

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

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, May 26th, 2004, 10:00 a.m.
Omaha Small Business Network
2505 N. 24 Street

OLS CAG Members Present:

Janet Bohm—*Citizen at Large*
Janet Bonet—*Citizen at Large*
Dr. Richard Brown—*Charles Drew Health Center*
Sue Casteel—*Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry*
Tanya Cook—*Governor's Omaha Advisory Council for Lead Safe Neighborhoods*
Brenda Council—*Facilitator*
Todd Davis—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*
Connie Determan—*MFG, Inc.*
Barba Edwards—*League of Women Voters*
Robin Kammandel—*Metro Omaha Medical Society*
Jeff McDermott—*Union Pacific Railroad*
Dr. Donna Polk-Primm—*Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition*
Dr. Adi Pour—*Douglas County Health Department*
Karen Shepard—*OPS School Board*
Marian Todd—*City of Omaha Planning Department*
Vernon Waldren—*Douglas/Sarpy County Extension*
Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*
Rebecca Valdez—*Chicano Awareness Center*

Others Present:

Scharol Bronson—*NHHSS*
Dr. Merrill Coomes—*MFG, Inc.*
Nancy Gaarder—*Omaha World-Herald*
Irene Perez—*Citizen at Large*
Jennifer Rawley—*MFG, Inc.*
Carole Woods Harris—*Douglas County Board of Commissioners*

Ms. Council began the meeting by asking for corrections to the minutes of the May 12, 2004 CAG meeting.

Mr. Felix stated that he could provide clarification regarding the discussion of the National Remedy Review Board (NRRB), referring to discussion on page six, paragraph four of the minutes. Mr. Felix stated that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) did not submit formal comments to the NRRB. Mr. Felix stated that NDEQ attended the meeting with the NRRB and that NDEQ generally supported EPA

Region 7's proposal. Mr. Felix added that questions were asked at the NRRB meeting regarding cost share and Applicable or Relevant Requirements (ARARs). Ms. Council asked if NDEQ could provide the CAG with a copy of what was submitted to the NRRB by EPA Region 7. Mr. Felix stated that he would like to talk with legal counsel to see if the package can be shared with the CAG.

Ms. Weston stated that on page six, paragraph six, "monitors" should read "television monitors." Dr. Coomes stated that on page nine, paragraph two, "add four grams of dough" should read, "add four grams of soil to the dough."

Ms. Weston moved to approve the minutes with Ms. Weston's and Dr. Coomes' corrections. Dr. Pour seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Council directed the CAG's attention to two of the handouts provided for the meeting. Ms. Council stated that the Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation, which Mr. Gene Gunn of EPA had stated (during the May 12, 2004 CAG meeting) was submitted to the NRRB, had been provided to the CAG in the package for today's meeting. Ms. Council also stated that Ms. Debbie Kring of EPA had provided a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Ms. Casteel stated that ATSDR/NCEH is working with the City of Omaha to apply for the grant outlined in the NOFA, in an effort to secure funding for the Omaha Lead Site.

Ms. Casteel gave a presentation on current ATSDR activities dealing with the Omaha Lead Site (handout was provided).

Ms. Todd discussed the grant notices that had been provided. She stated that the LEAP grant would be ideal for a community group that can leverage private dollars. Ms. Council stated that the grant writer for the City, Ms. Gail Braun, had offered her services to the CAG. Ms. Todd stated that a required match would make it difficult for the City to get the grant Ms. Casteel mentioned. Ms. Casteel stated that ATSDR would pursue any possible funding opportunities. Ms. Casteel also stated that ATSDR could provide assistance to the CAG, such as letters of support.

Ms. Blackwell stated that perhaps the Black Family Health and Wellness Association and the South Omaha Community Care Council would be interested in a partnership in support of the LEAP grant. Ms. Bonet stated that the City could also speak with neighborhood associations to obtain letters of support.

Ms. Council stated that Senator Jim Jensen's staff had contacted her, showing interest in the CAG and Omaha Lead Site issues. Dr. Polk-Primm stated that she had met with Senator Jensen earlier in the week.

Ms. Kammandel affirmed that community care councils and neighborhood associations should be contacted for support and partnership.

Ms. Council asked Ms. Casteel, in reference to her presentation, if ATSDR's Health Assessment includes other sources of lead exposure, in addition to soil. Ms. Casteel confirmed that the Health Assessment discusses sources other than just soil. Ms. Casteel stated that the Health Assessment would be distributed to the CAG before the next CAG meeting. Ms. Council asked if EPA has received drafts of the Health Assessment. Ms. Casteel replied that EPA and the Douglas County Health Department have seen drafts of the Health Assessment.

Ms. Council stated that at the CAG meeting on May 12, 2004, Mr. Gunn had agreed to inform the CAG on Friday, May 14, 2004 of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study release date. Mr. Gunn contacted Ms. Council on Monday, May 17, 2004, informing her that the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study would be released mid-June.

