



**Lead-Free NJ Advocacy Coordinating Committee Meeting**  
**4/23/24 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Purpose:** Adopt priorities of committees to inform Lead-Free NJ Steering committee direction and plan  
*Note: Proposals move forward following discussion unless a member/partner formally voices a “cannot live with it stance”.*  
Read more in [LFNJ Operating Procedures](#).

1. Welcome
  - a. Kisa's Story: Lead Impact in Trenton, NJ: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHMNSW9TTb4>
  - b. Collective Impact (Heather)
2. Community Hubs Support Requests (Yvette Jordan) *15 mins*
  - a. Paterson (Shanikwa Lemon)
    - i. Shanikwa is seeking support with developing a memorandum of understanding for shared services with the Paterson Division of Health
  - b. South Jersey (Geovanni Cantizano)
    - i. A health/lead awareness fair will be planned for the summer
    - ii. Cumberland County Department of health had to sell its outreach van
    - iii. PRAC of Southern NJ will speak about lead on a radio program in June to raise awareness
    - iv. Because the first inspections for the lead-safe certificate law must be completed by July 2024, there has been an increase in interest for the NJDCA Lead Assistance Program through PRAC
  - c. Trenton (Shereyl Snider)
    - i. A Trenton lead coordination meeting was held at the East Trenton Collaborative in April
    - ii. EPA is taking action to address lead in soil at Trenton Grant Intermediate schools, parks and homes in the East Trenton neighborhood. Blood lead level testing is available for Trenton public school students, staff, parents every Wednesday 2:30 – 4:30 through May.
    - iii. There is a need for outreach and information to the Spanish speaking community
  - d. Orange (Sharee Harrison)
3. State Budget Advocacy (Kelvin Boddy) *15 mins*
  - a. [Lead Questions for FY25 NJ Agency Budget Hearing](#) (Cassie Bolinger)
    - i. If you are preparing questions for the departmental budget hearings in the Senate and the Assembly, and as you engage with legislators and committee staff, please consider adding these questions/concerns to your list of priorities.
  - b. Budget amendment for lead paint funding (Ben Haygood)
    - i. Discuss budget amendment for \$1 million to address the proposed cut to the Single Family Home Lead Hazard Remediation Fund
    - ii. An amendment will be drafted.
  - c. Discuss request for a follow-up meeting with NJDOH & NJDCA commissioners (Heather Sorge)
    - i. Lead-Free NJ met with NJDOH commissioner Kaitlan Baston, and DCA Assistant Commissioner Janel Winter in January
    - ii. Advocacy Committee co-chairs will request a follow-up meeting and information updates.
4. Water Advocacy Committee (Rachel Dawn Davis) *10 mins*

- a. Local advocacy: Reach out to your municipality to ask if they've received a copy of the Primer for Mayors: [What New Jersey Local Officials Need to Know Lead Service Line Efficiency Measures](#) and check in on the status of lead service line replacement.
  - b. Policy proposal: **Filter First**
    - i. [Notes from the Water Advocacy Meeting](#)
    - ii. Yvette will share information regarding an upcoming meeting with EPA
    - iii. For next steps, the group will work on drafting legislation
  - c. Updates
    - i. Trenton passed an ordinance making lead service line replacement free and mandatory.
    - ii. A new lead in drinking water in homes disclosure bill was introduced: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/A4268>
5. Housing Committee (Bert Cooper) *10 mins*
- a. **Lead-Free NJ Housing Policy Table Advocacy Priorities**
    - i. **Recommended List (based on committee discussion and scoring 3/28/24)**
    - ii. **Tenants Rights (12):** Support know-your-rights outreach in multiple languages, identify creative solutions for lead-safe housing during remediation/abatement, and research and elevate legislative options to protect against eviction and rent hikes following lead-related improvements.
    - iii. **Municipal Capacity (12):** Support municipal agency staff in raising and addressing issues/challenges/needs related to enforcement and rollout to the state.
    - iv. **Support for Small Landlords (7.75):** Advocate for streamlined, turn-key funding programs to subsidize lead remediation/abatement costs for small, local landlords.
    - v. **Workforce Opportunity (6.25):** Identify barriers to entry and other needs (including adjusting funding models) for agencies, contractors and workers from hub communities trying to get into lead inspection/assessment/remediation work
    - vi. **Whole House (3):** Promote comprehensive investigation and remediation of lead and other home hazards (including water, soil, mold, weatherization, etc.) via pilots in each hub community
  - b. [S-2187](#): Authorizes common law public nuisance suits regarding lead paint under State law; exempts Attorney General from certain aspects of public nuisance claims when pursuing lead paint actions. (Ben Haygood)
    - i. LFNJ advocacy committee will monitor this bill
  - c. Next steps
    - i. Housing Committee chairs will meet with community hub leaders.
6. Health Committee (Sheila Caldwell) *10 mins*
- a. [First meeting notes](#)
  - b. Next steps:
    - i. Meet with pediatricians, insurance providers, Medicaid
    - ii. Meet with DOH head of local health departments
    - iii. Pursue legislative solutions
      - 1. Require blood lead level testing as a requirement to school entry
      - 2. Require blood lead level tests be reported on immunization records NJIIS (State Immunization Registry)
7. Membership Meeting (Heather Sorge) *10 mins*
- a. Desired panel & activities.
    - i. Idea: Journey to Lead-Free: Pitfalls and Progress, Leading the way to Lead-Free: Local and State collaboration
8. Open share: policy, events, information

## Reference

- [Previous meeting notes 2.29.24](#)
- [Legislative Advocacy Calendar Example](#)
- [LFNJ NJ Lead Policy Tracker](#)
- [LFNJ Operating Procedures](#)
- [Lead Priorities Doc](#)
- Lead in the State Fiscal Year 2025 Budget:
  - **Cuts**
    - \$1 million cut, from \$5 million to \$4 million, in DCA's Single Family Home Lead Hazard Remediation Fund grant program
    - \$12 million cut to the water State Revolving Fund, from \$60m to \$48m, which could take away from funding for lead service line replacement
  - **Additions**
    - \$3.5 million for lead in drinking water testing in schools
    - Appropriations for lead service line replacement totaling \$13 million for Elizabeth (\$5m), Lyndhurst (\$5m), and Rahway (\$3m)
  - **Noteworthy**
    - The number of children documented with elevated blood lead levels is expected to double due to lowering of the blood lead reference value from 5 to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ).