



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI
Deputy Clerk

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2022 **PEGGY CHASE, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Kuhn, Ms. Gunnip, Ms. Cody

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Bush

ALSO ATTENDING: Mrs. Ervin, also see attached

Chair Chase called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. *A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Gunnip to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Cody, to approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

1. SOCIAL SERVICES: Sarah Merrick, Commissioner

a. Providing for a Transfer of Function and Various Personnel Changes with Regard to the Temporary Assistance Employment Program Jobsplus!

Ms. Merrick:

- Asking to transfer mandatory temporary assistance employment activity that has been under contract through OCC for 27 years to the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Within DSS, Temporary Assistance (TA) is the mandated portion - must provide assistance to all clients; anyone who is employable, work with that person to find employment
- Second component: short term or long term disability; must work with short term disability clients to seek services to resolve the disability to be employed, or work with the person to seek social security and comp; then transfer to social security and close the temporary assistance case
- Mandated work, transfer under DSS to have better management and control of this program

Dr. Chase:

- In contact with OCC, wanted to come today but cannot, involved in naturalization process, in favor of county decision

Ms. Merrick answered Ms. Gunnip's question:

- Accepting transfer of all but 3 individuals; 1 part-time, and 2 no longer fit scope of service, 69 will accept the transfer

Dr. Chase asked what happened to the other 3. Ms. Merrick replied that their jobs are being eliminated (at retirement age). Opportunity to offer a position at a lower pay, but what the employees are currently doing is not going to continue in the employment program of the department.

Ms. Merrick answered Ms. Gunnip's question:

- Need to incorporate the employment program into VenTek case management system, will assist in modernizing program
- Able to look at programs and efficiencies down the road; make sure able to staff the program efficiently
- Over time, will have employment counselors do more of the functions

Ms. Cody stated budget wise this is neutral and asked if everyone coming over is at the same rate? Ms. Merrick:

- Yes, Jobsplus is an educational institution; part of transfer is to figure out how to identify Civil Service titles

- 99% are tested positions; many counties across NYS already have and operate the temporary assistance program
- Erie County - using their title Employment Civil Service
- Bringing them into current salary and making sure no one takes a decrease in wages; sick, vacation time will carry over
- OCC does PTO, county is very specific, and county Personnel is in the works of transferring and calculating how general hours of accrual time will transfer over into DSS' specific accruals

Chair Rowley asked how big of a program this is dollar wise; total dollars of JobsPlus. Ms. Merrick replied:

- Current contract with OCC is \$8.6M, can get it down to \$6.5M or \$6.8M
- Funding sources are federal, state and local; going to use FFFS grant (Flexible Fund for Family Services), primarily it is a \$6.3M currently, and will continue to use that and offset costs that occur within department
- Trying to figure how this is going to be neutral as DSS takes it over
- Accounted for in the contract with OCC as part of budget; incurred costs will hit the 101 line, if not enough money, can transfer out of that contract line to cover in the 101 line
- In answer to Chair Rowley's question, she would have to look into if this is federal, state and local funds

Mr. Morgan:

- Program is funded the same way in house as was contracted for; instead of contract, operate as county operation
- Funding mechanism does not change; dollars to fund the program will decrease because of overhead and other costs that were paid to cover that; local dollars are the same; no major impact on Social Services budget

Chair Rowley asked what the local share is. Mr. Morgan replied:

- It is currently about \$1.2M, no state funding (all federal or local)
- Lowering local share depends how Ms. Merrick operates it versus OCC; it will be a feel out process for the rest of 2022
- When putting the 2023 budget together, do not see it being a negligible impact on county to run this program; part of what county does to work with applicants and recipients

Chair Rowley asked if OCC said they do not want to do it anymore. Ms. Merrick answered:

- It was a mutual decision; had long term manager retire; OCC hired a new manager, situation was difficult
- Relationship suffered, opened door for DSS to have a mutual understanding and operate JobsPlus

Mr. Morgan:

- It was started over last 10 years, not really in OCC's house, made sense back then; OCC did great job, not in their core mission; makes sense right now to move it over; gives Ms. Merrick support to control that operation

Dr. Chase asked when this will happen. Ms. Merrick said if the Legislature votes on it at April Session, then it would be an effective date of May 7, 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Gunnip, seconded by Ms. Kuhn, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive/Human Services
a. Confirming the Appointment of Amy Cunningham as the Onondaga County Commissioner of Children and Family Services (Amy L.M. Cunningham)

- Ms. Cunningham has been with the county a number of years starting in Budget Office; from Budget office to Children & Family Services, worked for the last 6 years as head of Youth Bureau
- Started results base accountability performance management, done well with contractors; resurrected Youth Bureau
- Overseen Alliance for Economic Conclusion, funding received from NYS, went to being the Deputy Commissioner overseeing child welfare
- Clear choice for someone who is accomplished in Finance and county Government

Dr. Chase worked with Ms. Cunningham on the Youth Board and was amazed how well it ran, and how collaborative she is.

