

## **Community Advisory Group (CAG)** **for the** **Omaha Lead Site**

**Education Subcommittee**  
**Summary Notes from February 15, 2005 Meeting**  
**Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office**

The following people were in attendance at the Education Subcommittee meeting:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Sue Casteel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Siobhan Champ-Blackwell	Creighton University
Brenda Council	OLSCAG Facilitator
Todd Davis	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Jonah Deppe	OneWorld; Citizen at Large
Felisa Dillon	ASW Associates, Inc.
Bob Feild	EPA
Laurie Foral	Douglas County Health Department (DCHD)
Mary Hill	Sisters Together
Kathy Leinenkugel	DCHD
Stacy Meacham	MFG, Inc.
Dr. Donna Polk-Primm	Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition
Jennifer Rawley	MFG, Inc.
Katy Spellerberg	MFG, Inc.
Joyce Stevens	City of Omaha
Che Thompson	Lead Safe Omaha Coalition (LSOC)
Rebecca Valdez	Chicano Awareness Center
Vernon Waldren	Douglas/Sarpy County Extension
Cammy Watkins	Sierra Club
Rachel Wright	Douglas/Sarpy County Extension

Mr. Waldren began the meeting by explaining that the focus of the Education Subcommittee is to provide lead education for the community of Omaha and that in order for this to be accomplished, the subcommittee needs input from every interested party. He explained that a matrix outlining the lead education and community outreach program is available. Mr. Waldren stated that the subcommittee will eventually break into smaller work groups to further plan and develop the program.

Mr. Waldren then reviewed the Action Items from the January 18, 2005 Education Subcommittee meeting. The following is a list of Action Items from the January meeting with discussion from the current meeting written in bold type:

- a) MFG will contact Dr. Polk-Primm and ask her if she would like to lead the effort to develop kiosks for the OLS.  
**Dr. Polk-Primm agreed to lead this effort.**
- b) MFG will develop a matrix of agencies that provide lead education materials.  
**Ms. Spellerberg requested that all local agencies provide input regarding what lead education materials they offer. All meeting attendees were asked to review the matrix and submit their comments to Ms. Spellerberg (email: [Katy.Spellerberg@mfgenv.com](mailto:Katy.Spellerberg@mfgenv.com)).**
- c) MFG will include Ms. Peters and Ms. Outin on the agenda for the CAG meeting on February 9, 2005.  
**Ms. Peters and Ms. Outin will present to the CAG at the March 9, 2005 CAG meeting. All Education Subcommittee members are asked to attend the CAG meeting.**
- d) Ms. Casteel will send a copy of the State of Missouri lead education curriculum to MFG so copies can be made for the Education Subcommittee.  
**The lead education curriculum was distributed as part of the meeting materials.**
- e) Ms. Deppe will provide an update on the cost estimate for using vacant homes to conduct lead-safe restoration and cleaning presentations at the next Education Subcommittee meeting.  
**Ms. Deppe described a model of a lead-safe house that was developed by Mr. Dennis Livingston in Kansas City. Ms. Deppe explained that the materials that would be needed to create a model for the CAG would include mops, buckets, and a variety of other props to show how to identify areas within a residence that may contain lead, and how to properly clean a residence to reduce lead contamination. Ms. Council volunteered the use of one of her vacant rental properties for approximately three months to serve as a location for a lead-safe restoration and cleaning presentation. Ms. Council said the Land Reutilization Commission also oversees vacant properties in which the government holds the title of ownership. The OLS CAG may be able to acquire a vacant property for a nominal fee. Mr. Waldren added that Douglas/Sarpy County extension also wanted to acquire a property with grant funds that are used for landscaping training. It was noted by subcommittee members that the lead-safe restoration and cleaning presentation could be combined with the landscaping training and could be demonstrated at one property. Ms. Council suggested contacting Tom McNally, who represents the Landlords' Association, to obtain information on available properties.**

**Ms. Hill suggested obtaining input from the public regarding the lead-safe restoration and cleaning presentation. She also expressed concern that community members may not be able to attend OLS CAG meetings held during the day. Various subcommittee members stated that previous evening CAG meetings were not well attended. Mr. Waldren suggested the Education Subcommittee have a town hall meeting at Sisters Together. Ms. Hill said the meeting could be held during the Sisters Together meeting in May (May 12, 2005). The meeting will be held at 6:00 pm at the Urban League Family Resource Center located at 3040 Lake Street.**

