

Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:35 PM
To: Smith, Jennifer (DCH)
Cc: Emily Houk R2P (emily@r2pconsultants.com); Lishinski, Karen (DCH)
Subject: Re: childhood lead, question

Yes, I think we can create and share a first draft, and try to connect with you early next week to review it.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 16, 2015, at 4:21 PM, Smith, Jennifer (DCH) <smithj32@michigan.gov> wrote:

Thanks Nancy. To confirm, will your team be doing a first draft? Or providing some language?

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Smith, Jennifer (DCH) <smithj32@michigan.gov>
Cc: Emily Houk R2P (emily@r2pconsultants.com) <emily@r2pconsultants.com>; Lishinski, Karen (DCH) <LishinskiK@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: childhood lead, question

Our staff will use the talking points, and we can also share them with the Healthy Homes Section.

Attached is the data that we had forwarded in response to the request from the Director's office, which was passed on to the Governor's office.

From: Smith, Jennifer (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Cc: Emily Houk R2P (emily@r2pconsultants.com); Lishinski, Karen (DCH)
Subject: RE: childhood lead, question

Sounds good – I haven't seen any of the info that was sent to the gov's office. Can you send that my way?

Also, who do you foresee using the talking points?

I'll be out of the office for the next couple of days, so if your team could send a first draft my way that would help get the ball rolling.

Thank you!
 Jennifer

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:15 AM
To: Smith, Jennifer (DCH) <smithj32@michigan.gov>
Cc: Emily Houk R2P (emily@r2pconsultants.com) <emily@r2pconsultants.com>; Lishinski, Karen (DCH)

<LishinskiK@michigan.gov>

Subject: RE: childhood lead, question

We are starting to get questions, so relatively soon, say within a week or so?

From: Smith, Jennifer (DCH)

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:13 AM

To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)

Cc: Emily Houk R2P (emily@r2pconsultants.com); Lishinski, Karen (DCH)

Subject: RE: childhood lead, question

Thanks Nancy – sounds good! When are you looking to have these finalized?

Jennifer

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:03 AM

To: Smith, Jennifer (DCH) <smithj32@michigan.gov>

Cc: Emily Houk R2P (emily@r2pconsultants.com) <emily@r2pconsultants.com>; Lishinski, Karen (DCH) <LishinskiK@michigan.gov>

Subject: FW: childhood lead, question

Hi Jen – based on email with Angela, we'd like to set up a time to work with you to develop some talking points about our state childhood lead program, especially related to the water situation in Flint.

I am in and out of the office quite a bit the next week or so, so I wanted to ask if our communications consultant Emily Houk, and our program nurse, Karen Lishinski, can work with you to get started on this? We appreciate the help! I have copied Emily and Karen on this email so you can reach out to them, or vice versa.

Nancy

From: Minicuci, Angela (DCH)

Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 4:16 PM

To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)

Subject: RE: childhood lead, question

I'd recommend touching base with Jen Smith. She can help draft talking points!

Angela

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)

Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 4:11 PM

To: Minicuci, Angela (DCH) <MinicuciA@michigan.gov>

Subject: RE: childhood lead, question

Thanks, Angela – I will reach out to him on Monday.

After I contacted you, had a call from CDC. They are hearing about the issues/questions regarding Flint, and were suggesting that we take time to develop a response to any questions we are getting, that is carefully considered. I think that means we need your assistance! What's the best way to connect with you or your staff for this purpose?

From: Minicuci, Angela (DCH)
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 4:05 PM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Subject: RE: childhood lead, question

Hi Nancy,

I don't see an issue with this. Seems pretty straightforward to me.

Angela

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 2:43 PM
To: Minicuci, Angela (DCH) <MinicuciA@michigan.gov>
Subject: childhood lead, question
Importance: High

Hi Angela – we had a call from a pediatrician in Flint, who we know because he sits on our Provider Work Group. He asked for some childhood lead data, of the type that we had sent over to the Director, that was forwarded to the Governor's office. Erring on the side of caution, I wanted to check whether you are good with us sharing that same information with him. See attached. I realize that the Gov's office shared it with the group of Pastors they were meeting with, so it may be out in the public already. Anyway – if you see this and can give an opinion, I appreciate it.

