



Lead-Free NJ Advocacy Coordinating Committee

December 14, 2023 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Objectives:

- Support community hub initiatives
- Assess lame-duck and new legislative priorities
- Discuss raising collaborative concerns to state and federal partners
- Discuss advocacy actions

1. Community Hubs

- October Lead-Free NJ Listen and Learn presentation was recorded in English and Spanish. Watch the recordings [here](#).
- Trenton: East Trenton Collaborative (Shereyl Snider, ssnider@urbanpromisetrenton.org)
 - The EPA is testing soil for lead in the East Trenton neighborhood. The EPA began testing in 2018 at the request of NJDEP.
 - Shereyl is convening organizations and residents in Trenton to coordinate around lead.
 - On January 17 at 6 p.m. there will be an environmental safety organizing committee at East Trenton Collaborative.
- Paterson: Paterson Alliance (Shanikwa Lemon, lemonpatersonalliance@gmail.com)
 - Lead Listen and Learn presentations are being conducted throughout the city, including at Eva's Village, Habitat for Humanity, Paterson school district (including full service schools)
 - At presentations, parents said that they did not know if their children were tested for lead, and one parent described turning down the test because their child did not want to be tested.
- Southern NJ: PRAC of Southern NJ
- Greater Newark: selection is ongoing.
- Please reach out to community hub leads if you can support their work.

2. Coordinating Policy

- Lame-duck Priorities
 - [S1507](#): Revises and codifies schedule for childhood lead screenings; requires lead screenings as precondition of child's initial entry into school system. Contact Ben Haygood, bhaygood@isles.org
 - Progress is currently on hold due to issues with amendments regarding precondition of entry into the school system. Isles is currently working on resolving this and will alert the group of updates & advocacy actions.
 - [S2695](#): Requires disclosure of lead drinking water hazards to tenants of residential units; prohibits landlords from obstructing replacement of lead service lines; concerns testing of residential units for lead drinking water hazards. Contact Deandrah Cameron, dcameron@njfuture.org
 - The bill is expected to move this session. If you have a relationship with a legislator on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, you can contact them to voice your support for the bill.

b. Proposing additional Legislation to Track

- i. [AJR239](#): Designates October as "Lead Poisoning Awareness Month.
- ii. [S2459](#): Requires State government entities provide vital documents and translation services in 15 most common non-English languages.
 1. Contact: Amy Torres, NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, atorres@njimmigrantjustice.org
 2. NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice organized a letter of support sent to Assembly Speaker Coughlin. The bill has not yet been scheduled for this lame-duck session.
- iii. The group agrees to add AJR239 & S2459 to the policy tracker.
- iv. Policy tracker format update:
<https://sites.google.com/njfuture.org/njleadadvocacy/home>

c. Awareness/Outreach

- i. Updating the [LFNJ Policy Factsheet](#):
 1. Review the factsheet & input feedback here:
[Recommendations for updating the LFNJ Policy Factsheet](#)
 2. This was not covered during the meeting due to time.

d. Planning for 2024

- i. We will identify priorities/direction and conduct a lead policy training for community advocates in early 2024.

3. Blood Lead Level Testing/Health

a. Coordination with federal partners

- i. EPA Region 2 Coordinated a meeting with LFNJ & federal partners to discuss barriers to blood lead level testing in NJ on 11/7/23 ([Meeting notes](#)). The next meeting will be held on 12/15/23.
- ii. Lead-Free NJ is meeting with the NJDOH Commissioner on 1/18/24

b. Statewide initiative on maternal health (Elyse Pivnick, Isles)

- i. Isles is inviting Lead-Free NJ to be involved with their statewide initiative on black maternal health.
- ii. Discussion about planning for a Lead-Free NJ Health Committee to bring in more health practitioners to the collaborative and create a dedicated space to discuss blood lead level testing and other health priorities.
 1. LFNJ Advocacy Committee members recommend building partnerships with the organizations already working on this topic, power building the collaborative by inviting more partners to meetings, considering how health is already a part of existing committee work, and considering how this relates to advocacy and policy around water and housing infrastructure.
- iii. The Center for Environmental Exposure and Disease (CEED) at Rutgers University is accepting proposals for Pilot Project Grants, up to \$25,000. Supports new environmental health research with the potential to improve human health and establish or strengthen community partnerships. Applications will be due on February 1, 2024. More information [here](#).

