

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

for the

Omaha Lead Site

Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee
Summary Notes from October 6, 2005 Meeting
Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center

Brenda Council (CAG Facilitator), Todd Davis (Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality), Jonah Deppe (League of Women Voters), Connie Determan (MFG, Inc.), Mary Hill (Sisters Together), Jennifer Rawley (MFG, Inc.), Che Thompson (Lead Safe Omaha Coalition), and Marian Todd (City of Omaha Planning Department) were in attendance.

Ms. Determan provided an update on the City's \$500,000 congressional appropriation. Ms. Determan stated that the appropriation was a line item under the Department of the Interior and EPA. Ms. Determan stated that she and Ms. Council would be meeting with Mr. James Thele of the City of Omaha Planning Department to discuss possible CAG involvement with the model study to be funded with the \$500,000.

Ms. Determan asked Mr. Davis why contractors performing soil removals for EPA went through a permit process to set up staging areas, when permits are not required under Superfund. Mr. Davis stated that the contractors were not going through the entire permitting process and were just trying to be good neighbors.

The Subcommittee discussed recently requested changes to the City code. Ms. Council stated that the City was unclear what the CAG was requesting. Ms. Deppe stated that the Subcommittee wanted to insert text into the code about lead-based paint. Ms. Council stated that the Subcommittee had previously discussed adding language indicating that lead-based paint is a serious health threat. The Subcommittee agreed to draft a letter clarifying that the CAG is requesting that language be added to the code stating that lead-based paint is a serious health threat. The Subcommittee agreed to email a draft letter to the full CAG for an electronic vote.

Ms. Thompson asked what the consequences of code violation would be with the new language added to the code. Ms. Council stated that violations would be handled as they are now. Ms. Council stated that inspections are complaint-driven.

Ms. Council stated that under the recently announced 501(c)(3) organization, the Subcommittee would have tremendous responsibility. Ms. Council stated that the Subcommittee will become a standing committee and will be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. Ms. Council stated that the Board of Directors will be primarily composed of CAG members and that the 501(c)(3) will not reinvent any work that has been done to date.

Ms. Council stated that the comprehensive program would have to be limited to the Omaha Lead Superfund Site, but the education component of the program could be countywide. Ms. Deppe stated that the education component should only be citywide because the program is coming out of the Mayor’s office. Ms. Council stated that the 501(c)(3) is a separate entity and suggested that the program should be as broad as possible.

The Subcommittee agreed to draft a letter, to be voted on by the CAG via email, with recommended individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. Subcommittee members suggested the following individuals:

Congressional Delegation Members	Congressional staff persons who have been attending CAG meeting
Medical Community Member	Representative from a larger health institution—Dr. John Walburn, UNMC or Dr. Ruben Pamies, UNMC or Dr. Philipi, MOMS or Sister Norita Cooney, Alegent
Business Community Member	Lozier or Target or Home Depot or Lowe’s or Gallup
Philanthropic Community Member	Lyn Ziegenbein, Peter Kiewit Foundation or Sister Norita Cooney, Alegent
North Omaha Community-Based Organization Member	Lead Safe Omaha Coalition, NAACP, Urban League of Nebraska, Sisters Together, Charles Drew Health Center
South Omaha Community-Based Organization Member	Chicano Awareness Center or Juan Diego Center or Latina Peace Officers Association or OneWorld Community Health Centers
Citizen at Large (Resident of the Omaha Lead Site)	Cammy Watkins
Citizen at Large (Parent of young child residing in the Omaha Lead Site)	Janet Bohm or Mary Butler or Lisa Giambattista

Ms. Council agreed to contact Ms. Terri Jackson-Miller and Ms. Rebecca Valdez to obtain additional recommendations for Board members.

Ms. Deppe stated that a draft matrix listing components of a comprehensive program has been created and would be distributed for discussion at the next Subcommittee meeting.

The next Subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Family Resource Center, located at 3040 Lake Street.