



## LFNJ Joint Steering Committee Meeting

January 24, 2023

3:00-5:00 pm

Agenda

Notes are in blue text.

1. **Welcome** - Rashan Prailow/Heather Sorge (5 mins)
  - a. Welcome Advocacy Committee Members (open meeting)
    - i. Please introduce yourself in the chat and answer the following fun **icebreaker: If you could teleport anywhere in the world right now, where would you go?**
  - b. Last meeting (joint meeting) [minutes 9.8.22](#)
  
2. **Committee and Community Hub Updates and Discussion of Support Needs**  
- Heather Sorge & Suzanne Aptman (35 mins)
  - a. Trenton Community Hub: Shereyl Snider, East Trenton Collaborative (ETC)
    - i. ETC's main focus is on community education of lead hazards and resources for support. They plan to do workshops, outreach, and partnerships with other organizations.
    - ii. On 1/25, ETC will be tabling in Trenton with [Tha Block Trenton](#).
    - iii. Ruth Ann Norton of Green and Health Homes Initiative requested that Trenton families be referred to their [whole house pilot program](#).
  - b. Newark Community Hub: Anthony Diaz, Newark Water Coalition (NWC)
    - i. Anthony shared highlights from the NWC report titled "The Mobile Lead Testing Unit Report." This report shares the results of the research NWC conducted with >300 Newark City homes. The team tested these homes for lead in paint, water, soil, and dust.
      - The report has been translated into Spanish, and is **not yet ready to be shared publicly, please do not distribute**.
      - They hope this work will raise awareness around the serious nature of lead in our homes and lives and help to expand this research in Newark and other cities.
      - Some highlights include: documenting health concerns, community questions, and finding that all soil samples contained lead.

- The report was completed in partnership with University of California at Berkeley Ph.D. student Bavisha Kalyan. Anthony commended this relationship for supporting community ownership of data and projects, especially because many relationships between researchers and communities have historically been exploitative to communities.
    - ii. NWC is seeking grants to fund lead testing of dust.
  - c. NWC will be establishing a training academy and a research institute.
  - d. Comments from the chat:
    - i. Syd Chan of Homes for All Newark: maybe environmental science STEM training and programs for elementary and secondary school kids? something to look into and something to do/provide to the community
    - ii. Amy Goldsmith of Clean Water Action: A lot of lead in soil is due to Current and legacy air deposition due to Newark being a transportation hub and industrial operations, as well as long time use of lead paint and scraped off the outside of buildings, highway bridges and rail get scrapped (lead in these types of paints are allowed still to this day) too. Lead levels are very very high in Camden under or near the bridges that head over to Phili.
      - Bavisha asked if airport/fuel from airplanes contributes to Newark's soil lead levels? Amy is unsure, but thinks this is possible.
      - Syd Chan noted that there likely are lead emissions from the trucks at Port Newark.
    - iii. Contact Anthony at [newarkwatercoalition@gmail.com](mailto:newarkwatercoalition@gmail.com), [www.newarkwatercoalition.com](http://www.newarkwatercoalition.com).
  - e. Paterson Community Hub: Unique Smith
    - i. Name changed to Passaic County Habitat for Humanity
    - ii. They have a strategic plan around lead awareness, which includes involvement with the city government, building relationships with organizations that work with children 6 years old and under, partnership with full service community schools, a health fair in March, and working with health department to improve outreach to pediatricians
      - They have a goal to help facilitate more blood lead level testing for young children.
  - f. Advocacy Committee: Yvette Jordan and/or Kelvin Boddy
    - i. The next meeting will be in March.
    - ii. New Jersey's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announced the launch of an expanded version of the Potential Lead Exposure Mapping or PLEM tool, which provides new publicly available data that indicates potential sources of lead exposure. ([Link](#))
    - iii. A meeting has been requested with NJDCA and NJDOH to discuss lead assessment workforce equity concerns.

- g. Housing Policy Committee: Stephanie Greenwood, Kelsey McClain & Kevin Cenac
  - i. Next meeting: Monday, February 6, from 5:00-6:00 p.m.
    - If you want to attend, contact Kelsey, [kmcclain@ghhi.org](mailto:kmcclain@ghhi.org)
  - ii. [Lead remediation and healthy homes funds](#)
  - iii. [HUD lead hazard remediation NOFA press release](#)
    - A recorded version of a Q & A webinar that was held today will be posted [here](#).
- h. Lead in Drinking Water Task Force: Diane Schrauth
  - i. Addition of the Water Advocacy Committee
    - First Meeting Tuesday, February 7, from 5:00-6:00 pm
      - a. [Register here](#).
    - The task force produced an article that will be published in NJ League of Municipalities journal in February on lead in drinking water for local officials.
    - The task force has been making policy recommendations on lead in drinking water disclosure for renters.
    - Task force members Kareem Adeem and Deandrah were invited to a meeting at the White House to represent New Jersey in lead discussions.
    - The lead service line (LSL) implementation working group will be working with an intern to research LSL impact on childcare facilities and a communications consultant.
    - There is no update on NJ Lead and Copper rule
  - i. Resources Committee: Lupe Flores, FFNJ
    - i. [Council of New Jersey grant makers, Funder Briefing: Lead by Example: Equitable Addressing Toxic Lead Issues](#)
      - Virtual on February 13, 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
      - Anthony Diaz (NWC) will moderate, Shereyl Snider (ETC), Deandrah Cameron (Lead in Drinking Water Task Force) and Heather Sorge (LFNJ Program Manager) will speak.
      - Email Lupe, [lupe@fundfornj.org](mailto:lupe@fundfornj.org) or go [here](#) for more information.
- j. South Jersey Hub Update: Heather Sorge
  - i. Review of the Process
    - So far, backbone staff developed a site visit rubric and talked to current community hub leaders to collect their input.
    - Process moving forward: backbone staff will finalize outreach materials, send requests for letters of interest, review letters, and conduct site visits.
      - a. Timeline: January-prep, February-outreach, March-site visit & selection
    - Questions/feedback contact Heather ([hsorge@njfuture.org](mailto:hsorge@njfuture.org)) & Cassie ([cbolinger@njfuture.org](mailto:cbolinger@njfuture.org))
  - ii. Feedback
  - iii. Training Opportunities

