

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

for the

Omaha Lead Site

Comprehensive Plan/Grants Committee
Minutes from February 13, 2006 Meeting
Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center

Tanya Cook (Governor's Omaha Advisory Council for Lead Safe Neighborhoods), Brenda Council (CAG Facilitator), Todd Davis (NDEQ), Connie Determan (MFG, Inc.), Jennifer Rawley (MFG, Inc.), Marian Todd (City of Omaha Planning Department), Vernon Waldren (Douglas/Sarpy County Extension) and Cheryl Weston (Lead Safe Omaha Coalition) were in attendance.

Ms. Todd began the meeting by describing the City Planning Department's "Private Sector Initiative." Ms. Todd stated that available funding include \$105,00 for private sources and \$87,000 from the HUD grant, which is budgeted for training of remodelers working in the private market and marketing of training. Ms. Todd asked for input from the committee in deciding how to target the funds.

Ms. Weston suggested using the funding to provide lead-based paint remediation in older homes with small children where the owner does not meet the income requirements for other funding. Ms. Weston also suggested providing training to homeowners who do not receive the information through the City's current program. Mr. Waldren stated that the Extension can provide homeowner training.

Ms. Council suggested offering a free risk assessment if a two-hour lead-safe work practices training is completed by a homeowner. Ms. Council also suggested marketing the training at neighborhood association meetings. Ms. Council added that there may be a possibility to leverage funds.

Ms. Todd stated that marketing training to contractors will be more difficult than marketing to homeowners. Ms. Weston stated that contractors are aware they need training because of job opportunities in New Orleans and other areas. Ms. Todd stated that the funding is to be used to target individuals performing remodeling/handwork. Ms. Todd stated that one-day remodeling training is being considered. Mr. Davis asked if a permit is required for such remodeling. Ms. Council replied that a City permit is required, but is not necessarily obtained.

Ms. Weston suggested offering a more extensive certification training and limiting the training to individuals living in the impacted area. Ms. Council suggested focusing the limited funding on those individuals who are most likely to be performing the work in an untrained and unsafe manner. Ms. Council also suggested that either the one-day or certification training should be offered, not both, to reduce confusion.

Ms. Cook stated that there may be a change in the state law requiring certification. Ms. Cook stated that it will not be known until April if there is a change in the law. Ms. Todd noted that the EPA has a proposed rule regarding lead safe training for remodelers now open for comment and it would make sense for any changes in state law to consider that proposed new rule.

The Committee then discussed developing a matrix of housing needs, similar to the matrix created by the Education Committee outlining educational needs. Ms. Determan suggested reviewing the summaries of comprehensive plans provided to the Committee. Ms. Weston stated that the Committee would review the comprehensive plans and provide suggestions for a housing matrix at the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Todd stated that housing needs have not been thoroughly assessed. Ms. Todd stated that a scientific study is needed to determine what the needs are and how much funding will be required to address those needs. Ms. Weston expressed disapproval of performing a study. Ms. Todd added that such information would be useful in soliciting private donations for lead-based paint hazard control.

Next, the Committee discussed providing a letter of support to the Douglas County Health Department. Ms. Council stated that the Douglas County Health Department requested that the CAG provide a letter of support for a CDC grant the Douglas County Health Department is applying for. The Committee agreed to provide a draft letter to the CAG for a vote at the CAG meeting.

Ms. Todd stated that she would compile some scenarios for use of the funding based on the above comments of the Committee.

The Committee also discussed grants. Ms. Council stated that participation on the Grants Committee is needed. Ms. Weston suggested that grant writing experience be a preferred qualification of the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance executive director. The Committee agreed to invite Ms. Gail Braun and a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development representative to the next Committee meeting to discuss applying for upcoming grants.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Center, located at 3040 Lake Street.