

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

for the

Omaha Lead Site

Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee
Summary Notes from September 2, 2004 Meeting
Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office

Brenda Council (CAG Facilitator), Jonah Deppe (League of Women Voters), Connie Determan (MFG, Inc.), Bob Feild (EPA), Dr. Adi Pour (Douglas County Health Department), Jennifer Rawley (MFG, Inc.), Steve Sanders (EPA), Reid Steinkraus (Douglas County Health Department), Joyce Stevens (City of Omaha), Marian Todd (City of Omaha), and Vernon Waldren (Douglas/Sarpy Extension) were in attendance.

There were no new reports on State level coordination.

Vernon Waldren reviewed the draft components of the education plan he had prepared for the Education Committee and indicated that some budgeting/funding was available under activities presently being provided by DCHD and the Extension Services.

Dr. Pour suggested including methods for educating illiterate persons. Ms. Deppe also suggested including language regarding low level reading levels. The Subcommittee agreed to read the education plan and provide any comments to Mr. Waldren by September 6.

Dr. Pour reported on regulations pertaining to the Douglas County Health Department. Copies of current Douglas County Health Department regulations were provided. Dr. Pour stated that the regulations are outdated and probably not enforceable. Dr. Pour stated that the CAG could consider recommending to the Board of Health that new regulations be developed. Ms. Stevens expressed concern for families that could not afford repairs if such regulations were enforced.

Ms. Todd reported on the city maintenance code pertaining to deteriorating paint. Ms. Todd stated that the City adopted a new property maintenance code in 2003. The Ordinance consists of the 2000 International Property Maintenance Code with the first section re-written by the City. In Section 2 of the ordinance, there is a reference to peeling, flaking, or chipping paint. Additional discussion occurred regarding the fact that the International Code adopted by the City did not include a section that had been proposed but rejected for the 2000 International Code regarding lead-based paint hazards, including a requirement informing owners of lead-based paint issues when they applied for permits. A concern was raised that many homeowners do not apply for permits. There was discussion regarding Section 8 owners not being held accountable for safe housing as required.

Ms. Deppe provided copies of the chart she had prepared in response to the request for definitions of services and identification of entities now providing those services. She will insert the possible

providers previously reviewed by the Subcommittee and identify additional entities providing services.

Ms Council suggested that the Subcommittee might want to move forward with identifying additional potential funding partners.

Subcommittee members agreed to discuss the comprehensive plan draft at the next meeting. Dr. Pour recommended meeting prior to the next CAG meeting and the end of EPA's Proposed Plan Comment Period. The Subcommittee agreed to hold the next meeting on Friday, September 10, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Douglas County Health Department (1819 Farnam Street, 4th Floor).