Nancy

Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Baker, Mary A. (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:05 AM
To: Bien, Stan (DCH); Hanulcik, Kristen (DCH)
Subject: Flint water supply

In Nancy Peeler's absence, I was able to reach a nurse consultant in the Lead program by the name of Karen Lishinski. The Lead program is working with Jennifer Smith of the Communications division to craft a department response to the issue. She had no timeline for when the response is expected. I explained our stake in this and asked her to keep us in the loop, which she agreed to do. Here are a few of the points I picked up from her during our conversation.

- This issue has been ongoing for a while now, but picked up steam in July when the Virginia Tech folks got involved
- The Lead program's division epidemiologist has analyzed results and finds that there is a seasonal uptick in elevated blood lead levels, but it is not unusual compared to previous years. They frequently see elevated levels in the summer, presumably because children are outside more and exposed to dirt which may have elevated levels of lead, windows are opened and closed so the paint is disturbed, etc.
- The EPA conducted tests in Genesee Co. and found that 70 out of 995 samples showed lead levels of 25 parts per billion (the recommended allowable level is no more than 15 parts per billion)
- There's no way to identify exactly what kind of exposure to lead caused those 70 samples to be elevated. In other words, they don't know with certainty that it was due to the water supply situation.
- The Lead program has also been in touch with a CDC public health advisor about the issue

Nancy Peeler, who I gathered is the division director, will be back in the office on Monday. In the meantime, if you have questions, Karen is very helpful.

Mary Ann Baker
WIC Policy Specialist
MDHHS/WIC Program
Consultation and Nutrition Services Unit
Phone: 517-335-0031
Fax: 517-335-8835



Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Baker, Mary A. (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:54 AM
To: Lishinski, Karen (DCH)
Subject: FW: Reply - Information requested about Flint, MI and lead in water issue
Attachments: Flint water supply

Importance: High

Wow, Karen – things are really moving fast now, the issue has gone up to the Secretary of the USDA! Here's an FYI for you (see below). BTW, I should've copied you on my message to Stan and Kristen after our conversation --sorry for the oversight but the message is attached.

Mary Ann Baker
 WIC Policy Specialist
 MDHHS/WIC Program
 Consultation and Nutrition Services Unit
 Phone: 517-335-0031
 Fax: 517-335-8835



From: Blen, Stan (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Bartholomew, Anne - FNS
Cc: Hillman, Bruce - FNS; Travis, Rashmi (DCH); Hanulcik, Kristen (DCH); Baker, Mary A. (DCH)
Subject: Reply - Information requested about Flint, MI and lead in water issue
Importance: High

Hi Anne – In follow up to our phone discussion, attached is info our staff obtained this morning on the water issue.

As discussed, this is a Public Health issue, not just WIC. As of now, there has been no 'official advisory' to not use the water and our SNAP clients can purchase water with their benefits if so needed.
 Per the WIC Regs, we must have special justification to issue RTF of 'If the water is unsanitary or restricted'.

We will continue to work with our Lead Program and monitor the situation. Thank you.

Stan Blen, Director
 Michigan WIC Program - BFMCH
 Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
 320 South Walnut Street - 6th Floor
 Lansing, MI 48913
 517.335.8448

From: Bartholomew, Anne - FNS [<mailto:Anne.Bartholomew@fns.usda.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Bien, Stan (DCH)
Cc: Hillman, Bruce - FNS
Subject: Information requested about Flint, MI and lead in water issue

Hi Stan,

Bruce suggested that I contact you directly. I did leave a voice mail. We have an urgent request from the USDA Secretary on behalf of a Congressperson about a problem with high lead levels in water supply in Flint, MI. We are wondering what steps, if any, that Michigan WIC has taken with respect to this issue. Has Michigan WIC determined a need to issue ready-to-feed for affected participants? If yes, is this being done on an individual basis or universally to those living in the affected area. The Secretary has requested a quick response so your attention to this request is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Anne

Anne Bartholomew M.S., R.D.
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Branch Chief, Nutrition Services

Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Baker, Mary A. (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 10:34 AM
To: Lishinski, Karen (DCH)
Subject: FW: Water with WIC

Hi Karen. Thank you so much for your time and the information you provided today. Here is the e-mail to which I referred. Again, please don't share this with anyone else. I will be out on Friday, but back in the office on Monday. However, if something urgent arises on Friday, please contact my supervisor, Kristen Hanulcik at hanulcikk@michigan.gov or our division director, Stan Bien at biens@michigan.gov.

