

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

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, June 13, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Omaha Small Business Network
2505 N 24th Street
Omaha, NE 68110

OLS CAG Members Present:

Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan—*Burlington Road Neighborhood Association*
Sue Casteel—*Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Control*
Brenda Council—*OLS CAG Facilitator*
Todd Davis—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*
Connie Determan—*MFG, Inc.*
Bob Feild—*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Nick Flattery—*OneWorld Community Health Center*
Jeff McDermott—*Union Pacific Railroad*
Dr. Adi Pour—*Douglas County Health Department*
Vicki Quaites-Ferris—*City of Omaha Mayor's Office*
Marian Todd—*City of Omaha Planning Department*
Rebecca Valdez—*Chicano Awareness Center*
Vernon Waldren—*University of Nebraska, Lincoln Extension*
Diane Ward—*Creighton University Department of Pediatrics*
Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

Others Present:

Floyd Brown—*Citizen*
Rita Brown—*Citizen*
Michelle Calloway-Walker—*F&D Associates*
Mary Castaneda—*EPA Information Offices*
Lelia Coyne—*Citizen*
Felisa Dillon—*EPA Information Offices*
Jim Dowding—*Omaha City Council Staff*
Tina Gray-Ventry—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*
Laura Hardesty—*Cadmus Group*
Debbie Kring—*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Louise Latimer—*Senator Ben Nelson's Office*
Jennifer Rawley—*MFG, Inc.*
Crystal Rhodes—*Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha*
Steve Sanders—*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Che Thompson—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*

1. Discussion on Minutes from the May 9, 2007 Meeting

Ms. Council asked for corrections or additions to the minutes from the May 9, 2007 meeting.

Ms. Kring stated that Mr. Feild's name was misspelled throughout the minutes.

Mr. Feild stated that, on page four, "Mr. Feild stated that the Omaha Lead Site is the first Superfund site where paint will be addressed" should read: "Mr. Feild stated that the Omaha Lead Site is the first Superfund site where paint will be addressed on such a large scale."

Mr. Feild stated that, on page five, "Mr. Feild replied that what is decided at the Omaha Lead Site will be used in future decision-making at other sites" should read: "Mr. Feild replied that what is decided at the Omaha Lead Site will be considered in future decision-making at other sites."

Mr. Feild stated that, on page five, "Mr. Feild replied that it might be difficult to recover the money spent, but EPA does not expect that scenario to occur" should be deleted and replaced with: "Mr. Feild replied that paint stabilization will only be performed on homes that meet eligibility criteria, and response actions must meet those criteria to be cost-recoverable."

Ms. Weston stated that, on page two, "Mr. Feild reported that HydroGeoLogic (HGL) will be performing data management and quality assurance monitoring of excavation contractors" should read: "Mr. Feild reported that HydroGeoLogic (HGL) will be performing data management and quality assurance monitoring of soil remediation contractors."

Ms. Weston stated that, on page six, "...EPA did not place such a restriction in the contract" should read: "...EPA did not place such a condition in the contract."

Ms. Weston stated that, on page six, "Ms. Weston stated that EPA could encourage the contractors to do so" is a redundant statement and should be deleted.

Ms. Weston motioned to approve the minutes with the above corrections. Mr. Flattery seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (12-0).

2. EPA Update

Mr. Feild distributed a summary of EPA's soil removals.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA finalized the large park sampling plan and treatability study work plan. Mr. Feild distributed copies of both reports.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA anticipates that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will authorize a task order for ECC soon.

Mr. Feild stated that a paint stabilization program fact sheet is under development.

Mr. Feild reported that EPA is designing a recontamination study.

Mr. Feild reported that 6,162 residential properties are located between L and Harrison Streets and 45th Street to the Missouri River. Mr. Feild stated that as of the end of 2006, EPA has sampled the yard soil of 4,378 of those properties.