Ms. Casteel explained that the Health Assessment identifies the health concerns at the Omaha Lead Site. Ms. Casteel stated she has seen blood lead levels drop at other sites because of soil removals, and that the Health Assessment primarily addresses risk due to lead in soil. Ms. Casteel stated that the Risk Assessment would address risk due to indoor dust.

Ms. Council announced that Ms. Weston scheduled a Lead Safe Omaha Coalition meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2004. Ms. Weston stated that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition would be discussing components that they feel should be included in a comprehensive program for the Omaha Lead Site.

Dr. Polk-Primm asked how the comprehensive program would be initiated. Ms. Council stated that the CAG had already sent a letter to EPA requesting a comprehensive program. Ms. Council stated that the next step would be to determine how to implement the plan. Ms. Council stated that after receiving the Proposed Plan, the CAG would outline the structure of the comprehensive plan. Ms. Council stated that she had met with the Mayor to discuss the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Bonet asked how the CAG would be involved in the process. Ms. Council stated that the CAG would design the comprehensive plan. Dr. Polk-Primm stated that there are many people who would like to be involved in the creation of the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Council reported that she, Ms. Weston, and Ms. Determan met with Mayor Fahey and two members of his staff, Mr. Steve Scarpello and Mr. Chris Rodgers. Ms. Council stated that they had provided Mayor Fahey with a copy of "Applicability of a Kids First Program to the Omaha Lead Site." Ms. Council stated that the purpose of the meeting was to solicit Mayor Fahey's support for a comprehensive plan. Ms. Council stated that Mayor Fahey was very supportive. Ms. Council stated that Mayor Fahey would be sending a letter to Mr. Jim Gulliford, EPA Region 7 Director, requesting a meeting to discuss a comprehensive plan. Ms. Council stated that a meeting with Governor Johanns would need to be held before the meeting with Mr. Gulliford.

Ms. Kammandel requested that the CAG ask Mayor Fahey to use his influence to solicit private funding. Ms. Council stated that she had also discussed convening a partner's meeting with Mayor Fahey.

Ms. Weston stated that notices of the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition meeting were sent to neighborhood associations and others in an effort to involve everyone.

Ms. Weston stated that Mayor Fahey was very supportive of a comprehensive program. Ms. Weston also stated that Mayor Fahey had expressed that the CAG would need the Governor's support.

Ms. Council stated that after meeting with the Governor, partners would need to be identified, and then, a meeting would be held with all interested partners.

Ms. Bonet asked if the Governor's Omaha Advisory Council for Lead Safe Neighborhoods could be included at the partnering meeting. Ms. Council agreed that members of the Governor's Omaha Advisory Council for Lead Safe Neighborhoods should be invited and that other people would be invited based on recommendations. Ms. Bonet expressed the importance of assuring that no one wanting to be involved would be left out of the partnering meeting.

Ms. Weston stated that the Governor is supportive of a comprehensive plan. Ms. Weston stated that a meeting with the Governor was not necessary. Ms. Council stated that scheduling a meeting with the Governor is necessary for the sake of protocol and professional courtesy.

Dr. Pour stated that the Douglas County Health Department recently gave a presentation to the Board of Health and could also give a presentation to the County Board, to solicit involvement.

Ms. Kammandel stated that she supported scheduling a meeting with the Governor. Ms. Kammandel stated that following a protocol is critical.

Ms. Bonet stated that she would like to see an outline of what would be said to the Governor in the meeting. Ms. Council agreed to develop an outline to be presented to the CAG.

Ms. Weston stated that she did not have a clear understanding of the CAG's agenda. Ms. Council replied that all the CAG has asked for is support of inclusion of a comprehensive plan in the Proposed Plan. Ms. Council stated that the community would design the comprehensive plan.

Dr. Polk-Primm stated that the Proposed Plan would be distributed in June and asked what the future of the CAG would be at that time. Dr. Polk-Primm asked if the CAG would wait to write the comprehensive plan after the Proposed Plan is released.

Ms. Council stated that while waiting for the Proposed Plan, the CAG should develop the comprehensive plan.

Dr. Polk-Primm asked what needs to be done to expedite the development of the comprehensive plan. Ms. Council stated that in order to get the comprehensive plan in the Record of Decision, a lot of work would need to be done. Ms. Council stated that the CAG needs to first agree on what to include in the comprehensive plan and then needs to present the comprehensive plan to potential partners.

Dr. Polk-Primm asked if there is a plan for working on the plan. Ms. Council replied that perhaps a subcommittee could be formed to design the comprehensive plan.

Dr. Polk-Primm asked what components could be included in a comprehensive plan. She stated that it would be helpful to know what the possibilities are, when designing a comprehensive plan for Omaha. Ms. Council replied that "Applicability of a Kids First Program to the Omaha Lead Site" was provided to the CAG to serve as an example of what components could be included in a comprehensive plan.

Ms. Weston stated that the CAG has previously discussed what should be included in a comprehensive plan, such as education, etc. Ms. Weston stated that a document would need to be developed to briefly explain to partners what the comprehensive plan would entail.

