

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

for the

Omaha Lead Site

Comprehensive Approach Subcommittee
Summary Notes from June 3, 2004 Meeting
Omaha Small Business Network

Cheryl Weston, Vernon Waldren, Tanya Cook, Marian Todd, Nancy Gaarder, Jennifer Rawley, Stacy Meacham, Janet Bonet, Brenda Council, Shireen Rajaram, Dr. Donna Polk-Primm, Sonny Foster, and Rebbecca Valdez met to discuss what elements should be included in a comprehensive plan for the Omaha Lead Site. MFG, Inc. and Ms. Bonet provided outlines of comprehensive plans.

The Subcommittee began by identifying current lead risk reduction programs (currently functioning programs aimed at prevention, intervention, or remediation) in Omaha, including:

- Lead Safe Omaha Coalition (LSOC)
- Douglas County Health Department
- Douglas/Sarpy County Extension
- City of Omaha Lead Hazard Control Program
- University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)
- Charles Drew Health Center
- One World
- Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition
- Fred Leroy Health and Wellness Center
- North and South Omaha Community Care Councils
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Nebraska Health and Human Services (NHHS) (outside of the Omaha area)
- Hope Medical Outreach
- Metro Omaha Medical Society (MOMS)

The Subcommittee then identified current response actions provided by the above listed agencies/organizations, including:

Lead Screening (Douglas County Health Department, UNMC, community health centers, LSOC, Pediatricians, and community care councils)

Education

Education and Outreach (LSOC, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension, Douglas County Health Department, Creighton Women’s Health Center, Hope Medical Outreach [need to confirm] and Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition)

Policy Advocacy League of Women Voters, MOMS, LSOC, Sierra Club, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Springlake Neighborhood Association, South Omaha Neighborhood Association, and Izaak Walton League

Training *Certified by the State:* Educational Institute, Mayhew Environmental Training Associates, Inc., and Safety Support

HUD Approved: Douglas/Sarpy County Extension and Douglas County Health Department

Homeowner Training: LSOC, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension

Blood Lead Monitoring MOMS (need to confirm), Douglas County Health Department, NHHS, and LSOC

Case Management Douglas County Health Department (possibly Community Health Centers)

Environmental Testing (Physical structure or soil/water) Douglas County Health Department, Omaha Housing Authority, EPA, the City of Omaha, LSOC, MUD (water testing when requested)

HEPA Vacuum Loan Program LSOC

Remediation The City of Omaha, EPA, Omaha Housing Authority, LSOC, Landlord Association (need to confirm)

Clinical (Chelation) Health clinics

Research

UNMC, Douglas County Health Department, University of Nebraska—Omaha, MOMS (need to confirm)

Ms. Cook stated that the Governor’s Omaha Advisory Council for Lead Safe Neighborhoods had created a grid with similar information about current lead programs and response actions, which she will provide to the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee then discussed the purpose and scope of the comprehensive plan. The Subcommittee agreed that the purpose of the comprehensive plan is to reduce lead exposure to children and pregnant/nursing women from multiple potential sources, thereby reducing blood lead levels within Omaha.

The Subcommittee also discussed program structure. Ms. Weston discussed the need for an Executive Director or Program Coordinator to coordinate and direct services. Mr. Foster stressed the need to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and that someone can be held accountable for actions. Ms. Council explained that in Leadville, CO, a work group was formed that included governmental and non-governmental representatives. It was also explained that the purpose of making the comprehensive program a 501(c)(3) entity would be to provide partners with an opportunity for a tax break.

Other possible ideas for the comprehensive plan mentioned at the meeting included:

- Requiring children to be screened before entering Kindergarten;
- Reaching pregnant women at OB/GYN clinics and screening children at birth
- Requiring certification for home remodeling (perhaps 8-hour HUD training); and
- Focusing coordination on grassroots, community-based organization

The Subcommittee asked MFG to begin drafting a comprehensive plan based on the outlines provided by MFG and Ms. Bonet, with the understanding that the plan needs to state that the education and awareness programs will be culturally and linguistically appropriate. The Subcommittee also requested that a full range of potential sources of lead exposure be included in the comprehensive plan. The Subcommittee requested for the original outlines to be attached to the draft comprehensive plan.

Ms. Todd presented an outline of the City’s grant proposal and asked for letters of support. Ms. Council stated that the CAG would write a letter of support.