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Gunnip, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

3. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Dr. Indu Gupta, Commissioner
a. INFORMATIONAL: Lead Program

Health and Human Service Committee Presentation



Lead Exposure Prevention Efforts in Onondaga County

Onondaga County Health Department

Indu Gupta MD, MPH, MA, FACP
Commissioner of Health

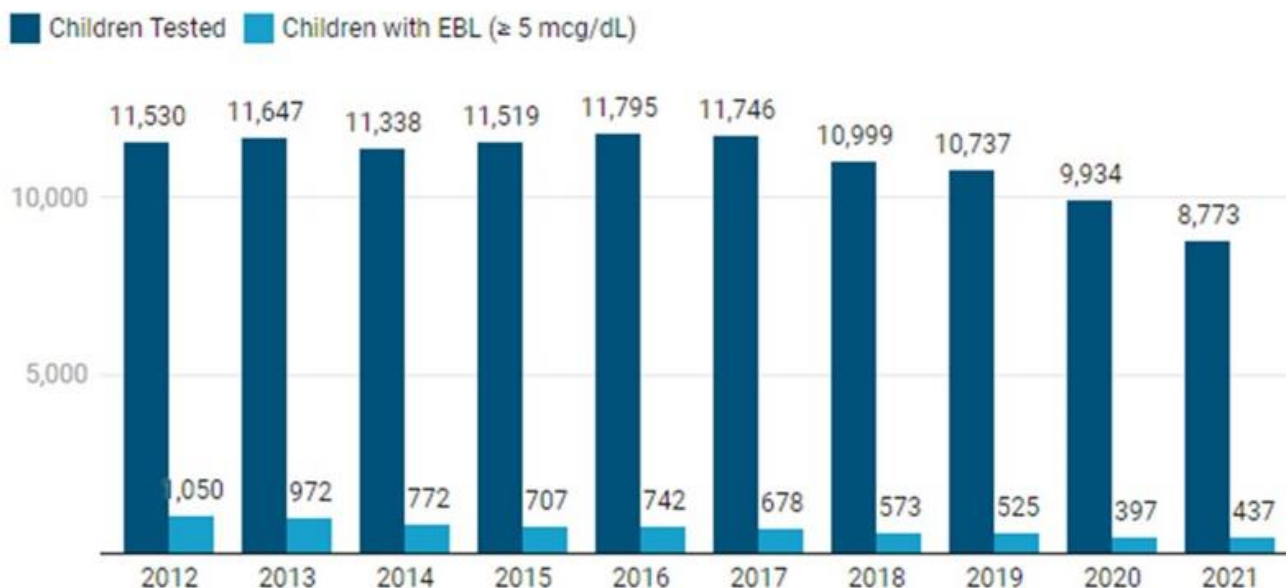
March 15, 2022



Lead Exposure Prevention Efforts

- Data Trends: Current
- Public Health Law
- Program:
 - Case management
 - House inspection
- Collaboration: Partners
- Future Planning

Number of Children Tested and Identified with Elevated Blood Lead Levels, Onondaga County