3. **Operating Procedures, Materials & LFNJ Structure** - Heather Sorge & Cassie Bolinger (20 mins)

- a. Revised [LFNJ Operating Procedures](#) (Cassie)
  - i. Review of changes
  - ii. Questions/Comments
  - iii. Adoption of plans
    - No objections, plans were adopted.
- b. [2023 Advocacy Committee Plan](#) (Heather)
  - i. Review
  - ii. Questions/Comments
  - iii. Adoption of Plans
    - No objections, plans were adopted.
- c. LFNJ Diagram
  - i. Feedback:
    - Debbie Mans (Steering Committee Co-Chair) asked the group if they are comfortable with how the diagram frames people who do the work with the outcomes.
    - Positive feedback from several attendees.
    - No objections, diagram adopted.
    - If anyone thinks of any feedback, contact Heather ([hsorge@njfuture.org](mailto:hsorge@njfuture.org)).
- d. Brochure & Flier Additions
  - i. [Spanish brochure](#)
  - ii. Rachel Dawn Davis of Waterspirit let us know that their executive director and her partner are fluent in Portuguese & can help translate if need be, with some notice! Thank you Rachel!
- e. Website Updates
  - i. FAQ Page
  - ii. Suggestions (add to chat)
- f. Training Opportunities & Process
  - i. We are working to identify training needs from hubs, and connect hubs with partners to provide training. If your org provides training or you have ideas, contact Heather ([hsorge@njfuture.org](mailto:hsorge@njfuture.org)).
    - Current areas of interest include: lead assessment, policy, communications.

4. **Next Steps Strategic Plan for LFNJ** - Debbie (15 mins)

- a. Adopt [2023 Advocacy Committee Plan](#) (including hubs)
- b. Lead Related [Priorities](#)
  - i. Shared with the group and discovered that GHHI created this document and gives LFNJ permission to use it.
- c. [LFNJ Goals Document](#)
- d. Next Steps
  - i. Steering Committee Chairs and backbone staff are working to incorporate LFNJ goals into the plans.

- ii. Ruth Ann Norton of GHHI offered to support a discussion about strategy.
        - e. Discussion & Consensus
  - 5. **Next Membership Meeting - February 28** - Rashan Prailow (30 mins)
    - a. Next Membership Meeting: **February 28, 5:00- 7:00**
    - b. Focus of the meeting:
      - i. Highlighting milestones
      - ii. Working together
      - iii. Opportunities to get involved
      - iv. Proposed panelists
        - Rashan (Steering Committee Co-Chair) explained that we are looking for a diverse panelist group, and asked for suggestions.
          - a. Ruth Ann Norton of GHHI agreed to moderate.
          - b. Marcus Sibley of NJ NAACP informed the group that the communities he works with have questions about funding, especially for lead remediation and want to know how federal and state funding will trickle down to their communities. Marcus also suggested exploring how lead impacts wildlife.
          - c. Shereyl offered to connect us with a City of Trenton engineer who can speak about lead service line replacement, David Smith.
    - c. Community Hubs - Projects & Goals
      - i. How to get involved
    - d. Discussion of how we can work best together
    - e. Development of Member Survey (In advance of meeting?)
      - i. Recruit volunteer(s) to help with planning
        - If you would like to volunteer to help with planning please contact **Heather Sorge at [hsorge@njfuture.org](mailto:hsorge@njfuture.org)**.
6. **Need to Know Updates** - Heather Sorge (5 mins)
  - a. Member Updates/Events
    - i. Amy Goldsmith: Clean Water Action will start door to door outreach in Passaic Valley Water Commission towns to help with inventory and signing up people for LSL replacement . Starting in February. Then will do selected NJ American towns starting in March.
    - ii. Nikki Baker: Healthy Schools Now Coalition Meeting, Wednesday, February 22, 2023 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Contemporary (NJEA Headquarters), 180 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Jan. 27, 2023 so that we have an accurate lunch count. Agenda to follow.
    - iii. Rachel Dawn Davis (Waterspirit): Rachel started working on strategy with New Jersey Poor People's, and is looking for suggestions about legislation they should advocate for.

- iv. Alana Vega: Advocates for Children of New Jersey is hosting our Trenton Kids Count event 1/25 at 9:30 AM. Kids Count reports compile data on child well-being and it would be a great place for folks to connect with other Trenton-based stakeholders. [Link](#).

7. **Backbone Staff Updates** - Heather Sorge (5 mins)

- a. Next Steering Committee Meeting
  - i. **May 23 2023, 3pm-5pm**
    - A calendar invitation will be sent
- b. Next LFNJ Membership Meeting
  - i. **Tuesday, February 28, 5:00-7:00**
    - Please hold the date & register now
    - [Registration Link](#)
- c. Save the Date! Joint in-person LFNJ/JWW Membership Meeting
  - i. **Wednesday, July 12, 2023**
  - ii. Location & Time TBD