**The group agreed that conducting town hall meetings for community groups, neighborhood associations, and other groups would be an effective way of gaining public input regarding the Omaha Lead Site. Mr. Waldren asked the subcommittee members to notify him of any groups that could be targeted for town hall meetings.**

- f) Ms. Foral will contact the March of Dimes (MOD) and invite a representative to the next Education Subcommittee meeting.  
**Ms. Foral was unable to contact the MOD and will do so for the next Education Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Foral also announced that DCHD received an EPA grant to**

**conduct an outreach program regarding lead education. Outreach workers are needed to conduct this program. Training of the outreach workers will occur during the last two weeks of April, and outreach will occur during May and June, 2005. Ms. Floral asked people to contact her if they know of any person interested in being hired as a temporary outreach worker.**

- g) MFG will distribute Masimax fliers to the CAG.  
Fliers were distributed.**
- h) Mr. Waldren will contact Bob Feild from EPA to discuss prevention of damage to vegetation during yard excavation.  
Mr. Feild stated that it is uncertain who would take the lead in overseeing soil remediation, as this is currently being discussed with the Potentially Responsible Parties. Mr. Feild asked to be made aware of damaged vegetation occurring within the OLS. He added that, assuming EPA is the lead for overseeing soil remediation, conditions that would protect vegetation could be added to the contracts with excavation companies.**

**Ms. Council asked Mr. Feild what would happen to landscaping that was located in a quadrant to be excavated. Mr. Feild explained that mature trees do not like the oxygen horizon to be disturbed so contractors could remove soil around roots by hand and also keep machines off roots. He added that preservation of certain types of landscaping is difficult, but EPA would try to preserve landscaping. Ms. Leinenkugel asked if an agreement regarding landscaping preservation between the contractor and landowner was not made, would landscaping within a quadrant be excavated. Mr. Feild responded that if a contractor is not made aware of landscaping concerns in a particular yard, and the contract for that property does not include landscaping preservation, then the contractor would not preserve the landscaping. Mr. Feild added that homeowners could remove certain landscaping prior to excavation and then replant it later.**

- i) Douglas/Sarpy County Extension will submit the Targeted Grant application to EPA by January 31, 2005.  
Douglas/Sarpy County Extension submitted the Targeted Grant application to EPA on behalf of the OLS CAG.**

**Ms. Valdez reminded the Education Subcommittee of the upcoming Hispanic Stakeholders Forum and Training Sessions to be held by EPA in Kansas City between February 28-March 1, 2005. A discussion began regarding the importance of having elected officials promote grant applications from the CAG. Ms. Council said she would be meeting with Representative Lee Terry and will discuss grant applications from the CAG. Ms. Council said collaborating with elected officials may be included in the Advocacy portion of the CAG's Comprehensive Plan and she will inquire into this. An update regarding Ms. Council's meeting with Representative Terry and the role of collaborating with elected officials will be provided to the Education Subcommittee.**

**Mr. Feild added that health education is a part of EPA's remedial action and is something that EPA intends to happen. EPA can not fund a CAG Subcommittee but could fund a 501(c) (3) organization that would form and oversee health activities.**

- j) MFG will contact Ms. Gail Braun with the City of Omaha regarding grant coordination for the CAG.  
MFG will meet with Ms. Braun on Friday, February 18, 2005 to discuss grant coordination and will update the Education Subcommittee at the next meeting. Ms. Champ-Blackwell said she puts out a daily web log that includes grant information. She will email that to Ms. Spellerberg, who will then forward this information to the Education Subcommittee.**