Thanks,

Mary Ann Baker
 WIC Policy Specialist
 MDHHS/WIC Program
 Consultation and Nutrition Services Unit
 Phone: 517-335-0031
 Fax: 517-335-8835



From: Hanulcik, Kristen (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 8:07 PM
To: Bien, Stan (DCH)
Cc: Baker, Mary A. (DCH)
Subject: Re: Water with WIC

I would agree with that from an access perspective, for instances when an alternative to tapwater is desirable.

I would like to talk with you and Mary Ann about this more in the morning if we can make that happen.

Meanwhile, I have Mary Ann copied as I think we should be in touch with our state lead contact regarding this.

If area hospitals are going to be providing discharge instructions to mix formula with bottled water, this will have big implications for the WIC agency.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 16, 2015, at 4:24 PM, Bien, Stan (DCH) <biens@michigan.gov> wrote:

Kristen – Please review and my suggestion is to obtain water via SNAP benefits, as WIC can not provide the bottled water. Comments? Thanks

Stan Bien, Director
Michigan WIC Program - BFMCH
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
320 South Walnut Street - 6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
517.335.8448

From: Valacak, Mark [<mailto:MVALACAK@gchd.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:19 PM
To: Bien, Stan (DCH)
Cc: Brickey, Tamara; Scharer, Dawn; LaRocco, Toni
Subject: FW: Water with WIC

Stan,

This is the request we received from Dr. Hanna- Attisha at Hurley regarding infant formula that I left you a message about on your voicemail.

I am also including a link to the M-live article about the controversy.
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/09/virginia_tech_researcher_says.html

Mark Valacak, MPH, Health Officer
Genesee County Health Department,
630 S. Saginaw St. Suite 4 Flint, MI 48502-1540
Phone 810-257-3588 Fax 810 257-3147
E-mail mvalacak@gchd.us

<image002.jpg>

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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From: Mona Hanna-Attisha [<mailto:MHanna1@hurleymc.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:40 PM
To: Valacak, Mark; Johnson, M.D., Gary; LaRocco, Toni; Brickey, Tamara
Cc: Lawrence Reynolds; 'Dean Sienko'
Subject: Water with WIC

All,

I briefly spoke with Toni yesterday about this, but would it be possible to give bottled water or nursery water (vouchers or actual bottles) to our families with formula fed babies through WIC. The babies who

are drinking formula mixed with tap water (especially warm tap water) are at greatest risk for lead exposure. Water is such a huge proportion of their diet and their brains are still developing.

Until we have definitive information about lead exposure, we should err on additional prevention, especially for our most vulnerable kids.

Let me know what you think or if there is someone else I should contact about this. Thanks! Mona

Mona Hanna-Attisha MD MPH FAAP

Program Director Pediatric Residency

Hurley Children's Hospital at Hurley Medical Center

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

Department of Pediatrics and Human Development

Mhanna1@hurleymc.com

<image001.jpg>

Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 2:19 PM
To: Lishinski, Karen (DCH)
Cc: Fink, Brenda (DCH)
Subject: Re: Angela

Were you able to encourage her to speak directly with Healthy Homes to get an answer about what their program does? I understand her frustration, just want to support her as much as possible.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 21, 2015, at 2:02 PM, Lishinski, Karen (DCH) <LishinskiK@michigan.gov> wrote:

Hi Nancy and Brenda,

Just to let you know that Angela Minicucci called and wanted to know if our program did any water testing. Of course I told her "no" and explained that all of the blood lead levels of anyone tested in Michigan come to our office.

She was told by DEQ that we did water testing. I said that HHS may do some on occasion but I do not believe it is part of a standard Lead Investigation/Risk assessment or EBL investigation. She seemed a little frustrated, getting conflicting information.

