

# **Community Advisory Group (CAG)**

## **for the**

# **Omaha Lead Site**

**Comprehensive Plan Committee**  
**Minutes from June 12, 2006 Meeting**  
**Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center**

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Lelia Coyne (citizen), Stacy Meacham (MFG, Inc.), Reid Steinkraus (Douglas County Health Department), Marian Todd (City of Omaha Planning Department), and Cheryl Weston (Lead Safe Omaha Coalition) were in attendance.

The committee discussed the comprehensive plan matrix and the need to develop cost estimates for the various strategies and objectives included on the matrix before submitting the matrix to the CAG and, ultimately, to OHKA. The committee concurred that to realistically implement all strategies, much of the cost burden would need to be put on property owners. The committee decided to focus on specific activities included on the matrix.

### **Regulatory Actions (Ordinances and Regulations)**

The committee discussed the status of the lead ordinance passed by the Douglas County Board of Health and submitted to the Mayor's office for approval. Mr. Steinkraus reported that in talking with Mr. Joe Gudenrath of the Mayor's office, it did not appear that anything had been done with the ordinance. Mr. Steinkraus noted that, in response to a letter submitted to the City by Ms. Jonah Deppe regarding city ordinances for lead, Mr. James Thiele of the City Planning Department had been inquiring about ordinances and city codes in other communities.

The committee also discussed state regulations related to the banning of lead in jewelry and other consumer products. Mr. Steinkraus mentioned a recent regulation in Illinois regarding jewelry. Ms. Weston noted on the need to get the support of our state senators in bringing forward lead regulations.

### **Lead-Safe Registries**

Ms. Todd discussed the use of registries to further property owner involvement. She described two different registries: (1) a registry of lead-safe properties and (2) a registry of lead-safe trained remodelers/contractors. She noted that by state law, NHHS maintains a list of certified lead abaters. The registry envisioned would not track certified abaters but would instead list remodelers/contractors that have completed specific training. Ms. Todd noted that the ultimate goal of the registry would be to create competition between property owners to get on the list and be recognized as lead-safe.

Ms. Todd said that the education committee was working on a proposal for a Massachusetts' attorney who has worked with private sector groups to come to Omaha and conduct a train-the-trainer type session for remodelers and the real estate community. She noted that she would also like him to discuss registries and his knowledge of what other communities are doing and what it would take to get a lead-safe registry in place.

### **Homeowner Testing/Sampling**

The committee discussed trying to involve MUD in additional water sampling beyond what is currently being conducted. Ms. Weston noted the need to also continue identifying grants and other funding sources that can be used to assist homeowners if problems are identified. The committee also discussed the possibility of involving an active neighborhood association to encourage use of the EPA-approved test kits for in-home sampling.

### **Action Items:**

1. Ms. Meacham will arrange a meeting with representatives from the CAG Comprehensive Plan Committee, OHKA, and the City to discuss city codes and further pursue the ordinance approved by the Douglas County Board of Health.
2. Mr. Steinkraus will obtain a copy of the Illinois regulation for the committee to explore the mechanisms used by Illinois to get the regulation in place and implemented.
3. Ms. Coyne will look on LeadNet for updates on the EPA renovation rule and to determine costs for test kits and analysis.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday July 10, 2006 at 10:30 at the Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center.