

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

Minutes for Meeting Held  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 9:30 a.m.**  
Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance  
115 S. 49<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Omaha, NE 68132

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**OLS CAG Members Present:**

Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan - *Burlington Road Neighborhood Association*  
Sue Casteel – *Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry*  
Brenda Council - *OLS CAG Facilitator*  
Todd Davis – *Omaha City Planning Department*  
Jonah Deppe - *League of Women Voters*  
Kara Eastman - *Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*  
Bob Feild - *Environmental Protection Agency*  
Dr. Adi Pour - *Douglas County Health Department*  
Mia Price - *Charles Drew Health Center*  
Vicki Quaite - Ferris - *City of Omaha Mayor's Office*  
Marian Todd - *Omaha City Planning Department*  
Vernon Waldren - *University of Nebraska, Lincoln Extension*

**Others Present:**

Mary Castaneda - *EPA Information Offices*  
Lelia Coyne - *Citizen*  
Tiffany Frezell - *EPA Information Offices*  
Amy Gibson - *Boys Town*  
Laura Hardesty - *Cadmus Group*  
Steve Jackson - *NHHS Office of Minority Health*  
Debbie Kring - *Environmental Protection Agency*  
Matt Manderfeld - *MFG, Inc.*  
Michelle Mertz - *Boys Town*  
Jennifer Rawley - *MFG, Inc.*  
Reggie Robinson – *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Registry*  
Steve Sanders - *Environmental Protection Agency*  
Ché Thompson - *Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*  
Diane Ward - *Creighton University*  
Cheryl Weston - *Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

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## **1. Discussion on Minutes from the March 12, 2008 Meeting**

Ms. Council asked for corrections or additions to the CAG minutes from the March 12, 2008 meeting.

Ms. Todd that: “Ms. Todd stated that a list of properties for which they are experiencing accessibility issues is periodically given to EPA” should say, “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. Barrientos-Patlan stated that: “Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that she is still in contact with the Amazing Pizza Machine and is continuing to pressure the owner to remove lead-containing prizes from the business” should say, “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.”

Mr. Feild stated that: “. . . the Recontamination Study is still being developed and that it will be used in the Feasibility Study” should say, “. . . the Recontamination Study is still being developed and that it will be used in the remedy selection process.”

Mr. Feild stated that: “Mr. Feild stated that EPA uses a specific model to assess risk at lead-contaminated sites and that the process does not vary” should say “Mr. Feild stated that EPA uses a specific model to assess risk at lead-contaminated sites.”

Ms. Eastman stated that: “. . . according to ATSDR standards” should say, “. . . according to ASTM standards.”

Mr. Waldren motioned to approve the minutes with the above corrections. Ms. Eastman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (8-0).

## **2. EPA Update**

### *Contracting*

Mr. Feild stated that EPA is exercising its 2008 contract options with Prudent and Coastal. Mr. Feild stated that EPA has informed Prudent and Coastal to begin making preparations for removals to be performed in 2008. Mr. Feild stated that EPA would like to gain access to more properties before mobilizing the removal contractors to ensure steady, efficient soil removal.

Mr. Feild stated that on April 1, 2008, a pre-solicitation notice for two upcoming house painting contracts was posted on the website [www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov). Mr. Feild stated that EPA will award one 8 (A) contract and one HUBZone to small businesses. Mr. Feild stated that the contracts are for up to \$9 million if the contracts are continued for the full time period and all EPA options are exercised. Mr. Feild stated that the actual solicitation will be released some time around April 15, 2008. Mr. Feild stated that EPA hopes to have the paint stabilizations caught up with the removals.

Ms. Council stated that contracting for paint stabilization was discussed in greater detail at the Housing Committee meeting.

Dr. Pour asked if the contracting would be publicized. Ms. Weston stated that she was waiting until the solicitation came out before advertizing the contracting.

Mr. Feild stated that he gets several telephone calls from business owners regarding contracts and potential contracts with EPA. Mr. Feild stated that the callers are referred to Mr. Chester Stoval, who compiles a list of businesses that have shown interest in EPA contracts. Mr. Feild stated that Mr. Stoval can be reached at 913-551-7549.

