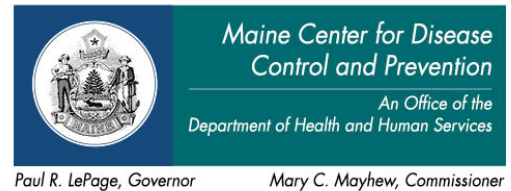


**Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund
Advisory Board Meeting
January 27, 2017 • 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Maine Health Access Foundation
150 Capital Street, Augusta, Maine**



Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Barbara Leonard (Chair), MaryAnn Amrich, Kala Ladenheim, Michele Polascek, Syd Sewall; **Absent:** Peter Doran; **Maine CDC Staff:** Karyn Butts, Andy Smith; **Maine State Housing Authority Staff:** Daniel Drost, Troy Fullmer; **Department of Environmental Protection Staff:** Jamie Tansey, John Bucci

I. Introductions, Meeting Overview, and Objectives

Karyn Butts, staff manager of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund Advisory Board, welcomed the group to the meeting and led introductions. Karyn reviewed the objectives of the meeting: 1) update board members on latest lead poisoning surveillance data, implementation of changes to the Lead Poisoning Control Act, and LPPF Activities; and, 2) develop schedule of meetings and map out the Board's business for 2017-2018

II. Lead Poisoning Surveillance Data Update

Andy Smith, State Toxicologist and Manager of the Maine CDC's Environmental and Occupational Health Programs, presented the most recent lead poisoning surveillance data. Please refer to the slides for the meeting for the information presented. During this presentation the board discussed possible ways to better understand what, if any, underlying factors may be driving consistent declines in lead poisoning in the state. Suggestions included working with the newly hired health economics professor at the University of Maine, a health economist at Bates, and an economist from Amherst.

III. Updates on Implementing Changes to the Lead Poisoning Control Act

Andy Smith provided a brief update on inspection findings for the first three months following of experience implementing changes to the Lead Poisoning Control Act which now mandates that the Maine CDC provide environmental lead inspections for children under age 6 years with a blood lead level of 5 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL) or higher. As expected, using this new lower blood lead threshold has resulted in a major increase in volume of lead inspections, with 142 inspections completed in September-December which is about how many inspections occurred each year before the law was amended.

Maine CDC is tracking the findings from inspections to determine if inspections reveal differences in lead hazards, or housing characteristics for children with blood lead levels of 5-<10ug/dL as compared to children with blood lead levels of 10 ug/dL or above. To date, inspection findings show that there are no differences in housing characteristics (i.e., pre-1950 and rental units) and lead hazards. Fewer lead hazards seem to be the result of a renovation among children with blood lead levels of 5-<10 ug/dL; however, this finding appears to be consistent with assumptions that renovations create such extensive hazards that children exposed to lead dust created by a renovation usually have much higher blood lead levels.

Maine Agency Partners offered the following updates related to the implementation of changes to the LPCA.

- Maine Department of Environmental Protection: DEP’s work to inspect properties under abatement and track properties where abatements are occurring has dramatically increased since September as shown in the table below. The Department has increased staffing and shifted some staffing responsibilities in order to respond to these increases and provide a commensurate increase in DEP staff presence in the field.

Quarter	Number of lead abatement notifications (by unit)*	Number of abatement inspections in buildings with poisoned child	Number of abatement inspections in buildings without a poisoned child**
Jan-Mar 2016	50	8	38
Apr-Jun 2016	66	21	13
Jul-Sep 2016	103	29	26
Oct-Dec 2016	155	23	39
Jan 1-27 2017	76	17	13

*Contractors must notify DEP when beginning a lead abatement job.

**These are usually properties with lead hazards that were identified after finding extremely high results from a home lead dust test or after an inspection of a childcare facility.

In addition, the DEP reported that there are 22 Licensed Abatement Contractors in the state, 16 of which do work in a commercial fashion. The other six are fully licensed contractors but are landlords that want to only work in their units.

- Maine State Housing Authority: The Housing Authority is working to have funds available from its Lead Hazard Control Grant beginning February 8.

IV. Updates on LPPF Funded and Other Activities

- 2016 Year in Review:** Karyn presented a summary of results of LPPF-funded activities for the following prevention purposes designated in the LPPF statute: 1) measures to prevent children’s exposure to lead (i.e., lead dust testing initiatives); 2) an ongoing major media campaign; and, 3) operating a Lead Safe Housing Registry. Please refer to the meeting slides for the information presented. Generally, results were consistent with previous years, with the exception of significant increases in lead dust testing which are assumed to be the result of increased media attention on lead poisoning in the state and nationally (e.g., Flint water crisis).
- Community Partners’ New Contract Cycle:** Contracts have just about completed all reviews and the signature process and will be encumbered in the next week or two. This means that the community partners can begin their work. The partners will convene on February 2 for a kick-off “sharing summit” to share plans and resources for the next contract cycle. This sharing summit will focus mostly on activities related to the new local capacity building service category included in the contracts.
- Midcoast District Public Health Improvement Plan:** The Midcoast Public Health District has adopted lead poisoning as a priority in their 3-year district public health improvement plan. The plan initially focuses on improving blood lead screening rates in the district and the four counties that make up the district by conducting a gap assessment in the next few months and then

identifying ways to fill gaps. Karyn is providing technical assistance to the District Coordinating Council as they develop their plans.

- d. **Maine Families Home Visiting Lead Dust Testing Partnership:** Maine Families and Maine CDC have begun a pilot to have MF home visitors provide facilitated home lead dust tests for clients that are pregnant or have young children and live in pre-1950 housing. Maine CDC Staff have prepared and made available a facilitated home lead dust testing protocol, an online training module, and 200 test kits to MF. MF has begun to roll out the pilot. Maine CDC has provided in-person training to MF home visitors that serve clients in Cumberland County. MF and Maine CDC will be collecting data on the pilot to evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of scaling up the number of lead dust tests done through this partnership.

V. Discussion and Planning for Next Meetings

The board agreed to the proposed meeting schedule shown in the table below. In preparation for the September meeting which will be focused on a strategic review of activities for relevancy and effectiveness, the board suggested that staff compile information and displays similar to what was presented in the 2016 Year in Review during today’s meeting, and refresh the statute/LPPF activity matrix that the board has used during similar prior reviews. Before settling on dates for the coming year, staff will work with the board chair to coordinate schedules and meeting room availability.

2017-2018 Proposed Meeting Schedule and Agendas

Proposed Date	Meeting Scope and Considerations
May 5, 2017 <i>Scheduled</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda: Budget review and planning • May need to move to later date depending on grant application deadlines for staff
September 22, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda: LPPF strategy review and discussion • Federal funding resolved by end of summer • One year of experience implementing new law • Time to re-examine how LPPF funds are used (i.e., our strategy and activities) <p>→ <i>What information should staff start preparing for this discussion?</i></p>
January 26, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda: Review new surveillance data and community partners’ first year of contracts
May 18, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda: Budget review and planning