. Dr. Pour stated that toys sold in Europe are held to higher health and safety standards than the toys sold in the U.S. and that this difference in standards is not an accident.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked Mr. Feild if EPA was going to make a stand against the differences in policies. Mr. Feild stated that the issue was the responsibility of the CPSC.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that many purses have been found to contain high concentrations of lead and that kids often chew on their mothers' purses. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that BRNA has brochures with more information on the subject.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (March 12, 2008):

Draft CAG Meeting Minutes from 02/13/08

Final CAG Meeting Minutes from 01/09/08

General Questions Regarding EPA's Final Remedial Investigation Field Sampling Plan and Final Remedial Investigation Quality Assurance Project Plan

Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance Strategic Planning Community Partner Meeting Notification

Letter from The Amazing Pizza Machine to Ms. Barrientos-Patlan Dated February 12, 2008

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan's Email Response to Dr. Pour's Comments Regarding CASAC's Recommendations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Meeting Notification

Brenda Council Will Seek Chambers' Seat

Lawsuit Settlement Secures Lead-Safe Housing Rules

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at Montefiore Named One of Three Regional Resource Centers

Toy Group Approves Safety Plan

Lurking Hazards Take a Toll

National Community-Based Lead Outreach and Training Grant Program Request for Proposals

CPSC Recalls