

Summary of LFNJ Policy Coordination Meeting – January 31, 2024

Health

Blood Lead Level Screening	
<p><u>Barriers/challenges/concerns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of point-of-care blood lead level testing: it is a burden for families to travel to a second location for testing ● Barriers to point-of-care testing include: CLIA waiver, supplies, training, data entry into CDRSS ● Reimbursement for blood lead level testing by health insurance ● Testing rates vary for Medicaid and non-Medicaid populations ● Lack of awareness about the importance of blood lead level testing and risk factors from health care professionals. ● Testing rates at age 2 are much lower than at age 1. ● Identifying the source of exposure: lead exposure can occur through multiple sources, not only paint, water, soil. Also consumer products, food, cultural products, imported goods, bridge paint, Avgas, and more. ● Lack of lead-safe housing for children under case management for elevated blood lead levels 	<p><u>Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collective impact: Establish Lead-Free NJ Health Committee ● Funding: Spend ARP and other sources of available funding to improve blood lead level testing infrastructure ● Point-of-care and mobile testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use filter paper for blood lead level testing to 1) Ease the burden of data entry 2) Allow onsite testing and avoid invasive testing 3) Enable WIC offices to test for hemoglobin and lead in the same test ○ Make more Lead Care II machines available at point of care ○ Enable mobile blood lead level testing to meet community members where they are ● Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaboration between local health departments and WIC offices to offer blood lead level testing using filter paper to collect hemoglobin and lead at one time. ○ Collaboration between schools and local health departments ○ Connect with private insurers to understand blood lead level testing and barriers to coverage ○ Ensure communication between health departments and housing departments ○ Pursue innovative methods to increase lead-safe housing ● Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve lead education for healthcare professionals ○ Pursue continuing education units (CEUs) for healthcare professionals ○ Pursue lead education at community colleges ○ Update state regulation to require lead training for healthcare professionals ○ Improve lead education for child care facilities staff ○ Pursue legislation to enable funding for the above training

Housing

NJAC 5:28A - Lead Safe Certificate Law (P.L. 2021, c.182)	
<p><u>Barriers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DCA is responsible for oversight, but each municipality is responsible for implementation. ● Visual inspections are not sufficient for identifying lead paint hazards. ● Municipalities may not have a rental registry ● Municipalities may not do inspections at tenant turnover ● Municipalities don't know which department is 	<p><u>Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve coordination between housing/code and health departments at the state and local level ○ Improve coordination between DCA lead programs and staff ○ Build relationships with

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsible (code/housing or health) ● Medium/smaller municipalities don't have the staff capacity to implement ● Lead risk assessor workforce qualifications are difficult to meet ● Health departments are concerned about the relationship between this law and EBLL case investigation law (NJ 851), and are concerned about legal liability ● The 2 year certification, 3 year window for lead-safe certificate is confusing ● 3% benchmark ● Fear of eviction and loss of housing ● Free lead assistance agencies can't issue lead-safe certificates to allow their clients to comply with NJAC 5:28A - Lead Safe Certificate Law (P.L. 2021, c.182). This creates confusion and inefficiencies. ● Relationship between lead inspections under the lead-safe certificate law and other housing code inspections ● Enforcement: Ensure lead violations are addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community groups. Prioritize language and cultural competency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involve legal services partners to start representing tenants ● Municipal planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Municipal ordinances ○ Develop database of rental units ○ Fire department, town clerks supporting implementation ○ Employ municipal software solutions ○ Use housing and lead data to prioritize enforcement and map lead risks ● Data and reporting: Provide a centralized and public portal to upload lead-safe certificates, using Philadelphia as an example
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Lead Assistance Programs

<p><u>Barriers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workforce shortage of lead workers, high barrier to entry ● Fear of eviction and loss of housing ● Approval for clients to participate in the Lead Assistance Program can take 1 week to 6-12 months (per DCA analysis) ● Access to homes with lead hazards by the municipalities and lead assistance organizations ● Lack of lead-safe housing
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<p><u>Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A whole-house approach to healthy homes is needed (include weatherization, mold, other home repairs) ● Simplify the approval process for clients to participate in the Lead Assistance Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ *Note, since this meeting, DCA has moved the application online:
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Lead in Soil

<p><u>Barriers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of lead in soil data. Testing is not done statewide and results are not publicly available. ● Closing of playgrounds due to lead contamination causes fear in teachers and students.