Ms. Weston asked for the number of residential properties sampled in North Omaha. Mr. Feild replied that EPA has sampled the yards in 2,026 of 2,700 properties located between Ames Avenue and Redick Avenue. Mr. Feild stated that in the west extension, EPA has sampled yards 1,246 of 1,902 properties.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked when EPA will finish sampling in South Omaha. Mr. Feild replied that EPA has been unable to contact some owners and has been denied access to some properties. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if the denials are mainly from rental properties. Mr. Feild replied that the majority of denials are not from landlords, but that landlords do have concerns due to disclosure requirements. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if EPA has tried partnering with the City and others to gain access to the remaining properties. Mr. Feild replied that EPA is putting a plan together to work with local groups to gain access. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that she fears that the children of the poorest families, whose landlords are really slumlords, are at the highest risk because of denied access. Mr. Feild stated that EPA intends to sample all properties and has the authority to enter and collect samples without a signed access agreement; however, at this time, EPA is seeking voluntary access.

Mr. Feild commented that a map provided by EPA depicting the current focus area boundaries is incorrectly titled "Extended Focus Area." Mr. Feild stated that the focus area was actually extended in 2004, not in 2007. Mr. Feild stated that a newspaper article was written about the extended boundaries, but, in reality, EPA has been sampling within the extended boundaries for three years.

Ms. Council stated that there is a discrepancy in the number of reported sampled properties on EPA's update sheet. Mr. Feild stated that some properties were sampled outside of the focus area and in Iowa. Mr. Feild stated that he would provide a breakdown of the numbers at the next CAG meeting.

Ms. Council asked if a potential exists for the City to stabilize paint at properties that will ultimately not qualify for the work because the eligibility criteria has not been finalized. Mr. Feild replied that the potential exists, but he does not believe it will be a problem. Mr. Feild stated that the City is beginning work on homes where there is a certain lead-based paint issue. Mr. Feild stated that EPA anticipates that these homes will certainly meet the criteria. Dr. Pour asked if the City sees this issue as a problem. Ms. Todd

replied that she does not see not having the criteria at this time as an issue because there are properties that are serious enough that they will obviously qualify. Dr. Pour asked if the City is following U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines when performing the paint stabilization work. Ms. Todd replied that the City's contractors have completed EPA/HUD-approved lead-safe practices training for performing paint stabilization. Ms. Todd added that paint stabilization is not regulated under State law, but abatement work is. Ms. Todd stated that the City will monitor the work. Dr. Pour asked if, after the paint is stabilized, the City will perform dust wipe tests and if the properties will be listed on a registry. Ms. Todd stated that if a home is eligible, it will be referred to the City's lead hazard control program, otherwise, no interior work or sampling will be done. Ms. Todd stated that a registry does not exist, but has been proposed.

Ms. Council asked how the first two batches of homes were selected for the paint stabilization program. Ms. Todd replied that the City received a list of homes and corresponding paint inspections results from EPA. Ms. Todd stated that the City used the results to determine severity of need. Ms. Todd stated that the list also indicated if a child is present at the home, to the best of EPA's knowledge. Ms. Todd stated that the properties were also grouped by geographic area. Ms. Council asked who developed the list that EPA provided to the City. Ms. Field replied that EPA's contractor performing lead-based paint assessments supplied the list.

Ms. Council asked what the City will do if it determines that a house needs abatement, rather than paint stabilization. Ms. Todd stated that resources are not available for abatement, unless the property qualifies for the City's lead hazard control program.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked when EPA will have more defined eligibility criteria for the paint stabilization program. Mr. Feild replied that the criteria will be defined in the final Record of Decision in December of 2008. Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked why it is taking so long. Mr. Feild stated that EPA has never developed this type of criteria before and stated that the criteria have the potential to set a nationwide precedence.

Mr. Flattery stated that EPA is focusing on paint contaminating the soil rather than determining what source is impacting the child. Mr. Flattery stated that the end point is not the soil; the end point is the child.

Dr. Pour asked if EPA asks if the homeowner would like to do the paint work themselves, rather than EPA doing the paint stabilization. Mr. Feild replied that there is a lot of focus on EPA's paint stabilization program, although the only homes eligible for the program are those that are eligible for soil cleanup. Mr. Feild stated that EPA recognizes that that lead-based paint is an exposure concern, but EPA will not address the paint at a vast amount of properties. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is not the big part of the solution. Mr. Feild stated that there should be an interest to look at encouraging homeowners and landlords to do the work. Dr. Pour stated that that is where education comes in. Dr. Pour stated that EPA could send a letter to homeowners urging them to do the work themselves.

