
From: Clement, Elizabeth (GOV)
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 4:03 PM
To: Agen, Jarrod (GOV); Holland, Meegan (GOV); Murray, David (GOV); Baird, Richard (GOV); Hollins, Harvey (GOV)
Subject: Fwd: article
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

1 of 2 emails. The next is the DHHS response. Just making sure you are all in the loop.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lyon, Nick (DHHS)" <lyonN2@michigan.gov>
Date: December 21, 2015 at 3:44:40 PM EST
To: "Clement, Elizabeth (GOV)" <clemente@michigan.gov>
Subject: Fwd: article

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Grijalva, Nancy (DHHS)" <GrijalvaN@michigan.gov>
Date: December 21, 2015 at 12:18:48 PM EST
To: "Lyon, Nick (DHHS)" <lyonN2@michigan.gov>
Subject: article

Michigan Health Department Hid Evidence of Health Harm Due to Lead Contaminated Water: Allowed False Public Assurances by MDEQ and Stonewalled Outside Researchers

[December 21, 2015 Siddhartha Roy Articles](#)

After missing warning signs of spiking childhood lead poisoning that occurred a few months after switching to a corrosive river water source in 2014, outside pressure forced officials at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to closely scrutinize their data in July 2015. They discovered scientifically conclusive

evidence of an anomalous increase in childhood lead poisoning summer 2014 immediately after the switch in water sources, but stood by silently as MDEQ officials repeatedly and falsely stated that no spike in blood lead levels (BLL) of children had occurred. DHHS employees later stonewalled efforts by outside researchers who questioned MDEQs statements, withheld damning documents but released incomplete data suggesting that there were no problems—DHHS officials ultimately fessed up only after incidence of childhood lead poisoning skyrocketed **above 10% in the two Flint zip codes with highest water lead risk during summer 2015!**

DHHS Pressured to Examine Data in mid-July 2015

DHHS' engagement in the Flint water crisis, started in early 2015 with two phone calls from Lee-Anne Walters to a state lead poisoning nurse in Lansing identified only as "Karen." When asked about the phone call last night, Walters said she was at first expressing concern over high water lead measurements in Flint, but on the second call she was in tears because her son's blood lead had increased to 6.5 ug/dL.

According to Walters, "Karen" stated that ***"He is barely lead poisoned. If CDC had not changed their lead poisoning standard from 10 down to 5, we would not be having this conversation."*** Angry, Walters protested that Karen was minimizing the problem, at which point "Karen" cut her off and said ***"I am working with kids in their 40's and 50's. It is just a few IQ points...it is not the end of the world."*** FOIA e-mails demonstrate that Karen Lishinski (DHHS) acknowledged receiving phone calls on the dates Walters called (the caller's name is redacted in the FOIA), but elsewhere Lishinski acknowledges to colleagues that the last time she actually worked with a child who had blood lead above 45 ug/dL was in 2009.

The next time the Flint water issue was apparently raised at DHHS, was July 23rd, when Linda Dkykema (DCH) sent out an e-mail titled ***"R.E.Director's Office Assignment-***