Karen

Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Groetsch, Kory J. (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 1:19 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Bruneau, Michelle (DCH); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Dawn Hallwood (dhallwood@gchd.us); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Henry, James; Houk, Emily (DCH); Lishinski, Karen (DCH); Peeler, Nancy (DCH); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Valacak, Mark; Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Groetsch, Kory J. (DCH)
Subject: Flint Pb Health Education Conference Call Summary

Hello All,

Below is a summary from our call. Please note the action items. In addition, Karen Lishinski pointed out this EPA website as a good resource: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/lead.cfm>

SUMMARY:

A conference call with the attendees listed below occurred on 9/22/2015 discussing lead (Pb) outreach in the city of Flint. The purpose of the call was to facilitate introductions, and identify Pb health education materials, current Pb outreach efforts in Flint and existing resources. DEQ provided a brief background of the drinking water compliance process in relation to efforts being conducted in Flint. Information sharing occurred between attendees about the Pb in drinking water sampling efforts in Flint.

Each agency/department listed their current health education efforts and available resources that could be made available relative to Pb outreach in Flint. The CLPPP provides some limited funding to prosperity region 6 to conduct Pb outreach. CLPPP is building a Pb Tool Kit for providers. Information about Pb in drinking water does not currently exist in these materials, but they are interested to build that information into the tool kit. DEQ has contacts with the Flint's drinking water program. GCHD has been getting many phone calls and they have had to create factsheets about water hardness and trihalomethanes.

Action Items from the Call:

1. Participants will e-mail their Pb outreach materials and presentations that are in current use to Michelle Bruneau (BruneauM@michigan.gov).
2. GCHD will send Michelle a list of concerns they have been getting from the Flint community.
3. Michelle will look over the materials to assess what messages are covered, what messages are not covered, and provide suggestions on what work may need to be done to address gaps.
4. Follow-up is needed on the water sampling directions being provided by the city to homeowners that request a Pb in tap water analysis. (There are two sampling procedures depending on the purpose of the water sample.)
5. Karen Lishinski will provide a contact at WIC, so they can be invited to our follow-up conference call.
6. MDHHS-DEH will arrange a follow-up conference call in approximately two weeks.

Attendees:

Dawn Hallwood (Genesee Co HD)
 James Henry (GCHD)
 Mark Valacak (GCHD)
 Brad Wurfel (DEQ)
 Liane Shekter-Smith (DEQ)
 Richard Benzie (DEQ)
 Stephen Busch (DEQ)

Nancy Peeler (DHHS)
Karen Lishinski (DHHS)
Linda Dykema (DHHS)
Kory Groetsch (DHHS)
Michelle Bruneau (DHHS)

Current plan is to schedule another conference call in two weeks. Clearly, this is a dynamic and evolving situation.

FYI- I am currently in St. Ignace participating in an emergency response exercise.

Best Regards,

Kory Groetsch, MS , Manager
Toxicology and Response Section
Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
201 Townsend St.
Lansing, MI 48913
517-335-9935
groetschk@michigan.gov

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Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:12 AM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Subject: FW: Hurley -- follow up about the question on Hurley lab results

Nancy,

I just wanted to add that the Spice Collaborative was founded when I noticed a trend of groups of siblings with high lead levels in areas that normally have fewer EBLs. At this time I was only seeing the 20+. Now I see all children with ebls.

From: Scott, Robert L. (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:06 AM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DHHS)
Cc: Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Hurley -- follow up about the question on Hurley lab results

We report on testing and elevated levels annually by fiscal year for the legislature--by county/Detroit and the state. We report annually by calendar year for stakeholders and the public--by county, by several funded communities, and by ZIP code; also the Medicaid population by county. These annual reports include tables, graphs and maps to provide detailed information about the past year, as well as trends over several years. We produce other reports by request.

We used to produce similar reports by quarter, and even a special monthly report for funded health departments. But as we have lost funding and staff, and as my own time has been pulled in other directions, these other more-frequent reports have fallen away.

Child- and address-specific data continues to be provided to every local health department every week—via HHLPS on-line system, and via securely-transmitted Excel files--so that they have information on lead levels for children in their jurisdictions.

BLLs $\geq$ 20 are faxed to local health departments the same day we receive them. Starting a few months ago, copies of all BLLs $\geq$ 5 are provided to our Nurse Consultant weekly, to help her monitor elevated levels in each local jurisdiction.