Ms. Thompson asked if EPA is educating the homeowners and providing information that would empower the homeowners to take action. Mr. Feild replied that EPA is still working on developing a fact sheet. Mr. Feild stated that the finalization of the fact sheet has been delayed because the community asked EPA to alter the standard formatting, which results in additional peer review. Ms. Thompson stated that local pamphlets are available for use. Ms. Todd stated that nothing is routinely provided. Ms. Todd stated that information is provided if the City receives an inquiry. Ms. Todd stated that EPA is missing a prime opportunity to education families. Ms. Todd agreed. Ms. Davis asked if the addresses of the homes where paint will be stabilized could be provided to OHKA and LSOC, so those organizations can educate the families. Ms. Todd replied that EPA would have to provide the addresses.

Ms. Rhodes stated that she is frustrated because the CAG knows what needs to be done, but seems stuck. Ms. Rhodes stated that when she lived in an older property, she was never educated on the risks. Ms. Rhodes stated that soil cleanup is in progress, but lead-based paint is the bigger hazard. Ms. Rhodes asked why EPA is continuing to replace soil, knowing that there is a high likelihood that the new soil be recontaminated by lead-based paint. Mr. Feild replied that EPA agrees that exposure of lead to children is primarily from house dust. Mr. Feild stated that house dust is contaminated by soil and paint. Mr. Feild stated that EPA believes that soil is a significant contributing factor, regardless of other sources. Mr. Feild stated that EPA has cleaned-up soil at other sites and seen significant declines in blood lead levels. Mr. Feild stated that Superfund authority does not extend to sources other than soil. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is only addressing exterior lead-based paint because of the possibility of recontamination, not because of a direct risk to children. Ms. Rhodes stated that since EPA has been remediating soil, the blood lead levels of children in the Superfund site have only decreased at a rate of one percent per year. Mr. Feild stated that that is not true. Ms. Rhodes asked why EPA is not addressing exterior paint before remediating soil. Mr. Feild replied that EPA is trying to develop the capacity to do so. Mr. Feild stated that EPA does not believe widespread recontamination will occur. Ms. Rhodes asked if EPA discusses additional hazards with residents when EPA gains access to a property. Mr. Feild stated that access is gained by contractors, not health educations, so education is not provided. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is working to develop fact sheets to provide to residents. Ms. Rhodes stated that EPA needs to be proactive, not reactive. Ms. Council stated that Ms. Rhodes raised excellent questions and referred her to the Education Committee.

Ms. Thompson stated that EPA agrees that education is necessary, but has passed up the opportunities to educate the residents. Ms. Thompson stated that this is why collaboration is necessary. Ms. Thompson stated that this is happening again with the paint stabilization program; EPA says education is important, but has not integrated education into the paint stabilization program. Ms. Thompson stated that it is a disservice to the community to ask a family to sign access without being educated about risks. Ms. Thompson stated that EPA needs to provide education to empower families to do

something themselves to address hazards. Ms. Thompson stated that education is a major component that could really impact child blood lead levels.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that this gap in education is an opportunity to provide additional resources. Ms. Quaites-Ferris stated that education needs to be provided now, instead of waiting for a fact sheet to be completed. Ms. Quaites-Ferris suggested that the Education Committee provide Ms. Todd with available literature.

Mr. Feild stated that when EPA samples a property, EPA is bound by law to distribute sampling results to the resident. Mr. Feild stated that fact sheets about lead hazards are included with the results. Mr. Feild reiterated that EPA's primary mission is to cleanup soil. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is hopeful that groups such as OHKA can step-up and bring resources to the table to provide additional services.

Ms. Council responded to EPA's statement about expecting homeowners to take care of problems. Ms. Council stated that she wanted to remind everyone that the area of the Superfund site has a high rate of poverty. Ms. Council stated that the majority of homeowners are not irresponsible; they are financially incapable. Ms. Council stated that the government has a responsibility to assist those who cannot afford to address these problems themselves. Mr. Feild stated that he did not want to appear insensitive. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is doing paint stabilization, but those homes will have to be maintained by the homeowners. Ms. Council stated that that is Ms. Thompson's point; there are simple ways homeowners can help themselves, if they are educated.