*Update on Access Contractor Training*

Mr. Feild stated that EPA conducted the contractor training course on February 27, 2008. Mr. Feild stated that some of the access contractors have been given lists of addresses in addition to the initial 300 addresses.

Mr. Feild stated that he will be meeting with the Dundee Memorial Garden Neighborhood Association in May regarding the individuals that have been going door to door on EPA's behalf to get access agreements signed. Mr. Feild stated that a number of residents have expressed concern and that he is meeting with them to explain what is happening.

Ms. Council asked if the contractors that received addresses in addition to the initial 300 addresses were successful in gaining access to properties. Mr. Feild stated that after one month, the six contractors had gained access to a total of 470 properties, which is approximately 2/3 of the properties visited. Mr. Feild stated that this level of success is encouraging considering that the property owners were previously unreachable.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA intends to sample all of the properties in the focus area so EPA can compile a complete data set that will be used to establish the remedy and so that EPA can continue to protect human health.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA has the authority to sample a property even if the owner refuses access by issuing property owners administrative orders. Mr. Feild stated that language in the administrative orders will state that property owners can be fined up to \$32,500 per day for refusing to comply with EPA administrative orders. Mr. Feild stated that EPA does not want or intend to fine anyone and that EPA is only interested in sampling. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will be announcing EPA's intention to sample every property regardless of property owner consent issues. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will work to "soften" the message as much as possible to minimize the negative responses from and anxiety of the public.

Ms. Price expressed concern over how this would be interpreted by property owners.

Ms. Price asked if lawns and gardens would be disturbed during the sampling. Mr. Feild stated that EPA follows a specific sampling protocol that includes sampling from yards, drip lines, play areas, and in some cases gardens. Ms. Price asked if flowers and gardens would be disturbed and possibly damaged. Mr. Feild stated that EPA makes an effort to minimize the disturbance of the properties and that flower gardens would not be damaged.

Ms. Price stated that in some instances, people are rarely home due to work, travel, etc. and that communication through mail may not be effective for that reason. Ms. Price stated that property owners may not be comfortable with EPA sampling their yards without their consent, when they are not there, or if they were never contacted prior to sampling. Mr. Sanders stated that EPA would issue administrative orders only after the owner refused to allow access to the property and the owner would be aware of EPA's intention prior to sampling.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if interpreters would be used. Mr. Feild stated that Spanish-speaking interpreters would be available if necessary. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is focusing on landlords. He said that he believes that the issue will be controversial; however, EPA is serious about sampling every property and will get every property sampled.

Ms. Weston stated that access contractors do not use mail as a means of making first contact with property owners. Ms. Price asked if the contractors knock on doors. Ms. Weston stated that the contractors first visit the properties and attempt to meet with owners face-to-face. Ms. Weston stated that if face-to-face contact is not made, the contractors leave their contact information on the door and wait to be called back. The contractors then attempt to call property owners. Ms. Weston reiterated that mailed materials are used only after contacting the owners in person or over the phone.

Mr. Davis suggested having EPA work with the Mayor's Office, OHKA, CAG, and other groups to collaborate before having the press conference or press release to announce EPA's intentions to distribute administrative orders. Mr. Davis stated that if the different groups are involved and can give warnings in advance, people will be less shocked and more receptive.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that publicizing the administrative orders could be beneficial and lead to calls from concerned citizens asking for their properties to be checked. Ms. Council stated that she agreed that it would be good for other organizations to be involved with the press conference. Ms. Council asked that the CAG be warned in advance of the press release so that CAG can prepare and participate.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that the public does not trust EPA; however, it does trust community groups like the CAG. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that the announcement may sound less threatening coming from the CAG. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan motioned to have CAG initiate the press conference announcing EPA's plans for enforcement. Mr. Waldren seconded the motion.

Ms. Weston stated that she hoped EPA would take the lead on the issue and initiate the press release with the CAG taking a supportive role in the process. Ms. Weston stated that it is important that the public knows that the implementation of administrative orders is a last-ditch effort. Mr. Feild stated that the announcement is the responsibility of EPA. Mr. Feild stated that EPA hopes to utilize the local newspaper and television to inform the public. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is considering purchase of air time from Cox Communications to run a television commercial explaining EPA's intentions. Mr. Feild stated that the commercial would promote increased blood lead screening and stress the importance of soil testing for every property in the focus area.