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 6:50 PM
To: Wells, Eden (DHHS) <WellsE3@michigan.gov>; Miller, Corinne (DHHS) <MillerC39@michigan.gov>; Miller, Mark (DHHS) <millerm1@michigan.gov>; LyonCallo, Sarah (DHHS) <lyoncallos@michigan.gov>; Dykema, Linda D. (DHHS) <DykemaL@michigan.gov>; Priem, Wesley F. (DHHS) <priemw@michigan.gov>; Travis, Rashmi (DHHS) <TravisR@michigan.gov>
Cc: Fink, Brenda (DHHS) <FinkB@michigan.gov>; Scott, Robert L. (DHHS) <ScottR9@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Hurley -- follow up about the question on Hurley lab results

I can partially answer your question now, will get additional info from Bob and send more later.

The data flows in daily, year-round. We process several thousand test results every week. We monitor the results daily, and have an algorithm for our follow-up response, based on the blood lead level.

Because we are processing results every day, we do see some patterns if they begin to emerge, especially with the higher lead levels. We normally track and report data at health department level, county level/Detroit. We are still building our capacity and putting new procedures in place via our CDC Surveillance grant to crank out more

reports/report cards, and more frequent data reports, especially with the switch in focus to levels of 5 and above (which means we are focusing on a larger number of results than just 10 and above). We develop and share out many maps, charts, graphs, and yes, do publish an annual legislative report.

We have .2 FTE Epi support (Cristin Larder), mostly for special projects and/or reports, for example, Cristin is working with us and Dr. Stan Kaplowitz from MSU to use his research to help pinpoint smaller geographic areas with higher risk, so we can better direct resources toward those areas.

Bob, can you please add more information about frequency of your analysis, and how we detect issues?

From: Wells, Eden (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 6:24 PM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH); Miller, Corinne (DCH); Miller, Mark (DCH); LyonCallo, Sarah (DCH); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Travis, Rashmi (DCH)
Subject: RE: Hurley -- follow up about the question on Hurley lab results

That sounds about right.

May I ask,, is it CLPP's usual process to collect the lead data on an ongoing basis...if so, at what level is the data usually analyzed (by Epi?) IS it daily,monthly? Quarterly? Annually? How would we normally detect/know if there is an issue in a particular locality---do you look at it at county level or smaller when you peruse your data? This question may arise...

E

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Miller, Corinne (DCH); Miller, Mark (DCH); LyonCallo, Sarah (DCH); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Travis, Rashmi (DCH); Wells, Eden (DCH)
Subject: FW: Hurley -- follow up about the question on Hurley lab results

Hi all – I talked to Bob to confirm the information I had shared about the Hurley lab results. It is a little more nuanced than I had explained, forwarding Bob's explanation, FYI.

From: Scott, Robert L. (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:05 PM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Subject: Hurley

Hurley Medical Center is listed as the "Provider" on approximately half of the blood lead results we received for Flint children in 2014—I assume that pattern holds in 2015 and in recent years. Warde Medical Lab is listed as the "Laboratory" on those results. Warde reported the results to CLPPP in accordance with State law.

I can't say whether the blood specimens were a) drawn at Hurley's lab, or b) simply passed through Hurley's lab—from physician office to Hurley to Warde for analysis. As I understand it, both scenarios are common at various hospital labs.

Robert L. Scott
 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
(517) 335-8178
fax (517) 335-8509

Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Subject: V45 in Flint

The only child in Flint with a V45 since 2010- was a PHI

Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)

From: Lishinski, Karen (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 11:41 AM
To: Peeler, Nancy (DHHS)
Subject: RE: more follow up from morning meeting

Yes- to some extent I log most of my calls.

From Flint since the beginning of the year-

Feb- 2 calls from [PPI] about her son's lead level [PHI]

March- 1 call from [PPI]

May-1 call from [PPI]

August- dad from Flint re: his 16 year old son who was lead poisoned as a toddler in Detroit

September- Dr. Mona Attisha & Dr Reynolds requesting data- And then an occasional call from [PPI] I have had virtually no calls from the public about the water situation!

-----Original Message-----

From: Peeler, Nancy (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 11:26 AM
To: Lishinski, Karen (DHHS); Scott, Robert L. (DHHS)
Subject: more follow up from morning meeting

For Karen - Are you still logging the lead calls you receive? It was requested this morning that we log the calls from Flint (to understand how many we are getting), and what the questions are. And, can you give me a summary, best you can remember, about calls you've had so far? So:

--number of calls

--topics of the calls/questions received

For both, the timeline on the press release is shifting as additional analyses are conducted. All information is embargoed at this point.

Bob, just saw the email about the IRB, thanks for the update!

Sent from my iPad