

# **Community Advisory Group (CAG)**

## **for the**

# **Omaha Lead Site**

**Comprehensive Plan Committee**  
**Minutes from May 9, 2006 Meeting**  
**Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center**

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Tanya Cook (Governor's Omaha Advisory Council for Lead Safe Neighborhoods), Lelia Coyne (citizen), Ken McMorris (Urban League of Nebraska), Stacy Meacham (MFG, Inc.), Reid Steinkraus (Douglas County Health Department), Marian Todd (City of Omaha Planning Department), and Vernon Waldren (Douglas/Sarpy County Extension) were in attendance.

The Committee discussed the comprehensive plan matrix.

Under the strategy on the matrix titled *Identify Extent of Lead Sources*, Ms. Coyne suggested including an additional item in the Proposed Services column involving creation of a consumer product testing station. The purpose would be to create a location with testing capabilities (i.e., equipped with an XRF) where residents can take their consumer items in to be tested for lead content (pottery, dishes, jewelry, etc.).

Under the strategy on the matrix titled *Reduce or Eliminate Lead Exposure*, under the objective to reduce exposure to lead in dust, Ms. Todd noted that information presented by Bill Menrath of the University of Cincinnati from a study completed in Toronto, Canada (where an active smelter is present) indicated that dust in furnace ducts was not a significant source of lead exposure. As such, it was recommended that the implementation step of cleaning furnace ducts be removed from the matrix so that focus could be kept on more significant sources.

Ms. Coyne noted that more information was needed on HEPA vacuums for individuals wishing to purchase their own vacuums (versus borrowing from a HEPA vacuum loan program). Ms. Todd noted that, based on information presented by Dr. Bornschein of the University of Cincinnati, carpet replacement is another option to vacuuming as it is difficult with vacuuming, even with a HEPA vacuum, to get out all of the lead in the carpet. It was suggested that the education committee consider creating a flyer or fact sheet regarding HEPA vacuum selection for those wishing to purchase a vacuum (similar to a consumer reports product review) and include notation in the flyer/fact sheet of the benefits of carpet replacement.

Under the strategy on the matrix titled *Reduce or Eliminate Lead Exposure*, under the objective to reduce exposure to lead in water, Ms. Coyne noted that chemicals used for water treatment and fluoridation should be considered. In particular, she noted chemicals

used in the treatment process that have been reported to release lead in pipes and silica fluorides used in fluoridation that have been reported to increase the absorption of lead.

Under the strategy on the matrix titled *Regulatory Actions*, Ms. Cook questioned the status of previously discussed ordinances for reducing lead exposures. Mr. Steinkraus noted that he had drafted an ordinance that was approved by the County Board of Health and it was submitted to the Mayor's office. He agreed to check with the Mayor's office regarding the status.