Mr. Jackson asked EPA what would happen if the owner still refused to grant EPA access for soil testing. Mr. Feild stated that if a property owner refuses to sign the access agreement form provided by the access contractors, the access contractors give EPA the name and address of the property owner. He stated that EPA then makes another attempt to gain access from the owner. Mr. Feild stated that if the additional attempt is unsuccessful, EPA will issue an administrative order. Mr. Feild will then once again encourage the owner to grant EPA access, and if the owner still refuses, EPA will get the authority to enter the property and sample the soil.

Ms. Todd suggested amending the motion to initiate the press conference to a motion to participate in the press conference initiated by EPA. Ms. Kring stated that she agreed with Ms. Todd and stated that EPA must be at the forefront of issues pertaining to EPA enforcement.

Ms. Weston stated that the community is more aware of EPA's presence and their involvement in the Omaha Lead Site. Ms. Weston stated that the recent success of the access contractors shows that the public no longer fears EPA and is more open to working towards a solution. Ms. Weston stated that the community is well aware of the issue.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked if the purpose of the press conference was to warn the public of the possibility of administrative orders. Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked when the public service announcement would be made and what would what happen if owners still declined to have their properties sampled.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA would not be issuing a public service announcement. Mr. Feild stated that EPA intends to air a paid commercial that targets landlords and property owners. Mr. Feild stated that the purpose of the press release is to advise people that one way or another, the sampling must be done. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will work to soften the message.

Ms. Price stated that she is a resident of the area and that she is one of a few parents on her block. Ms. Price stated that she and her neighbors have not received any information related to soil testing in her neighborhood. Mr. Davis asked Ms. Price for her address. Ms. Price provided her address. Mr. Davis stated that her house is located outside of

the focus area. Mr. Davis stated that if Ms. Price and her neighbors are concerned about lead hazards in her neighborhood, they can call EPA's Public Information Center. Mr. Feild stated that the western boundary of the focus area is 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Feild stated that if she is concerned about lead in her yard, EPA will provide her with an access form for her to sign, and EPA will sample her yard. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is still working to define the focus area and that the current boundaries of the focus area are not final. Ms. Price asked if she should have her neighbors contact EPA. Mr. Feild stated that if Ms. Price's neighbors have a legitimate concern then they should contact EPA, otherwise they should wait for EPA to finish establishing the focus area boundaries. Ms. Council stated that it is possible that the previous owners or tenants of Ms. Price's house may have been contacted by EPA and that her yard may have been sampled already. Ms. Council advised Ms. Price to contact the public information office to see if her yard was sampled in the past.

Ms. Kring stated that EPA is concerned that landlords do not want to work with EPA. Ms. Kring stated that EPA is working with landlords to make sure that tenants are protected from potential hazards. Ms. Council stated that some tenants may never know about lead hazards at their homes because information is mailed to the owners' home or business addresses and not to the residence with the problem.

Ms. Eastman asked Mr. Feild if there was an end date for the access contracts. Mr. Feild stated that there was not a specific end date.

Ms. Eastman stated that April is lead poisoning prevention month and that OHKA could work to promote the need for property owners to sign access forms. Ms. Eastman suggested promoting the need for granting access to EPA before announcing the implementation of enforcement measures. Mr. Feild stated that he agreed with Ms. Eastman; however, it is important to note that the target audience for the enforcement announcement is a relatively small percentage. Mr. Feild stated that approximately two-thirds of the 2,000 property owners that previously denied access have changed their minds. Mr. Feild stated that he appreciates help from OHKA.

Ms. Weston stated that in many cases, owners of properties have changes, and that the public information office can check addresses. Ms. Weston stated that 75-80% of the houses about which people inquire have already had their yards tested. Ms. Weston stated that if someone calls her, she informs Black & Veatch. Ms. Weston stated that Black & Veatch then follows up on the address. Ms. Weston stated that so far, she has seen a positive response from the community within the focus area. Ms. Weston stated that the most of the refusals are coming from owners of multiple properties. Ms. Weston stated that word-of-mouth will help continue the progress that the current approach has made. Mr. Feild stated that he is working with landlords and is trying to meet with a local landlord association.

