

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

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, August 8, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance
115 S. 49th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68132

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*
Jim Dowding (Designee for Gary Gernandt and Frank Brown)—*City Council Staff*
Kara Eastman—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Mary Hill—*Sisters Together*
Connie Lowndes (designee for Vernon Waldren)—*University of Nebraska, Lincoln Extension*
Vicki Quaites-Ferris—*City of Omaha Mayor's Office*
Jennifer Rawley (designee for Jeff McDermott)—*MFG, Inc.*
Crystal Rhoades—*Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha*
Diane Ward—*Creighton Pediatrics*
Cammy Watkins—*Sierra Club*
Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

Others Present:

Dennis Anderson—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*
Filippe Cade—*Professional Environmental Engineers*
Mary Castaneda—*EPA Information Offices*
Lelia Coyne—*Citizen*
Felisa Dillon—*EPA Information Offices*
Tiffany Frezell—*EPA Information Offices*
Nancy Gaarder—*Omaha World-Herald*
Tina Gray-Ventry—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*
Steve Jackson—*Nebraska Health and Human Services*
William King—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*
Debbie Kring—*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Louise Latimer—*Senator Ben Nelson's Office*
Diane Luna—*Burlington Road Neighborhood Association*
Matt Manderfeld—*MFG, Inc.*
Stacy Meacham—*MFG, Inc.*
Zennobia Parham—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*
Che Thompson—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Laura Tiehon—*Marc Environmental Services*

Ms. Council thanked the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance and Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha for providing space for the meeting.

1. Discussion on Minutes from the July 11, 2007 Meeting

Ms. Council asked for corrections or additions to the minutes from the July 11, 2007 CAG meeting.

Ms. Weston asked for clarification about voting. Ms. Weston asked if she should refrain from voting now that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition is working with the EPA contractors. Ms. Weston stated that it is her understanding from decisions made at a past CAG meeting that anyone receiving federal grant funding would be entitled to vote. Ms. Council suggested that Ms. Weston abstain from voting until the issue is clarified at the next meeting. Ms. Council stated that she would follow-up with the parliamentarian, Mr. Waldren, before the next meeting. Ms. Weston agreed.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. Ms. Eastman seconded the motion. The motion was not approved due to a lack of quorum. Ms. Council stated that she would return to approving the minutes later in the meeting.

2. EPA Update

Ms. Kring reported that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition meeting, held the previous evening, was well attended.

Ms. Kring reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has authorized ECC to begin soil excavations. Ms. Kring stated that ECC will remediate 200 properties by this December.

Ms. Kring stated that EPA has a draft paint stabilization fact sheet, but that the City has not reviewed the draft. Ms. Kring provided a copy to Ms. Rawley, but asked that Ms. Rawley refrain from distributing the fact sheet to the full CAG.

Ms. Kring stated that EPA has received 80 access agreements between August 1st and August 8th. Ms. Kring stated that EPA appreciates local efforts assisting in gaining signed access forms.

Ms. Kring reported that she looked into bringing the final report of the community telecast listed on EPA's summary of funding for Omaha. Ms. Kring stated that the report was archived because it is greater than three years old. Ms. Kring stated that she will retrieve the report from off-site and bring it to the next CAG meeting.

Ms. Kring stated that Ms. Jonah Deppe requested answers to several questions, and Mr. Feild is working on drafting responses.

Ms. Kring introduced Ms. Frezell who will be working at EPA's North Omaha Public Information Center.

Ms. Council asked what percentage and number of EPA's contracted staff are local hires. Ms. Kring stated that she would find out and report the percentage and number at the next CAG meeting.

Ms. Council asked if EPA maintains a record of the number of vacant lots that have been excavated. Ms. Kring stated that she would find out. Ms. Weston stated that EPA has a database with that information. Ms. Council stated that she has seen a number of vacant lots being excavated in North Omaha. Ms. Weston stated that this issue was discussed at past CAG meetings and it was pointed out that there is always a possibility that a house will be built on a vacant lot in the future or that children may play on the vacant lots.