<p><u>Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect and track lead in soil data to map the issue. ● Collect holistic lead data: require soil, paint, and water lead testing whenever lead testing occurs. ● Research and consider historical sources of contamination including apple orchards, airports, ceramic factories, and highways ● Education is needed for teachers, students, community members, and policymakers
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Water

<p>Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Law (P.L. 2021, c.183)</p>
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<p><u>Barriers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completing inventories: Water systems face many challenges accessing properties for identifying lead service lines. Property access is particularly important, especially in communities with a high rental population. ● High # of unknowns: (ex.PVWC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After initial inventories, many water systems realized many service lines of unknown compositions. ○ Identification methods vary from system to system. Ex. Red Bank used test pits to identify all lines. Replacement will take three years. ● # of LSL is higher than estimated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Typically, water systems underestimate the amount of known lead service lines in their inventories ● Awareness: Most customers are unaware of the LSL replacement programs happening in their communities because of a lack of outreach. Customer and property owner consent is needed for all replacements and can be difficult for rental units. ● Material of replacement Service line: There is a lot of concern around the potential use of PVC pipes, especially in overburdened communities. While copper is safer for people and the environment, it is more expensive than PVC. ● Workforce: A lot of the success in the Newark program is due in part to an apprenticeship program with community members. ● Funding: There is not enough funding for free replacements. Some systems charge customer cost-share. ● Data reporting, collection, review and publishing of LSL inventory and replacement progress ● Variations in NJ water utility governance structure/size 	<p><u>Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canvassing and outreach to inform community members and contractors ○ Water systems should partner with community organizations to access private property ○ Reach the community by posting notices on doors, mailing information, building out website software ○ Support from Mayors and City Councils ○ Support from community partners including healthcare workers (especially home visits), schools ○ Take advantage of EPA community engagement funding ○ Advocacy and collaboration with water utilities and LFNJ community hubs, community pressure ● Water systems should source workforce from the community ● Full LSL replacement at no cost to the customer ● Allow renters to give consent to utilities for LSL replacement ● Education and best practices information share ● Logic models ● Sustainable Jersey incentives
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Lead in Drinking Water Disclosure for Renter - Legislation

<p><u>Barriers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some renters are considered non-paying customers and do not receive communications from their water utility. They may not have been alerted of known LSL or unknown service line material on their property. ● Indoor plumbing may also contribute to lead in drinking water ● The legislation did not pass last year. It was stalled in the Senate Committee due to issues with the term “lead-safe service line.” ● In 2024, some NJ legislators changed 	<p><u>Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require landlords to disclose LSL information through NJ legislation ● Offer lead-in drinking water testing for renters. ● Provide information to tenants about lead service lines, how to reduce lead exposure, and testing options. ● Advocacy from LFNJ members
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Lead in Drinking Water Filters for Childcare Facilities (CCF)

<p><u>Barriers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children may be exposed to lead in drinking water 	<p><u>Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require lead in drinking water filters
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<p>due to lead service lines and indoor plumbing. It may take ten years for lead service lines to be replaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCFs may rent their facilities and have limited control over property maintenance. • The Governor's office resists regulations for CCFs due to childcare shortages in NJ. The legislation did not pass last year. • In 2024, some NF legislators changed 	<p>for CCFs through NJ legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the Governor's office • Advocacy from LFNJ members
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Legislative Calendar mock-up/example:

High-level tasks year-round:

1. Regularly meet with Majority Offices, legislative leaders, and the governor's office to discuss priorities
2. Build and continue working on campaigns and advocacy asks
3. Track your legislation! To testify and submit support slips to help advance the legislation you are championing
4. Continuously meet and strategize with advocacy partners

December-January:

1. Meetings with different departments: Example: DCA and DEP for departmental budget requests
2. Meetings with Gov. office policy advisors
3. State of the state address (January). This speech starts/welcomes the new legislative session.
 - Note: The state of the state is a constitutional mandate that the governor give an annual report to the state legislature on the condition of the state. The speech also includes the governor's priorities and goals for the legislative session. It is not supposed to talk about funding/ budget - that is what the budget address at end of feb will be

February-March

1. Gov. Budget is announced (Speech end of Feb.)
2. Review which of the LFNJ asks/goals made it into the governor's budget and start planning accordingly for the leg. Budget season
3. Start drafting budget resolutions and seeking sponsors and cosponsors
4. End of March, start drafting dept. budget hearing questions

April-May

1. Send SMO, AMO, and committee staffers questions for the department budget hearing
2. Prep. testimony for public budget hearings
3. Dept. Budget hearings start at the end of April
4. Testify @ public budget hearings
5. Continue pushing for budget resolutions + items to get included in the budget

May-July:

1. Continue pushing for budget resolutions + items to get included in the budget
2. Prep. comms. Statements for budget
3. Confirm with Appropriations Committee legislative staff/aide budget resolution cosponsors on the week of June 20th
4. The deadline for co-sponsors is 3rd week of June
5. Budget negotiations happen the last week of June

August-December

1. Regularly meet with Majority Offices, legislative leaders, and the governor's office to discuss priorities
2. Build and continue working on campaigns and advocacy asks
3. Track your legislation! To testify and submit support slips to help advance the legislation you are championing
4. Continuously meet and strategize with advocacy partners