Ms. Council stated that she would like to get back to the motion regarding the CAG involvement in the EPA press conference. Mr. Feild stated that EPA typically does not have press conferences and that EPA usually makes press releases. Ms. Kring stated that

she could put together a list of organizations interested in being involved in the announcement process.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Feild where the money from the fines would go. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will not be fining anyone. Mr. Sanders stated that EPA is simply informing the public that EPA has the authority to fine people; however, EPA will not actually be fining anyone.

Ms. Deppe stated simply associating the CAG with EPA's press release is not the same as the CAG's proposed involvement outlined in the motion presented by Ms. Barrientos-Patlan. Ms. Council stated that Ms. Barrientos-Patlan should withdraw her motion and present a new one if her intention is to have the CAG participate in a press conference after EPA issues its press release.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan withdrew her previous motion. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan motioned for CAG to hold a press conference with EPA after EPA issues its press release. Ms. Deppe seconded the motion. The motion failed (6-0).

Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that it will be important that both EPA and CAG are available to the public to answer questions regarding EPA's announcement. Mr. Sanders stated that EPA could participate in a press conference. Ms. Kring stated that the press conference would be echoing the press release to be made by EPA. Ms. Weston asked EPA to clarify its intentions. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will coordinate with the CAG prior to making the press release.

#### *Community Telecast, Inc. Final Report*

Mr. Feild stated that EPA has asked the grantees to provide EPA with a copy of the report and is awaiting a response.

#### *Recontamination Study*

Mr. Feild stated that he has nothing new to report regarding the Recontamination Study. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is still drafting a work plan.

#### *Omaha Zoo*

Mr. Feild referred the CAG to Ms. Quaites-Ferris for an update on the zoo. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that she has not been able to contact Assistant Director Danny Morris regarding the precautions taken by the zoo to protect the public. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that she will be meeting with her staff to discuss the issue. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if the zoo was not answering Ms. Quaites-Ferris' calls. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that she has left messages and that the zoo did not return the calls. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if Ms. Quaites-Ferris has considered sending emails. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that she requested email addresses in the voicemail message that she left the last time she called the zoo.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that the CAG has been waiting for the zoo's explanation for three months and that it is important that the zoo's soil gets tested. Ms. Quaites-Ferris

stated that the zoo does not necessarily need to get tested. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that the zoo needs to explain what they have done to protect the public.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if the CAG could write a letter to the zoo asking for the information. Ms. Council stated that someone could present a motion to write the letter.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that she would like to make one more attempt at getting the information from the zoo before the CAG gets involved. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that she is now beyond phone calls and that she will be meeting with her staff to determine the next step. Ms. Council asked Ms. Quaites-Ferris to contact the CAG when she decides what the next step will be and the CAG will then decide if it wants to include a letter to the zoo. Ms. Council stated that she believed Dr. Simmons has been away for some time due to health problems. Ms. Council stated that the CAG would support the next step.

#### *Phosphate Study*

Mr. Feild stated that EPA has completed the bench scale study and that EPA is waiting for a report back from the lab. Mr. Feild stated that he will share the report with the CAG when it is finished.

#### *Risk Assessment*

Mr. Feild stated that the risk assessment is ongoing. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is required to get public comment when it is complete. Mr. Feild stated that he has received the CAG's previous comments and that EPA will respond to them.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA's decision to purchase television time is very rare. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is trying very hard to express the importance of sampling. Mr. Feild stated that EPA plans to move forward with the public health education message. Mr. Feild stated that he will be working with other agencies and organizations to assemble a common message to publicize.

Ms. Council asked if the money to be spent on the commercials was coming out of the Interim Record of Decision budget. Mr. Feild stated that the money is coming from the remedial action funding health education budget (i.e. the Interim Record of Decision budget).

Dr. Pour stated that she hopes EPA will work with other groups to make the commercial. Dr. Pour asked if the commercial will be run in Spanish. Mr. Feild said yes and that that is why EPA is using Cox. Mr. Feild stated that Cox will be producing the commercial based on the message that EPA working on.