Ms. Weston stated that the CAG has had many meetings, but has not accomplished much. Dr. Polk-Primm stated that the CAG meetings have been very helpful and necessary. Dr. Polk-Primm stated that the CAG meetings were necessary to keep up with EPA.

Dr. Pour stated that the CAG needs to create a quick plan with a budget to supply to the partners.

Ms. Todd stated that federally funded grants for housing would be submitted by the City. Ms. Todd stated that partners are needed to apply for the grants.

Ms. Council asked if CAG members would be willing to meet next Wednesday, June 2, 2004 to discuss the development of a comprehensive plan. It was suggested by CAG members that Thursday, June 3, 2004 would be a preferred over Wednesday. Ms. Todd asked if she could have a half an hour to gather comments from the CAG on the City's grant application during a meeting on June 3, 2004.

Dr. Polk-Primm stated that she has contacted the Indian Health Service, which could open a door to additional funding. Dr. Polk-Primm encouraged CAG members to contact key people that may be interested in being a partner.

Ms. Council stated that the meeting would tentatively be scheduled for 10 a.m. on June 3, 2004 and that a notice would be emailed to CAG members. Ms. Council stated that bullet points of some possible components of a comprehensive plan would be provided at the meeting.

Ms. Council stated that the CAG meeting and website were announced on the TV program, *Kaleidoscope*. Ms. Determan announced that the website has had a total of 4,400 hits.

Ms. Weston stated that there was nothing to report from the Census Subcommittee.

Dr. Polk-Primm stated that Ms. Jonah Deppe had assisted her in submitting an educational grant, which included a proposal for an educational kiosk.

Ms. Determan reported on the Sister's Together health fair, held on May 15, 2004. She stated that Mr. Clifton Jones, Ms. Deppe, and Ms. Katy Spellerberg (MFG, Inc.) worked at the booth. She stated that one woman who visited the CAG's booth said that an EPA contractor caused concrete damage to a driveway and that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition was assisting the family.

Ms. Todd suggested that the CAG have a booth at an event in June being held at Fontenelle Park. Ms. Perez provided contact information for the event.

Ms. Council stated that Mr. Jones had offered to give a presentation to the CAG at the next regular CAG meeting.

Ms. Council reported that she has not received information regarding national EPA policy, as was requested of EPA at the last CAG meeting.

Ms. Council stated that Dr. Coomes had provided responses to EPA's responses to the CAG's questions regarding the Bioavailability Study. Ms. Council asked if the CAG would like to submit the additional questions to EPA for response. CAG members did not reply.

Dr. Coomes stated that the CAG needs to ask if the Bioavailability Study is "good science". Dr. Coomes explained that the data collected by EPA and the decisions EPA makes based on the data are important. Dr. Coomes stated that EPA is going to be making decisions that affect Omaha based on the Bioavailability Study, so the CAG needs to know that the data and results are appropriate for such decision-making.

Ms. Weston asked Dr. Coomes if he agreed that the lead in Omaha's soil is very bioavailable. Dr. Coomes replied that he could not determine how high the bioavailability is because he could not determine the amount of uncertainty associated with the bioavailability. Ms. Weston stated that she was comfortable saying that the bioavailability is a problem and is high. Dr. Coomes stated that he believes the Bioavailability Study was biased to collect samples with lead-based paint, based on EPA's sampling strategy.

Ms. Casteel stated that she has seen blood lead levels drop at other sites in response to soil removals.

Ms. Bonet stated that EPA has explained how they sampled for the Bioavailability Study. Ms. Bonet stated that she felt comfortable with the Bioavailability Study.

Ms. Council asked Dr. Coomes to provide the CAG with a highlighted version of the Bioavailability Study and brief explanations about the data to help the CAG better understand Dr. Coomes' concerns. Dr. Coomes agreed to highlight the bioavailability study where questions were identified.

Ms. Council announced that the next regular CAG meeting would be held Wednesday, June 9, 2004 at 10 a.m. The meeting place is TBA.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (May 26th, 2004):

Draft Minutes from 05/12/04 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Approved Minutes from 04/29/04 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Childhood Lead Exposure Risk Questionnaire (Provided by Dr. Adi Pour)

Final Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation, Omaha Lead (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

NHHS News Release, Money Available for Home Improvements (Provided by Ms. Janet Bonet)

Notice of Funding Availability (Provided by EPA)

Blood Lead Levels in Young Children (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Response to EPA's Bioavailability Responses (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Summary of EPA Comprehensive Lead Site Actions (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Letter from Governor Johanns to Ms. Jonah Deppe (Provided by Ms. Jonah Deppe)

Kids First Program Overview (Provided by Ms. Amy Morrison, Lake County Community Health Program)

Grant Opportunities (Provided by Dr. Shireen Rajaram and Ms. Siobhan Blackwell)

Attachments to Minutes:

Sign-In Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)