4. Housing Committee Updates

a. Requests to the advocacy committee:

- i. Advocate for collaboration between NJDCA & NJDOH
- ii. Advocate for NJDCA to include lead practitioners in their decision-making processes

- iii. Lead assistance program application translation
 - 1. Lead agencies were told that DCA is working on a translation, but they are still waiting for it.
 - 2. Advocacy discussion: Suggestion for members to contact elected officials. Specific targets may include Rep Bonnie Watson Coleman and NJ Senate Majority leader Teresa Ruiz.
- b. LFNJ will schedule a meeting with NJDCA Assistant Commissioner Janel Winter as soon as possible in the new year.
 - i. [W LFNJ DCA Agenda_12/5/23.docx](#) (draft)
 - ii. Community hubs will be consulted to form the agenda, and will be involved with the meeting.
- c. Lead workforce update from LFNJ member and former LFNJ Community Hub in Newark, Newark Water Coalition (Anthony Diaz)
 - i. Last year, LFNJ collaborative helped facilitate a meeting with NJDCA & NWC to discuss lead workforce equity issues. Recently, NWC was invited by NJDCA to participate in efforts to add new lead agencies to their program. There will be paid training for four positions in January, then an invitation to a closed RFP. Isles is involved with the training.
 - ii. NWC is working on a research project that is exploring lead in dust in post 1978 homes.
- d. Rosa shared contacts with the committee: jonathan.Sabin@dhs.nj.gov & boesterheld@carcnj.org - Interagency Task Force on the Prevention of Lead Poisoning, Green technologies: Biochar - dlueckenhoff@hugoneu.com

5. Water Committee Updates

- a. [EPA Proposed LCRI](#)
 - i. [E LFNJ Statement - EPA Proposed LCRI /30/2023](#)
- b. **Lead in Drinking Water Task Force & Lead Service Line Implementation workgroup updates**
 - i. [W Drinking Water Task Force- Water Policy Committee Updates _ DEC_ 14_2023_.docx](#)
- c. **Water Advocacy Committee**
 - i. Introducing Committee Chair: Rachel Dawn Davis, Waterspirit
 - ii. Lead in drinking water in Jersey City Schools (Jim Nelson)
 - 1. Jersey City Together participated in advocacy & planning that led to lead service line and internal plumbing replacements in 34 Jersey City Schools. The remaining 12 schools will be completed by the end of the school year. Advocates are continuing to monitor the type of new pipes used and flushing practices.
 - iii. Watch [the recording](#) of the presentation from the Plastic Pollution Coalition at the November Water Advocacy meeting.
 - iv. The next meeting will be held in January and will cover LCR, LCRI
- d. **Discussion about lead service line replacement communication from water utilities**
 - i. This topic was not addressed during the meeting due to time.

6. Funding Update

- a. [Climate Pollution Reduction Act](#):
- b. [Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge](#)
- c. EPA [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program \(Community Change Grants\)](#)
- Funding from NJ DCA for Lead-Based Paint Remediation with Capacity Building - Contact Peter Rose
- [CFF Rapid Response Fund](#) - Rolling application
- New Jersey - New York Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center

- Watch their introductory webinar [here](#).
- Request technical assistance [here](#).
- [Lead Hazard Reduction\(LHR\) Capacity Grant Program- Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) Ask the group to share updates

Reference documents

- New [policy tracker](#) & old [Policy spreadsheet](#)
- [Lead Priorities Doc](#)
- [W Housing Table Advocacy Priorities 2.13.23.docx](#)
- [LFNJ Operating Procedures](#)
- [E Advocacy Coordinating Committee Plan 2023](#)
- [LFNJ Goals Document](#)
- *Previous meeting:* [E 10.12.23 LFNJ Steering and Advocacy Committee Meeting Notes](#)

Meeting Attendees (30):

Backbone staff:

Cassie Bolinger

Deandrah Cameron

Heather Sorge

LFNJ leadership:

Amy Goldsmith, Clean Water Action

Bert Cooper, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

Debbie Mans, twenty twenty public affairs

Kelvin Boddy, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ

Rachel Dawn Davis, Waterspirit

Shanikwa Lemon, Paterson Alliance

Shereyl Snider, East Trenton

Collaborative

Stephanie Greenwood, Victoria Foundation

Yvette Jordan, Newark Education Workers Caucus

Members:

Alesha Vega, New Jersey Future

Anthony Diaz, Newark Water Coalition

Ben Haygood, Isles

Brianna Paden-Williams, Trenton Health Team

Elyse Pivnick, Isles

Felix Moulrier, Saint Joseph's Carpenter Society

Jim Nelson, Jersey City Together

Khari Muhammad, Green and

Healthy Homes Initiative

Marcus Sibley, NAACP

Marge Smith, Princeton

Community Works

Matthew Manthey, Monmouth

County Health Department

Nikki Baker, Health Schools Now

Nudar Chowdhury, Southern NJ

Perinatal Cooperative

Rosa Zaremba, CARC

Rose Acerra, PTA

Sabrina Rodriguez, New Jersey

Future

Sheila Montague

Unique Smith, Paterson Education

Fund