Dr. Pour stated that Cox is able to help advertisers target specific demographics. Mr. Feild agreed with Dr. Pour, stating that Cox conducts its own market research.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if EPA will be shutting out others while they sample properties if other violations are observed. Mr. Feild asked Ms. Barrientos-Patlan to

clarify her question. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if other agencies such as ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) would be allowed to enter properties that are being sampled if EPA observes illegal aliens on the property. Mr. Feild stated that soil testing will be EPA's sole concern while sampling.

Ms. Council asked Mr. Feild how much money will be spent on the commercial. Mr. Feild stated that EPA has not decided yet, but that it would be less than \$100,000 in the first year. Ms. Council stated that the health education budget is only \$160,000.

Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA gets a discounted rate for its commercials because it is a non-profit organization. Ms. Eastman stated that she was surprised that this is the first that the CAG has heard about the commercials. Ms. Eastman stated that the Education Committee has already been running two commercials and soon will be airing a third. Mr. Feild stated that this is the first the CAG has heard about it because it is a new idea, adding that EPA has only made an initial contact with Cox.

Ms. Eastman stated that the Education Committee could stretch the commercial money and make the most of it. Mr. Feild stated that the purpose of the commercial is to target property owners that refuse access, and that after that message gets out, EPA could focus on increased blood lead testing and health education. Ms. Eastman stated that she thought Mr. Feild stated that two-thirds of the approximately 2,000 property owners that previously refused access had changed their minds. Ms. Eastman stated that that leaves only approximately 600 people to target with the commercial. Mr. Feild stated that the commercial would help get the word out about EPA's intentions. He said that the commercials would help "soften" the message that EPA is stepping in and using its authority to gain access to properties. Ms. Council stated that \$100,000 is lot of money to "soften" a message.

### **3. OHKA Update**

Ms. Eastman stated that OHKA has submitted an application for a \$250,000 grant that would allow them to conduct a study focusing on the 68111 area code, which is among the poorest and hardest to reach areas in the City. Ms. Eastman stated that the proposed study has the support of many prominent state and local representatives and organizations. Ms. Eastman stated that she hoped Omaha would receive the U.S. Conference of Mayors grant to fund focused efforts in South Omaha.

Ms. Eastman stated that she was contacted by Legal Aid and encouraged to apply for an upcoming HUD grant.

Ms. Eastman stated that OHKA is making another commercial to encourage the public, specifically medical professionals, to increase blood lead testing.

Ms. Eastman stated that OHKA is working to coordinate efforts with the Continuum of Housing Repair.

Ms. Eastman stated that she will be serving on the Design Committee for the North Omaha Economic Development Project. She said that she will be working with the City and other organizations on contractor training programs that will now be required.

Ms. Eastman stated that OHKA is in the process of strategic planning is in progress and that Omaha has already accomplished so much. Ms. Eastman stated that the efforts of the individuals involved in the Omaha Lead Site have been innovative and effective while continuing to move forward.

#### *Education Committee Update*

Mr. Waldren provided an update on Education Subcommittee activities.

Mr. Waldren stated that the committee discussed approaching the Girl Scouts to see if they would create a lead safety merit badge.

Mr. Waldren stated that the committee participated in the Head Start Health Fair.

Mr. Waldren stated that the posters created by Parrish and Blackburn Schools students would be completed by next month. He stated that the posters may be distributed by the Nebraska Arts Council and used on billboards.

Mr. Waldren stated that flyers promoting lead safety were sent out to the residences of all Omaha Public Schools students.

Mr. Waldren stated that Dr. Richter-Egger is looking for project ideas to get students involved.

Mr. Waldren stated the committee participated in the Black Family Health and Wellness Fair.

Mr. Waldren stated that the lead-safe work practices training event held at the UNL Extension office the day before was well attended.

Mr. Waldren stated that Dr. Reibstein will be returning to Omaha on April 24, 2008 for a real estate professional training session and to facilitate an OHKA strategic planning session.

Mr. Waldren reported that Mr. Erickson stated that lead-safe landscaping participants appear to be maintaining their properties well.

#### *Housing Committee Update*

Ms. Todd provided an update from a recent Housing Committee meeting.