Ms. Weston stated that new EPA materials do not include the North Omaha Public Information Center phone number. Ms. Kring stated that both numbers should be listed and that she would look into this matter.

Ms. Council asked if contractors leave a fact sheet at the residence when they visit a property. Ms. Council stated that she receives a lot of calls because residents do not know who to contact.

Ms. Council stated that she received a call about a property where a neighbor maintains a begonia bed on the property between the two houses, not knowing that that property actually belonged to the next door property where excavation was scheduled to occur. EPA's contractor told the neighbor that they would have to remove the flower bed. Ms. Council stated that, in the past, EPA has said that residents could ask the contractor to leave such landscaping in place.

Ms. Kring stated that the contractors are supposed to leave a fact sheet and card with the residents. Ms. Hill stated that contractors are not leaving cards. Ms. Weston stated that some contractors do leave cards and some do not. Ms. Weston stated that residents call whomever they feel comfortable speaking with. Ms. Council stated that she asks callers if they have the Public Information Centers phone numbers, and they say no. Ms. Castaneda stated that she has copies of what is distributed to residents and that the information includes the Public Information Centers phone numbers.

Ms. Kring stated that if there is an issue it will be settled through EPA, so homeowners should contact EPA, not the contractor. Ms. Weston disagreed, stating that the contractor is responsible for damage and is typically the first point of contact. Ms. Weston stated that she had an issue in her yard and first attempted to resolve the issue directly with the contractors. Ms. Weston stated that EPA was eventually involved, but that the first contact she made was to the contractor.

Ms. Council suggested that EPA and the CAG revisit how information is provided and consider providing a magnet with contact information. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that a magnet is a good idea.

3. Sisters Together Take It to the Streets Survey

Ms. Watkins stated that Ms. Jonah Deppe is most familiar with the results of the Sisters Together survey but could not be present at the meeting.

Ms. Watkins stated that volunteers were given talking points about Superfund and trained on how to do the surveys. Ms. Watkins stated that the purpose of the survey was to determine what knowledge the community has about the Superfund site. Ms. Watkins stated that the results of the survey show that the community is not familiar with Superfund.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked what the age group of the respondents was. Ms. Watkins replied that the respondents were adults and identified themselves as “head of household.”

Mr. Jackson asked if a statistical analysis of the data was performed. Ms. Watkins replied that Ms. Deppe performed a statistical analysis, but that Ms. Watkins did not presently have that information. Mr. Jackson asked what the overall population target was and if it is known if a good sampling of the population was obtained. Mr. Jackson stated that it is possible that an area could have been over sampled. Ms. Weston asked Ms. Rawley to relay Mr. Jackson’s questions to Ms. Deppe. Ms. Rawley stated that she would provide Ms. Deppe with a list of the CAG’s questions regarding the survey.

Ms. Hill stated that most people were unaware of the Superfund site. Ms. Hill stated that most people had some knowledge about lead, but that knowledge was limited. Ms. Hill stated that the results show that more needs to be done to reach the community, rather than just holding meetings.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked if the respondents were interested in receiving additional information and if follow-up is planned. Ms. Hill replied that packets of information were left at each household, along with the Sisters Together phone number. Ms. Hill stated that Sisters Together is planning educational community forums and would like to repeat the survey at a later date.

Ms. Council stated that the results of this survey could be justification for obtaining additional funding for educational activities. Ms. Council stated that it is the CAG’s understanding that outreach workers have the biggest impact.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked what the cost of the survey was. Ms. Hill replied that the original grant was for \$25,000.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked how long each survey took. Ms. Watkins replied that each survey took approximately 15 minutes.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked if respondents had additional questions. Ms. Watkins replied that some did. Ms. Watkins stated that follow-up was performed where children within an age range of risk resided.