3. LSOC Lead Education and "It's Cool to Be Lead Safe"

Ms. Gray-Ventry reported on Lead Safe Omaha Coalition (LSOC) activities. Ms. Gray-Ventry stated that LSOC partnered with schools to produce an educational play. Ms. Gray-Ventry stated that LSOC held an event to test items for lead. Ms. Gray-Ventry stated that there was a great turnout for the event, with members of the media attending.

(LSOC showed "It's Cool to Be Lead Safe" video)

4. Education Committee Update

Mr. Waldren motioned to approve the draft revised briefing book. Ms. Todd seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with Ms. Weston abstaining (10-0-1).

Mr. Waldren provided an update on Education Committee activities. Mr. Waldren stated that the committee surveyed themselves to identify priorities for forming work groups. Mr. Waldren asked members interested in serving on work groups to contact him. The work groups are as follows:

- Awareness and promotion group
- Housing/landscaping/housekeeping group

- Realtor/landowner/contractors
- School enrichment
- Healthy homes
- Data management (registry, etc.)

Mr. Waldren stated that an email would be sent to formalize work groups.

Mr. Waldren stated that the committee had a follow-up meeting with Mr. Jeff Linkenbach. Mr. Waldren stated that as a result of that meeting, the committee is looking at surveying the community to determine residents' overall knowledge of lead, releasing public service announcements, and creating an insert in the Omaha World-Herald listing the positive things being accomplished by the committee.

Ms. Council stated that the committee discussed the need for the Bright Futures campaign to look at environmental impacts. Ms. Council stated that the committee will convey that need to the Bright Futures committee.

5. OHKA Update

Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA is applying for a HUD LEAP grant and is partnering with First National Bank, a rental property management company, and the weatherization program on the grant.

Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA is assisting with a Girls, Inc project. Ms Thompson stated that Girls, Inc. will be holding a community awareness fair on June 29, 2007.

6. City Update

Ms. Todd stated that the City submitted a grant application for a HUD demonstration grant.

Ms. Todd reported that the City's lead hazard control program has completed 44 units, has 14 units under construction, and has 52 approved applications.

Ms. Todd announced that a lead safety workshop will be held on June 29, 2007.

7. Questions and Answers

Mr. Brown stated that his company can screen toys and other items for lead at no cost to the public. Mr. Brown asked interested groups to contact him.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that an event for children was held, and it was great to have Ms. Thompson in attendance. Ms. Thompson stated that she gave out 25 dust kits. Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA will track those 25 families.

Ms. Council stated that the next CAG meeting will be held on July 11, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.
The location is to be announced.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (June 13, 2007):

Draft CAG Meeting Minutes from 5/9/07

Final CAG Meeting Minutes from 3/14/07 and 4/11/07

Education Committee Minutes from 5/8/07

Letter from Agency for Healthcare and Research and Quality Dated 5/14/07

CAG Letter of Support for City of Omaha's HUD Grant

2006 Childhood Blood Lead Data for Douglas County (Provided by Reid Steinkraus)

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention 2006 Program Data Presentation (Provided by Reid Steinkraus)

Lead Paint Play Equipment Survey (Provided by Reid Steinkraus)

Community-Based Participatory Research Grant Information (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

State Says Peeling Paint Bigger Issue Than Old Smelters (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Lead Safety is Worth Its Weight in Gold (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Duke Center to Study Variables in Infant Health (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Lead-Screening Program Halts (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Baltimore Tip Uncovers Lead-Laced Products (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Volunteers Take to Streets to Warn of Lead Paint Risk (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

EPA Expands Area of Omaha Lead Tests (Provided by Kara Eastman)

EPA Offers Information, Advice on Lead Cleanup (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Man Fined for Lying about Lead Paint (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Just for Kids & Families Articles (Provided by Kara Eastman)

What Your School or Child Care Facility Should Know About Lead in Drinking Water (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Letter from U.S. Senators Regarding Continuing HUD Lead Hazard Control Funding (Provided by Senator Hagel's Office)

The Economic Cost of Substandard Housing Conditions among North Carolina Children

Applied Physiology Reference to Lead (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Various CPSC Recalls Due to Lead Poisoning Hazards (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Attachments to Minutes:

Sign-In Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)

EPA Update Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)