Ms. Todd stated that details of paint stabilization were discussed at the Housing Committee meeting, specifically the City's cooperative agreement and direct EPA contracts. Ms. Todd stated that the necessary staff is in place and in training. Ms. Todd

stated that the committee also discussed what the painting crews will and will not do and how it will be received by the community. Ms. Todd stated that the committee discussed ways of making sure the public understands the limitations of paint stabilization.

Mr. Feild stated that the issue of contractors soliciting recipients of paint stabilization for additional repairs or work to be done on the side was discussed. Mr. Feild stated that this could be a liability issue. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will inform the contractors that EPA looks down upon additional solicitations; however, EPA cannot prevent the contractors from soliciting homeowners.

Ms. Thompson stated that a HUD representative was in attendance and that he may be able to help resolve some the housing issues. Ms. Thompson invited Mr. Robinson to attend the Housing Committee meetings.

#### **4. City Update**

Ms. Todd stated that to date, 111 residences have been completed through the City's Lead Hazard Control Program and that 82 more are in progress. Mr. Feild asked how far back the totals went. Ms. Todd stated that those were the current figures and that the program was started in 2000.

Ms. Todd stated that the City is planning an educational meeting for contractors on April 22, 2008. She said the purpose of the meeting is inform contractors of City programs and bidding approval requirements. Ms. Todd stated that EPA is welcome to attend the meetings.

Ms. Coyne asked if the City could partner with EPA to address the issue of paint stabilization contractor solicitations. Ms. Todd stated that the City uses opportunities such as meetings to inform the public of other programs available to them. Ms. Todd stated that the City's cooperative agreement is limited to offering paint stabilization and does not include housing repair.

Ms. Castaneda asked Ms. Todd to whom she should refer callers with paint stabilization-related questions. Ms. Todd stated that the callers should be referred to her. Ms. Castaneda asked Ms. Todd if there was a Spanish translator. Ms. Todd stated that there was not a designated translator for the paint stabilization program; however, there are two members of the staff that can be called upon for translation.

#### **5. Douglas County Health Department Update**

Dr. Pour stated that her staff continues to run into the problem of Mexican candy. Dr. Pour stated that the candy continues to be identified as a source of lead exposure to children. Dr. Pour stated that in one example, one of two children living in a home was found to have an elevated blood lead level. Dr. Pour stated that the child with the elevated blood lead level ate Mexican candy, while the second child did not eat the candy

and did not have an elevated blood lead level despite living in the same home. Dr. Pour stated that the CAG and the community should do more to address this problem.

Ms. Todd stated that it is important to also target pregnant women when warning the public about the candy.

Mr. Davis stated that the CAG originally intended to target the grocers that sell the candy. Mr. Davis stated that distributors also play an important role. Dr. Pour stated that the distribution process is complex and that it needs to be addressed.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if anyone has been testing the candy. Dr. Pour stated that there has been testing and that the results vary. Dr. Pour stated that lead has been found in the candy itself, the wrappers, and the dishes and equipment used to make the candy. Dr. Pour stated that it is important not to get caught up in the testing because it tends to lead to arguments. Dr. Pour stated that there is plenty of information available to cite and use to come up with solutions. Ms. Castaneda stated that the South Omaha Business Association (SOBA) could help get the word out. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that community alerts on television and in local newspapers could be used to inform the public.

Ms. Weston asked if there was a list of products found to contain lead or if there public warnings on the subject. Dr. Pour stated that there was, but there was an issue of public viewership, adding that the message was not getting out to the public. Ms. Weston stated that local leaders could spread the word if they knew what types of products to look out for.

Ms. Council stated that she saw a poster showing the types of candy found to contain lead. Ms. Casteel stated that ATSDR had a poster with pictures of the candy and the amount of lead found in each type. Ms. Casteel stated that she would email the poster to anyone that wants it and that it would be relatively inexpensive to reproduce. Ms. Thompson stated that the poster is on display in the South Omaha library. Ms. Casteel stated that she would email the poster to the CAG. Ms. Kring suggested giving copies of the poster to area schools.

Ms. Price asked Dr. Pour if the health department has any plans for additional efforts at Charles Drew Health Center. Dr. Pour stated that she is interested in continued increases in blood lead screening for children.

