

# **Community Advisory Group (CAG)**

## **for the**

# **Omaha Lead Site**

**Comprehensive Plan Committee**  
**Minutes from August 7, 2006 Meeting**  
**Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center**

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Todd Davis (Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality), Kara Eastman (Director, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance), Stacy Meacham (MFG, Inc.), and Cheryl Weston (Lead Safe Omaha Coalition) were in attendance.

### **Illinois Regulation**

Committee members had not yet reviewed the regulation and agreed to be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

### **Additional Input to the Comprehensive Plan Matrix**

#### **1. Lead Risk Assessments and Housing Condition Survey**

Ms. Todd provided the following information in an email communication:

*The Comp Plan committee asked me to investigate the cost of 1) providing a risk assessment to all pre-1978 housing in Douglas County and 2) conducting a housing condition survey.*

*1) A private company provided a rough estimate of \$300 per house for a risk assessment using dust wipe samples. (Inspections with an XRF machine would require more time per house and be more costly.) The approximate number of pre-1978 housing units in Douglas County based on the 2000 census is 122,000. At \$300 per unit, risk assessments for every housing unit would cost approximately \$36,600,000.*

*Comment: this is obviously not a feasible activity to propose. To promote lead paint testing in homes, I suggest it would be better to explore the strategy of providing self-test kits along with information about professional risk assessors to property owners.*

*2) The housing condition survey conducted by the city Housing and Community Development Division was too long ago to provide any cost information.*

*I spoke with Russ Smith of UNO who is working with the Neighborhood Scan program. Working with neighborhood volunteers, that program has surveyed 6,000 homes to date. They have not costed out the neighborhood scan activity to have per unit or per area cost figures available though Russ said he could probably do that.*

*Russ suggested as a first step, a review of the information from neighborhoods where scans are already done. Given the size of the OLS, he said it might be good to prioritize key neighborhoods for additional scans. He would be happy to present the neighborhood scan results if desired.*

In regards to item 1 from Ms. Todd's email, the committee discussed the suggestion of providing self-test kits to property owners. Questions were asked regarding the number and types of sampling included in each kit and the number of test kits that would be needed to fully sample a property. Possible limitations in analytical testing capacity were also discussed (for example, if thousands of test kits were distributed to area homeowners, would the testing laboratory be able to handle this many analyses).

The committee also discussed the possibility of using high school or college students through a grant to use the test kits versus relying on homeowners to complete the sampling and submit the kits for analysis.

In regards to item 2 from Ms. Todd's email, the committee agreed to invite Dr. Smith to the next committee meeting to provide a short summary of the program and to discuss how results from the scan will be used. The committee also agreed that having information on costs per property would be helpful for future planning and budgeting (or, if only costs per area are available then to have information on the number of homes included in each area).

## 2. Pipe Replacements

Ms. Meacham reported that, according to Mr. Joel Christiansen with MUD, there are approximately 12,000 properties within Omaha that have lead pipes. Based on estimates gathered from area plumbers, the average cost to replace the lead pipes is approximately \$2,000 per home.

### **Action Items:**

1. Committee members that had agreed to research costs for matrix items during the July committee meeting are asked to provide updates at the next meeting.
2. The committee was tasked with reviewing the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Act and identifying elements from the Act that the City of Omaha could/should adopt. The committee was asked to email Ms. Meacham/Ms. Rawley any recommendations the committee would like to submit to the CAG.

3. The committee requested that Dr. Smith from UNO be invited to the next committee meeting for a 15-minute presentation on the Neighborhood Scan program.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. at the Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center.