Ms. Eastman stated that there is always criticism about how a survey is done, but even qualitative information is valuable. Ms. Eastman stated that this survey provides great information for the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance and Omaha. Ms. Eastman thanked Sisters Together for performing the survey.

Ms. Quaites-Ferris asked if there is an opportunity for children identified during the survey to be tested for lead. Ms. Watkins stated that families with children who had not already been tested were referred to the Douglas County Health Department.

Mr. Davis asked if many people refused to do the survey. Ms. Watkins replied that most people were interested in participating, especially if they had children.

Ms. Weston stated that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition did a survey in 2002. Ms. Weston stated that the community recognizes lead issues and more children are being tested.

Ms. Kring stated that outcomes and measurements are important for grants.

Ms. Council asked Ms. Weston to distribute the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition survey results for comparison. Ms. Weston agreed to try to obtain the survey results. Ms. Council stated that she would also be interested in comparisons by zip codes to see if there were different results by zip code.

Ms. Council stated that she thought EPA would want to do follow-up to determine how the results of the survey relate to difficulties in gaining access to properties. Ms. Council stated that the fact that many people have been in their homes less than six months may be contributing to the problems in getting access. Ms. Watkins stated that most people who just moved into a home would be unaware if their property was sampled two years ago.

4. OHKA Update

Ms. Eastman stated that the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA) would be celebrating their one year anniversary with a fundraising event at Ted & Wally's ice cream parlor. Ms. Eastman stated that a dollar will be donated to OHKA for every healthy kids sundae sold.

Ms. Eastman stated that OHKA held a toy testing event and tested over 200 toys. Ms. Eastman stated that over 100 people attended the event. Ms. Eastman stated that the

Lead Safe Omaha Coalition will be hosting a similar event on August 18th, and OHKA will hold additional toy testing events in the coming months. Ms. Eastman stated that the community needs to push for legislation banning the importation of toys containing lead.

Ms. Eastman stated that an article on OHKA was featured in a South Omaha real estate magazine. Ms. Eastman stated that OHKA will continue to have bimonthly articles in the magazine.

Ms. Eastman stated that the first OHKA newsletter was distributed. Ms. Eastman asked that individuals wishing to be included on the mailing list let her know. Ms. Eastman also asked to be informed of any events or ideas to include in the newsletter. Ms. Eastman stated that the newsletters will go out on the first of every month.

Ms. Eastman reported that the Housing Committee met and discussed funding opportunities. Ms. Eastman stated that Ms. Marian Todd will be chairing the committee. Ms. Eastman asked for suggestions to improve participation on the committee.

5. Education Committee Update

Ms. Eastman provided an update on the Education Committee.

Ms. Eastman stated that she is on the Bright Futures early childhood committee and will insure that lead is included in the Bright Futures initiative. Ms. Eastman said there was a positive response to including lead.

Ms. Eastman stated that OHKA's television commercial is almost complete.

Ms. Eastman stated that the Education Committee is moving forward with setting up work groups.

Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA will distribute information at the Omaha Public Schools teachers fair next week as part of the school enrichment program. Ms. Thompson stated that over 4,000 teachers are expected to attend.

Ms. Lowndes reported that the UNL Extension is starting landscaping projects. Ms. Lowndes stated that a "Don't Spread Lead" video will be posted on the UNL Extension's website for home remodelers. Ms. Lowndes reported that Mr. Rick Reibstein will be returning to Omaha in October to meet with the CAG, provide real estate training, and speak to environmental law students.

Ms. Eastman stated that the committee is talking about creating podcasts or brochures to education home renovators and is soliciting donations from Lowe's and Home Depot.

6. LSOC Update

Ms. Weston thanked those individuals who attended the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition meeting. Ms. Weston thanked Prudent Technologies and ECC for sponsoring the refreshments and gas cards.

Ms. Gray-Ventry stated that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition is partnering with the Salvation Army to provide blood lead, toy, and jewelry testing.

Ms. Weston stated that Senators Clinton and Obama have submitted a lead safe bill to the Senate. Ms. Weston encouraged CAG members to send emails supporting the bill.