## **6. NDEQ Update**

Mr. Davis stated that the Superfund state contract amendment is under review.

## **7. LSOC Update**

Ms. Weston stated that she did not have an update.

## **8. Other**

Ms. Gibson stated that lead screening at Boys Town has increased by 144%. She said that Boys Town will now begin working with lawyers with the Medical Legal Partnership to work towards legal remedies for environmental health issues.

Ms. Gibson stated that Boys Town-sponsored blood screening is conducted according to Douglas County guidelines at four area clinics. She stated that Boys Town hopes to secure additional grants to fund more testing.

Ms. Council stated that the Education Committee discussed the correlation between lead poisoning and delinquency due to a recent criminal case. Ms. Council stated that Ms. Gibson had previously mentioned blood lead screening for children with behavioral problems. Ms. Todd stated that she had heard of analyzing bones and teeth in older children to determine if they had been poisoned in the past. Ms. Gibson stated that Boys Town is not analyzing bones and teeth due to a lack of funding, the invasiveness of the procedure, and the likelihood of lead getting released into the blood.

Ms. Gibson stated that the blood lead screening is not funded by the EPA grant.

Ms. Gibson stated that it is challenging to get medical records for many of the children and Boys Town is working towards compiling complete medical records for the children to take with them later in life.

Ms. Coyne stated that she read bone testing is not a particularly effective test. Dr. Pour stated that she was not aware of any new studies on the subject. Ms. Coyne asked if a large dose of lead exposure was still needed for the test to be useful. Dr. Pour stated that disease and pregnancy cause lead to be released back into the blood stream. Ms. Coyne stated that there appears to be an unmet need for additional research.

Dr. Pour stated that she was pleased to have Boys Town involved in the blood lead screening.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that date for BRNA (Burlington Road Neighborhood Association) Day has been changed to June 28, 2008 and invited everyone to attend.

Ms. Price stated that the annual Charles Drew Health Center benefit will be held April 22, 2008 at In Play. Ms. Price stated that Ms. Sara Jones will be performing her one-woman show related to health care issues.

Ms. Kring stated that she read an article about the demolition of a housing project in North Omaha. Ms. Kring asked if there is a five-year comprehensive plan related future development of the City. Ms. Council stated that the structures have not been demolished yet. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that Ms. Kring should contact the Planning Department for more information. Mr. Davis stated that the City's master plan is available on the Planning Department website.

## **9. Grant Updates**

Mr. Robinson introduced himself and stated that he is HUD representative. Mr. Robinson stated that HUD grants may be available in the future and stated that HUD will continue to be in contact with the CAG.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (April 9, 2008):

*Draft CAG Meeting Minutes from 03/12/08*

*Final CAG Meeting Minutes from 02/13/08*

*CAG Comments on EPA Field Sampling*

*Summary of EPA Guidance on Selecting Institutional Controls (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*EPA Institutional Controls: A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Institutional Controls (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Keeping Kids Safe from Lead Together (Provided by OHKA)*

*Covenant Restricting Use of Omaha Smelting Plant Property (Provided by Todd Davis)*

*UNO Lead Presentation (Provided by Dr. Dana Richter-Egger)*

*Program Gets the Lead Out: Offers Free Home Inspections for Those Who Meet Specifications (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Playing With Poison (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Reebok's Deadly Lead Charm Draws \$1 Million Federal Fine (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Omaha Teen's Lawyer Blames Client's Behavior on Lead Poisoning (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Lead Paint Found in Easter Toys (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Hannah Montana Gear Has Excessive Lead, Group Says (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*States Alter Rules of Game on Safety for Toy Makers (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Bills Give Labs Job of Finding Risks in Kid's Products (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Lead Tainted Dental Work Linked to Overseas Labs (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Vedic City Woman Charges Herbs Caused Lead Poisoning (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Senators Jack Reed and Chuck Hagel Introduce Bill to Create Council on Healthy Living (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*

*Foxboro, Mass. Landlord Faces \$20,600 EPA Penalty for Non-Disclosure of Lead Risks in Residential Units (Provided by Kara Eastman)*

*CPSC Lead Recalls (Provided by MFG, Inc.)*