

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

**Education Subcommittee**  
**Summary Notes from April 7, 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)
Jonah Deppe	League of Women Voters
Patty Falcone	Douglas County Health Department (DCHD)
Bob Feild	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Nick Flattery	OneWorld Community Health Center
Kathy Leinenkugel	DCHD
Patrice Pittman	Urban League of Nebraska
Jennifer Rawley	MFG, Inc.
Steve Sanders	EPA
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

The meeting began with Mr. Feild distributing Omaha Lead Site (OLS) maps and providing an update on EPA activities. Ms. Valdez requested that EPA develop a map identifying areas where access requests were denied. Mr. Feild agreed to have the map developed. He explained that many of the reasons cited by property owners for denying access to their properties include: the household is occupied by elderly residents without children; the residents do not want their property disturbed; and the residents fear the government. Mr. Waldren asked subcommittee members to assist EPA in gaining access to properties where access was previously denied. Ms. Valdez, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Flattery, Ms. Pittman, and Ms. Stevens agreed to assist EPA in this effort.

Ms. Valdez commented that more detailed maps were needed specifying properties within the OLS Focus Area as single or multiple units, and owner or renter occupied. Mr. Feild had to leave the meeting early, so Mr. Waldren said he would request additional maps from EPA.

Ms. Falcone gave an update on DCHD's lead outreach project. Ms. Falcone stated that DCHD interviewed potential workers, and hiring for the eight-week temporary positions would begin on

April 8, 2005. Ms. Falcone said out of the workers that will be hired, 2 were Native American, 2 were Asian, 14 were African American, and 9 or 10 were Hispanic. In total, the workers speak four foreign languages, including Spanish, Somali Bantu, Newar, and Arabic. Ms. Falcone asked the subcommittee to notify her of community events in which the workers could attend. Mr. Waldren reiterated the importance of finding additional outreach activities for the workers to attend. He said that grant applications could be written to include costs to keep the outreach workers employed longer than just the eight-week DCHD outreach program. Mr. Waldren added that with respect to grants, the CAG and Education Subcommittee could not require individuals to notify the CAG if applying for a grant, but as a courtesy, it would be nice for people on the CAG and Education Subcommittee to notify one another of grants for which they are applying, so groups can collaborate instead of compete.

Ms. Casteel reminded the subcommittee that the majority of the OLS contains Caucasian, English-speaking people, expressing concern that the Caucasian population is not being addressed by outreach workers. Ms. Falcone added that more efforts are also needed to contact the Asian community within the OLS. Mr. Waldren suggested working with neighborhood associations to get lead information into the community. Ms. Falcone said she contacted Ron Abdouch, the new neighborhood director for the City of Omaha. Ms. Falcone stated that lead information will be discussed at a South Omaha Neighborhood Association meeting and a North Omaha Neighborhood Association meeting. Ms. Stevens said she could provide Ms. Falcone with a list of all neighborhood associations within the OLS.

Mr. Waldren showed the subcommittee a lead educational CD-ROM developed by Douglas/Sarpy County Extension office. He said the Extension office developed 1,000 CD-ROMs and is looking for money to make additional CD-ROMs and to develop a Spanish version of the CD-ROM. Mr. Waldren explained that Alegent Health has agreed to distribute a CD-ROM to parents of newborns in hospitals within Omaha. The Extension office will meet with Methodist Health System to request that they do the same. As incentive for parents to view the CD-ROM, a survey is attached to the CD-ROM and monthly drawings for food gift certificates will be held for those who complete and return the survey to the Extension office. Mr. Waldren added that the Extension office is also looking into putting the CD-ROM on the Internet, and distributing the CD-ROM to libraries, health education centers, schools, and family shelters. Several members of the subcommittee suggested having someone burn copies of the CD-ROMs for all CAG members.

Mr. Waldren discussed the subcommittee's previous suggestion of developing a lead-safe demonstration house. Mr. Waldren contacted the Land Reutilization Commission to inquire about obtaining a repossessed home. A representative of the Commission said they may have a couple of homes available. Ms. Deppe suggested having Dennis Livingston conduct a lead-safe presentation on the exterior of the home. Mr. Waldren added that Trent Erickson could conduct a landscaping demonstration in the yard of the home. These demonstrations would be videotaped.

The group agreed that lead-safe training for the interior of the home could also be conducted, possibly by Masimax. Ms. Leinenkugel said that Masimax agreed to come back to Omaha and conduct a lead-safe training session in Spanish if at least 30 people register for the training. Ms. Leinenkugel said the subcommittee should work on marketing the training in order to get the attendance numbers needed. Ms. Stevens indicated it is difficult for people to take time off from their jobs during the week to attend training. The group discussed the possibility of having the training session offered on a weekend. The subcommittee decided to continue the discussion of the possibility of having a lead-safe home demonstration and/or Masimax training at the next Education Subcommittee meeting.

The following list of Action Items resulted from the meeting:

- 1) EPA will develop a map showing locations where access agreements were denied.
- 2) Ms. Valdez, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Flattery, Ms. Pittman, and Ms. Stevens will assist EPA in obtaining access agreements from residents of the OLS who have previously denied EPA access to their properties.
- 3) Mr. Waldren will ask EPA to develop maps that specify if residential properties are single or multiple units, and owner or renter occupied.
- 4) Ms. Stevens will send Ms. Falcone a list of all neighborhood associations within the OLS.

The next Education Subcommittee meeting will be held on May 12th, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office located at 8015 W. Center Road.