



## Lead-Free NJ Advocacy Coordinating Committee

February 29, 2024 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### Meeting Objectives:

- Support Community Hub initiatives
- Share operations, policy, and committee updates
- Adopt Lead-Free NJ Health Committee
- Adopt Housing Committee Advocacy Priorities

### 1. Community Hubs - Updates and Support Requests

- a. Paterson Alliance (Shanikwa Lemon)
  - i. Shanikwa is seeking support with coordinating mobile blood lead level testing in Paterson.
    1. The group discussed the need for more point-of-care testing. Shanikwa is meeting with the Mayor of Paterson in March, and Elyse volunteered to support agenda planning for this meeting.
  - ii. Paterson Alliance is exploring a partnership with Dr. Robert Laumbach of Rutgers EOHSI.
- b. East Trenton Collaborative (Shereyl Snider)
  - i. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is addressing lead contamination at Ulysses S. Grant Intermediate School in the East Trenton neighborhood and has tested soil for lead at homes in the neighborhood. [Learn more.](#)
  - ii. Shereyl asked for support with increasing community involvement in this issue.
    1. Yvette recommended speaking with the mayor and reaching the community through faith based organizations.
- c. PRAC of Southern New Jersey (Geovanni Cantizano)
- d. HUUB Orange (Sharee Harrison)

### 2. Updates

- a. Motion to update [Lead-Free NJ Operating Procedures](#): Add the following sentence: "Any recordings or transcriptions of meetings, via artificial intelligence or other media, is prohibited unless announced and agreed upon by the participants."
- b. EPA Community Change Grant Application
  - i. An application will be submitted by New Jersey Future as the primary applicant and Isles as the statutory partner. Funds will be directed to the community hubs who are currently working on proposals. Contact Jyoti with questions ([jvenketraman@njfuture.org](mailto:jvenketraman@njfuture.org))
  - ii. Bert suggested that community hubs consider applying to [EPA's Thriving Communities Grants](#) this summer.

### 3. Policy

- a. Overview of the governor's budget address (Sabrina Rodriguez-Vicenty, New Jersey Future)
  - i. NJ Budget in Brief from the Governor FY25: \$56 billion plan, 3% increase from this year, the increase is concerning due to declining state revenues and tax collections along with deadline to spend ARP funds. High-level notes include: first time state aid formula for education is fully funded, public employee pensions full contribution, funding for affordable housing, DEP will establish a Water Infrastructure Spending Dashboard, \$42 million new funding for clean and drinking water which does not meet the \$7 billion funding gap in the next 5 years.

- b. Summary Lead-Free NJ Policy Coordination meeting held on Jan 31
  - i. [LFNJ Policy Coordination Mtg Notes Summary](#)
- c. Plan LFNJ Advocacy Training Series in 2024
  - i. Group ideas for training include: how to communicate with town council, how to communicate with state legislators, community organizing, how to submit testimony, developing talking points, statehouse tour, writing action-oriented emails, how to organize an advocacy day, reaching lead impacted families to advocate for themselves.
  - ii. Waterspirit is planning to create education videos on advocacy.

#### 4. Committees

- a. Health Committee
  - i. Motion to establish Lead-Free NJ Health Committee: motion passed
  - ii. Motion to appoint Elyse Pivnick as Chair: motion passed
  - iii. Please send Co-Chair nominations to [cbolinger@njfuture.org](mailto:cbolinger@njfuture.org) by March 7
  - iv. First meeting: March 21 at 11am
- b. Housing Committee
  - i. Motion to adopt 2024 LFNJ Housing Committee priorities: motion passed  
[Housing Table Advocacy Priorities 2024.docx](#)
- c. Water Committee
  - i. [Lead in Drinking Water Task Force](#) (Deandrah Cameron and Amy Goldsmith)
  - ii. Water Advocacy Committee (Rachel Dawn Davis)
    - 1. The next meeting will be scheduled for April.

#### Reference documents

- [Legislative Advocacy Calendar Example:](#)
- [Lead Priorities Doc](#)
- [LFNJ Operating Procedures](#)
- [LFNJ Goals Document](#)
- *Previous meeting:* [12.14.23 LFNJ Advocacy Coordinating Committee Notes](#)

#### Meeting Attendees (31):

Alana Vega, Fund for NJ	Diane Schrauth, New Jersey Future	Khari Muhammad, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
Alesha Vega, New Jersey Future	Ebonie Steele, Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition	Kristin Epstein,
Amy Goldsmith, NJ Clean Water Action	Elyse Pivnick, Isles	Nikki Baker, Healthy Schools Now
Andrea Martinez-Mejia, Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition	Helen Kioukis, Camden Coalition	Rachel Dawn Davis, Waterspirit
Ben Haygood, Isles	Janise Reliford-Afalo, Clinton Hill Community Action	Rashan Prailow, THINK Group
Bert Cooper, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative	Jim Nelson, Jersey City Together	Sabrina Rodriguez, New Jersey Future
Brianna Paden-Williams, Trenton Health Team	Jyoti Venketraman, New Jersey Future	Shanikwa Lemon, Paterson Alliance
Cassie Bolinger, Lead-Free NJ	Kelvin Boddy, Housing and Community Development Network on NJ	Shereyl Snider, East Trenton Collaborative
Deandrah Cameron, New Jersey Future	Kendra McKoy, The Watershed Institute	Siobhan Pappas, NJ DOH
Debbie Mans, twentytwenty public affairs		Syd Chan, Homes for all Newark
		Tanya Pagan Raggio, HRSA
		Yvette Jordan, Newark Education Workers Caucu