- k) Ms. Leinenkugel will identify a contact from UNO regarding grant opportunities and submit this information to MFG, who will then contact UNO.  
**MFG contacted UNO's Office of Sponsored Programs and Research and was told the group only assisted people associated with UNO. Education Subcommittee members discussed having other contact within UNO. Ms. Council agreed to contact Nancy Bilk from UNO.**
- l) Education Subcommittee members should submit information about public events for the CAG to attend to Vernon Waldren (email: [ywaldren@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:ywaldren@unlnotes.unl.edu) phone: 444-7804) or Katy Spellerberg (email: [Katy.Spellerberg@mfgenv.com](mailto:Katy.Spellerberg@mfgenv.com) phone: 933-1345). MFG will develop a CAG public events calendar for 2005.  
**MFG received notice of various public events and developed a CAG public events calendar for 2005, which was handed out at the meeting.**
- m) Ms. Council will contact Alegent Health regarding grants and will extend invitations to CAG meetings to Alegent Health grantees.  
**Ms. Council is continuing to contact Alegent Health grantees. She will meet with some of the grantees on Monday, February 21, 2005. An update will be provided to the Education Subcommittee.**

Mr. Waldren then raised the topic of the Draft Briefing Packet. Ms. Council acknowledged that several CAG members had issues with the briefing packet. Ms. Council addressed Mr. Reid Steinkraus' comment that data for Omaha were incorrect on the blood lead map in the briefing packet. Ms. Meacham explained the data were different than what DCHD provides because the data on the blood lead map was for the City of Omaha rather than Douglas County. Ms. Meacham said data from DCHD for Bennington, Elkhorn, Valley, Leshara, and Waterloo were not included in the blood lead data for the City of Omaha because they fall outside the City of Omaha's boundaries. Ms. Council said the OLS CAG Comprehensive Plan would be added to the briefing packet. Ms. Council then asked for additional comments on the briefing packet.

Mr. Feild expressed concerns that the briefing packet did not convey an unbiased presentation of the facts because it contained MFG and UPRR's comments, but not all of the other agencies/groups' comments. He asked if the purpose of the package was to provide a history of the CAG and the controversy and potential litigation issues associated with it (citing this was done so by providing the map of the PRPs) or if the package was intended to educate the public on the OLS. Ms. Council said she did not disagree with Mr. Feild and said the Education Subcommittee should find a way to include all public comments and direct recipients of the briefing packet to the public comments. She also stated that EPA's Proposed Plan, the CAG's Comprehensive Plan, the Interim ROD, and the Responsiveness Summary should remain in the briefing packet.

Additional suggestions and comments regarding the briefing packet included the following:

- Ms. Watkins suggested including summaries or abstracts for each of the documents in the briefing packet and adding EPA Fact Sheets regarding the OLS to the briefing packet.
- Ms. Leinenkugel suggested adding an acronym page to the briefing packet.
- Ms. Council suggested adding a glossary to the briefing packet.
- Mr. Davis agreed that EPA Fact Sheets should be added to the briefing packet, and the briefing packet should be approximately 30 pages in length.

It was agreed that MFG would develop a second draft of the briefing packet that addresses concerns of the CAG and would resubmit the briefing packet to the Education Subcommittee.

The following list of Action Items resulted from the meeting:

- 1) Mr. Waldren will contact the Land Reutilization Commission regarding vacant structures that could be acquired by the OLS CAG.
- 2) Mr. Waldren will contact Tom McNally of the Landlords' Association to obtain information on available properties that could be acquired by the OLS CAG.
- 3) A Town Hall meeting of the Education Subcommittee will be held at the Sisters Together meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2005 at 6:00 pm.
- 4) Ms. Foral will contact the March of Dimes to invite them to the next Education Subcommittee meeting.
- 5) Ms. Council will update the Education Subcommittee on her meeting with Representative Lee Terry.
- 6) MFG will update the Education Subcommittee on the meeting with Gail Braun from the City of Omaha.
- 7) Ms. Council will contact Nancy Bilk from UNO regarding grant opportunities.
- 8) Ms. Spellerberg will forward Ms. Champ-Blackwell's web log to the Education Subcommittee.
- 9) Education Subcommittee members who have contact information for a UNO staff member working with grants will provide the information at the next Education Subcommittee meeting.
- 10) Ms. Council will update the Education Subcommittee on her meeting with Alegent Health grantees.
- 11) MFG will develop a second draft briefing packet that addresses concerns of the CAG and will resubmit the briefing packet to the Education Subcommittee.

The next Education Subcommittee meeting will be held on March 15, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the Urban League Family Resources Center located at 3040 Lake Street.