




consulting
scientists and
engineers

Prepared for the
Omaha Lead Site Community Advisory Group
Meeting on December 8, 2004

Highlights from the Western Regional Conference November 17 – 19, 2004 Berkeley, CA

Los Angeles County Childhood Lead Poisoning Elimination Plan:

- Discussed how Los Angeles' plan was constructed (see presentation in CAG package)
- Most ambitious strategic elimination plan, according to CDC
- Constructed by identifying partners, then dividing partners into committees: housing, health, environment, and other sources
- The lead program and city housing department meet once a month to coordinate
- Legal services and the city attorney's office are partners and assist with enforcement
- Addresses undocumented residents through education to encourage families to report landlord violations

Alameda County (San Francisco Bay Area):

- Lead program is funded by charging a \$10.00 fee for pre-1978 houses
- Coordination between the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Environmental Health Department, Building Department, and District Attorney
- Created a multi-faceted media campaign with one logo and poster child
- HUD Demonstration Project grant recipient
 - Focused on asthma, also includes addressing lead-based paint hazards

Suggestions for Increasing Public Participation:

- Warning indicators for lack of community involvement:
 - Community believes input does not influence outcome
 - Complaints
 - Poor attendance at public meetings
 - Lack of participation by a particular group
- Solutions to increase participation:
 - Increase community's understanding of technical decision-making procedures
 - Build a respectful relationship with individual residents
 - Recruit residents for outreach positions
 - Ask residents about their concerns
 - Acknowledge community ideas (give credit where it is deserved)

- Improving door knocking techniques:
 - Establish rapport—may take time, may require multiple visits
 - Have friendly conversation with the resident
 - Make return visits
 - Explain that you have funding for repairs, etc.
 - Nurses should wear a stethoscope
 - Be thankful

Lead-Based Paint Litigation:

- New Jersey:
 - Case dismissed by trial court
- Rhode Island:
 - Trial resulted in hung jury
 - Back to trial in April 2005
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin:
 - Suing using market share theory, which proposes that each company is responsible for their share of the market
 - Moving forward to trial court
- California cities and counties:
 - Suing using nuisance theory, which proposes that anyone who creates, assists, or maintains the nuisance is liable
 - Case was lost based on statute of limitations
 - Case is now being appealed

California State Law—SB460

- Previously, health and housing authorities could only investigate homes of children with elevated blood lead levels
- State and local health and housing agencies now have the authority to require deteriorating paint to be repaired in a safe manner, based on a visual inspection
- Officials may issue a cease and desist order
- Requires laboratories to report all blood lead test results
- Requires certification for lead hazard evaluation or abatement activities