Ms. Weston complimented OHKA's newsletter and website.

7. City Update

No update.

8. NDEQ Update

No update.

9. Grants Update

Ms. Eastman stated that Senators Hagel and Nelson are assisting in supporting OHKA's grant application.

10. Other Agency Updates

Ms. Ward stated that Creighton University is involved in a lead study looking at the effects of lead and the association of lead with ADHD.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that Brush Up Nebraska and the Burlington Road Neighborhood Association are painting a veteran's home at 4524 South 34th Street and are looking for additional volunteers. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked interested individuals to come to the house at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan announced that a PM-10 monitor will remain in South Omaha for another year. Ms. Barrientos-Patlan stated that Dr. Pour sent a letter reporting that the PM-10 monitor filter in South Omaha tested negative for lead.

Ms. Weston stated that "environmental" has been added as another category to be addressed by the Empowerment Network.

11. Questions and Answers

Ms. Barrientos-Patlan asked why a staging area has been added in North Omaha, instead of just utilizing the Missouri River Waste Water Treatment Plant. Ms. Weston replied that all of ECC's properties are in North Omaha, so a staging area is needed in North Omaha. Ms. Weston stated that a staging area was previously located at 33rd and Pinkney Streets, but was moved to a new area, away from homes. Ms. Weston stated that the new staging area is near a school, but truck traffic will be reduced during hours when children are traveling to and from school.

Ms. Council asked the CAG to return to the motion to approve the minutes, now that a quorum was present. The original motion was passed, with Ms. Weston abstaining (9-0-1).

Ms. Coyne stated that the Omaha Zoo appears to be located within the expanded Superfund focus area. Ms. Coyne asked if the zoo is a potential exposure area. Ms. Kring stated that EPA would respond to the comment at the next CAG meeting.

Ms. Council stated that the next CAG meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2007. The location is to be announced.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (August 8, 2007):

Draft CAG Meeting Minutes from 7/11/07

Final CAG Meeting Minutes from 6/13/07

Letter to Rebecca Patlan Dated 08/01/07 (Provided by Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan)

OHKA Celebration Invitation (Provided by OHKA)

Grant Table for 2000-200 (Provided by Jonah Deppe)

Letter to Administrator Johnson dated July 9, 2007(Provided by MFG, Inc.)

City of Omaha Lead Hazard Control Grantee Quarterly Report (Provided by Marian Todd)

Legislative Victory for RI Lead Programs (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Release from Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

News Brief: New EPA Web Site Features Hazard PSAs for Radio (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Release from Senator Barack Obama (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

City Toughens Lead Rules (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Girls Take Charge in North Omaha (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Senator Clinton Introduces Legislation to Help Safeguard Children Against Lead Hazards in the Home (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Greater Cleveland Lowers Lead Poisoning Threshold (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Dangerous Lead Levels Found in Some Garden Hoses (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Milford Lawmakers Help Pass Lead Law (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Research Links Lead Exposure, Criminal Activity (Provided by Todd Davis)

Readers Offer Suggestions for Dealing with Lead Problem (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Children's Earrings Sold at Wal-Mart Stores in Florida Recalled by Uncas Manufacturing Co. Due to Lead Poisoning Hazard (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

RC2 Corp. Recalls Various Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway Toys Due to Lead Poisoning Hazard (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Lead Toxins Take a Global Round Trip (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Environmental Pollutants and Disease in American Children: Estimates of Morbidity, Mortality, and Costs for Lead Poisoning, Asthma, Cancer, and Developmental Disabilities (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Understanding International Crime Trends: The Legacy of Preschool Lead Exposure (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Analysis of Lead-Safe Weatherization Practices and the Presence of Lead in Weatherized Homes (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Federal Register 40 CFR Part 745 Lead: Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Education Committee Outreach and Education Plan Matrix

Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance Action Plan Matrix

Attachments to Minutes:

Sign-In Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)

EPA Update Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)