



Lead-Free NJ Steering and Advocacy Committee

October 12, 2023 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Objectives:

- Identify support for community hub initiatives
- Provide brief updates on committee and community hub activities
- Coordinate member efforts on holistic lead policy
- Coordinate member contacts with state agencies

Attendees (42):

Backbone staff:

Cassie Bolinger
Deandrah Cameron
Bert Cooper, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Heather Sorge
Jyoti Venketraman

LFNJ Leadership:

Shanikwa Lemon, Paterson Alliance
Shereyl Snider, East Trenton Collaborative
Yahaira Morales, PRAC of Southern NJ
Debbie Mans, twentytwenty public affairs
Rashan Prailow, THINK Group
Kelvin Boddy, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
Yvette Jordan, Newark Education Workers Caucus
Stephanie Greenwood, Victoria Foundation

Members:

Alana Vega, Fund for New Jersey

Alesha Vega, New Jersey Future
Alys Mann, RWJF Consultant
Amy Aririguzoh, Princeton University
Amy Goldsmith, Clean Water Action
Andrea Martinez-Mejia, Greater Newark Health Care Coalition
Ben Haygood, Isles
Brandon Montero-Castro, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Brianna Paden-Williams, Trenton Health Team
Cristopher Prieto, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
Elyse Pivnick, Isles
Felix Moulrier, Saint Joseph's Carpenter Society
Halimah Shabazz, NJ Environmental Justice Alliance
Inge Spungen, Paterson Alliance
Jim Nelson, Jersey City Together
Kendra McKoy, The Watershed Institute

Khari Muhammad, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Lawrence Holman, Trenton Health Team
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of NJ
Nikki Baker, Healthy Schools Now
Nikki St. Germain, Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition
Peter Chen, New Jersey Policy Perspective
Ruth Ann Norton (She/Her) GHHI, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Sabrina Rodriguez - NJ Future, New Jersey Future
Sasha Lowery, Passaic County Habitat for Humanity
Siobhan Pappas, NJ Department of Health
Steve Kehayes, Passaic County Habitat for Humanity
Syd Chan, Homes for All Newark
Vivienne Soria, CARC

1. Welcome

- a. Please introduce yourself and **share upcoming events/opportunities** in the chat.

2. Community Hub Support Requests

- a. Essex County
 - i. [Newark Lead Resources Card](#) - thank you for the support of Newark Water Coalition and feedback from Janise Reliford-Afolo, Kim Gaddy, Amy Goldsmith
 - ii. Lead-Free NJ is searching for a community hub in Essex County. Please submit recommendations to hsorge@njfuture.org & cbolinger@njfuture.org
- b. South Jersey - Puerto Rican Action Committee (Yahaira Morales)
 - i. Seeking support providing answers to commonly asked questions, including: does lead exposure harm pets?
 - ii. Discussion about the importance of providing holistic information.
 - iii. Seeking support providing outreach to the Spanish-speaking community in Bridgeton using demonstrations and activities. Yahaira noted that people may not read flyers/written information.
- c. Paterson - Paterson Alliance
 - i. To support bilingual outreach, Anais Smith (Partnership for Maternal and Childhood Health) has recorded herself providing information in Spanish.

- ii. Paterson Alliance is planning lead awareness events throughout the city. On 10/20, 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. an event will be held at Paterson YMCA. Contact Shanikwa Lemon (lemonpatersonalliance@gmail.com) for more information.
- iii. Paterson Alliance is collaborating with Paterson DOH.
- iv. Paterson Alliance has contact information for area pediatricians and is planning to conduct outreach.
- v. Seeking support identifying policy advocacy priorities and communicating policy to community members.
- d. Trenton - East Trenton Collaborative
 - i. East Trenton Collaborative and Rutgers University have been working on a community lead in soil testing project. They are starting phase two in November.
 - ii. East Trenton Collaborative hosted successful community events to raise lead awareness and provide blood lead level testing on 9/16 and 10/7.
 - iii. Seeking support promoting blood lead level testing and collaborative efforts to prevent lead poisoning. Contact Shereyl Snider (ssnider@urbanpromisetrenton.org) to help support.
- e. October 26 Lead Listen and Learn with stipends for community members and simultaneous Spanish translation: <https://forms.gle/gAmnxSkzF9Fs5MyF6>

3. Water Committee Updates

- a. Review detailed updates from the Lead in Drinking Water Task Force and Implementation Workgroup [here](#). Please share broadly.
- b. Implementation updates:
 - i. [2023 Primer for Mayors: Lead Service Line Efficiency Measures](#)
 - ii. Lead service line workshop at Jersey Water Works Conference - December 13
- c. Legislative updates: Scorecard
 - i. **Disclosure A3712** (Priority for lame duck)
 - ii. **Ensure quality water in childcare facilities and schools**
 - o [A4770](#) - Improve water safety at facilities run by family childcare providers
- d. Water Advocacy Committee - November 2, 4:00 p.m.
 - i. [Overview](#)
 - ii. Presentation from [Plastic Pollution Coalition](#) to information share about the impact of PVC pipes replacing lead service lines and water pitcher filters to protect against exposure to lead in drinking water.

4. Housing Committee Updates

- a. Structure and backbone staff: Bert Cooper (Green and Healthy Homes Initiative) will support the Housing Committee, taking over from Kelsey McClain. The Committee is developing an implementation and a policy workgroup. Contact bcooper@ghhi.org & cbolinger@njfuture.org to get involved. The committee is receiving research support from Princeton interns.
- b. [W Housing Table Advocacy Priorities 2.13.23.docx](#)
- c. GHHI is updating [NJ Lead Poisoning Prevention Action Plan](#) & [Lead Priorities Doc](#)
- d. Next meeting 10/24
- e. The housing committee will prioritize equity and lived experience in the community hub areas
- f. Sharing: [WE ACT'S EPA Region 2 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center](#) - webinar on 10/30
- g. Sharing: [Healthy Homes Production Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) webinar](#) 10/19

2. Coordinating Policy

- a. **All members: review the policy tracker created at the July membership meeting and input updates** in the chat: [📄 LFNJ Breakout Session 7.12.23](#)

- i. Identify policy champions
 1. Isles is working on S1507.
 2. Descriptions of the legislation will be added to the document.
 3. GHHI can support testimony.
 4. LFNJ ask to members: make community hubs aware of opportunities to provide testimony/engage with advocacy. Share advocacy talking points with collaborative members.
- b. Proposal: Chairs will contact NJ DOH Acting Commissioner to request a meeting
 - i. Approved: Letter has been sent:
 - [W](#) LFNJ Request for Meeting NJ DOH Acting Commissioner October 2023.docx
 - ii. Identify members who are meeting with (DOE & DOH & DCA)
 1. Identify point people to serve as liaisons
 - a. GHHI & HCDNNJ have contacts with NJDCA
 - b. Isles has contacts with NJDOH
 - c. Seeking contact for Tammy Murphy to explore lead education curriculum.
 - d. Contact cbolinger@njfuture.org to add your self/organization as a LFNJ liaison

Reference documents

- [Policy spreadsheet](#)
- [Lead Priorities Doc](#)
- [W](#) Housing Table Advocacy Priorities 2.13.23.docx
- [Municipal factsheet](#)
- [LFNJ Operating Procedures](#)
- [E](#) Advocacy Coordinating Committee Plan 2023
- [LFNJ Goals Document](#)
- [Lead in Drinking Water Task Force Updates](#)