

Governor Lamont's Lead Poisoning Prevention Initiative

Lead Work Group Meeting 9/7/2022

In Attendance:

- DCA (DPH)
- Lori Mathieu (DPH)
- Laura Fournier
- Howard Smith
- Patrick McCormack
- Dr. Luis Diez-Morales
- Sue Dubb
- Claire Botnick (DPH)
- Chloe-Anne Bobrowski
- Daniel Aubin (DPH)
- Lisa Kessler
- Chris Corcoran
- Michael Santoro
- Rep. Jonathan Steinberg
- Owen Rood
- Margaret Flinter (CHC)
- Jessica Kristy
- Erin Nozetz (Pediatrician – Yale)
- Jennifer T. Haile (Pediatrician)
- Aisling McGuckin
- Zani Imetovski (OPM – Audio)
- Adam Skowera (DPH – Legislative Layers of OPM)

Note Takers:

- Chris Silver
- Olivia Hine
- Jesus Blanco-Vazquez

Claire Botnick – Public Act 22-49 Overview

- Bring law into accordance with CDC recommendations
- Reduce blood lead levels triggering action
- Increase testing frequency for certain children
 - Live in certain area with older homes where lead is more likely
- Directs DSS to explore Medicaid reimbursement for investigations
 - Use resources to seek reimbursement
- Establish lead working group
 - Plus \$30 Million ARPA investment

- Support Local Health


Reducing Blood Lead Action Levels

The Goal:


Strengthen early intervention in instances

Try to reduce the blood action levels to lower to do earlier prevention of Lead Blood Toxicity

Reducing Blood Lead Action Levels



Reducing Blood Lead Action Levels



	Current	2023	2024	2025 and beyond
Parental Notice	10 micrograms/dL	3.5 micrograms/dL	3.5 micrograms/dL	3.5 micrograms/dL
Onsite Inspection	15 micrograms/dL	10 micrograms/dL	5 micrograms/dL	5 micrograms/dL
EPI Investigation	20 micrograms/dL	15 micrograms/dL	10 micrograms/dL	5 micrograms/dL

Testing

- Testing is currently required between 9 months and 35 months
- Most medical providers will test children at ages 12 months and 24 months in the office by doing a finger stick or heel stick
- Any child enrolled in Husky/Medicaid between 24 and 72 months with no record of a previous blood lead screening test must be tested.
- Birth cohort analyses of children who turned 3 years old in 2020 shows that 100% of children were tested at least one time by the age of 3 years old (Husky population only)
- Only 59.6% were tested twice before 3 years of age as required by state law
- Public Act 22-39 requires annual testing for children 3 to 6 who live in certain towns where exposure to lead is most common
- Pediatrician Erin Nozetz had a question regarding.....

Medicaid Reimbursement

- DSS Currently exploring reimbursement for environmental/home investigations
- Reimbursement for targeted case management services

Topics / Lead Working Group P.A. 22-49

- Lead screening for pregnant persons or people who are planning pregnancy
- Lead in schools and child-care centers
- Reporting the results of lead test or lead screening assessments to schools and child-care centers in health assessments for new students
- Reporting additional data from blood lead test laboratories and providers to the DPH
- Any other matters regarding lead poisoning and treatment

Post Presentation Group Discussion

- A chart that starts from the beginning of testing to the remediation
- Kids that are likely to be poisoned are in families that are least likely to be able to remedy the situation
- Think about prevention moving forward
- Pregnant women get poisoned with lead differently than children
 - From imported spices, makeup, cooking utensils, etc.
 - Newborn can be impacted
- All schools indicate lead levels on the form
- Responding to a test with an elevated level... how do we shift to a prevention method?
- What should we change in terms of awareness
- Facts will tell.. stories will sell
 - To impact communities of colors we have to meet them where they are
 - PSA, local ads, Etc
 - Share stories
 - Share info at schools
 - Families overseas are not aware of lead
- Education
- How to reach the landlords
 - So many loopholes in property ownership
- Look at ordinances
 - Outdated
- Absentee landlords
- Do not want to scare parents, but want them to take it seriously
- Using a funding mechanism might be a solution until Medicaid can be used as reimbursement
- Figure out how DSS can be the sustainable money for the future
- Relationship between the nurse and environmental staff
- Trying to explain the impact of lead to parents
 - Lead does invisible harm
 - Education piece has to focus on prevention and long term effects
- Education and a good media campaign
 - Not just paint and dust
- Creating videos that represent multiples communities
- Creating a QR that people can scan and put in places in like pediatrician offices
- Inspectors communication with families

- How are we going to devote resources
- Part of the money will go to the reimbursement model

Next meeting is September 21st, 2022

9:30 AM- 11:00 AM