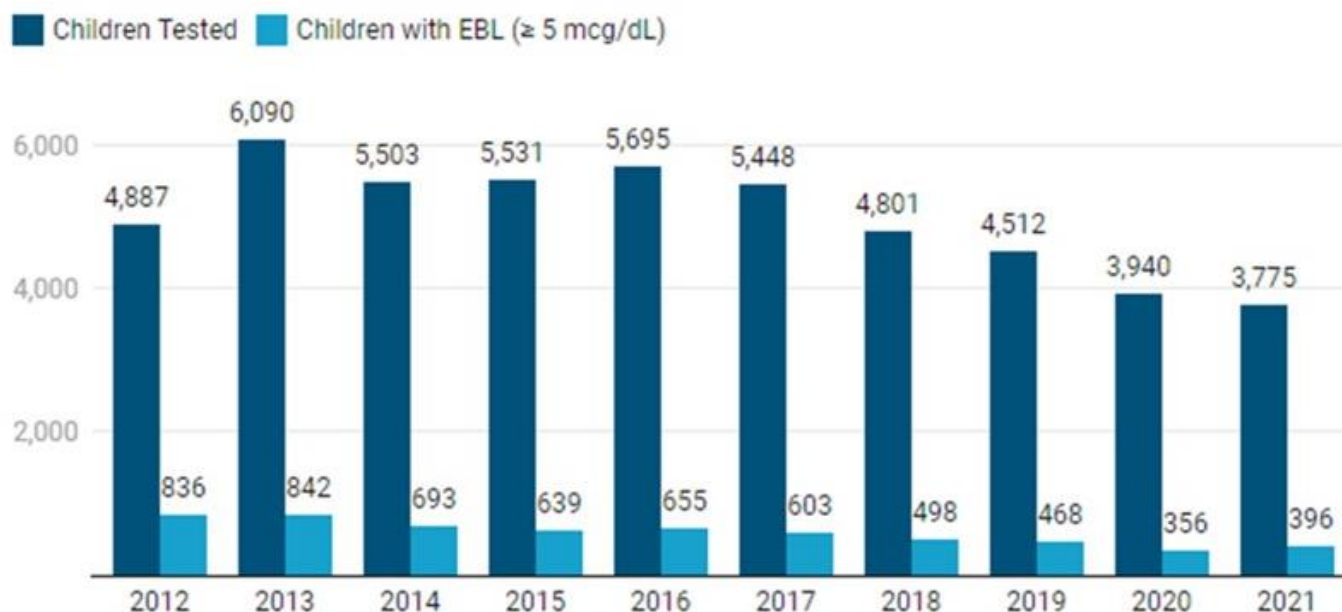


Updated 3/8/2022

Source: Onondaga County Health Department, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program; LeadWeb application, NYSDOH • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



Number of Children Tested and Identified with Elevated Blood Lead Levels, Syracuse

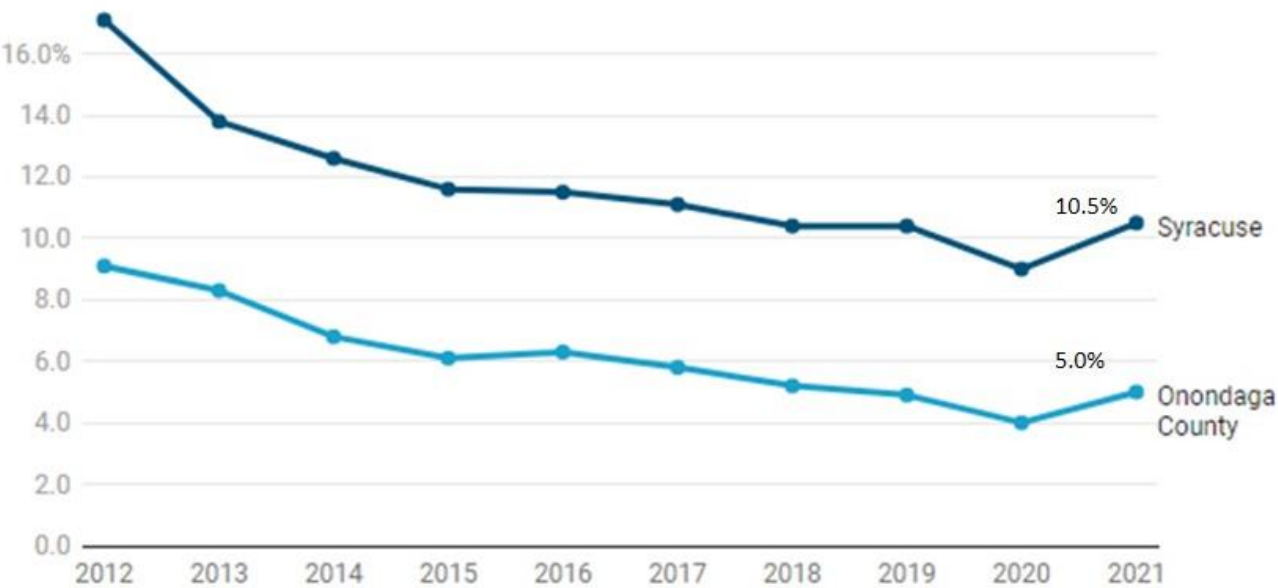


Updated 3/8/2022

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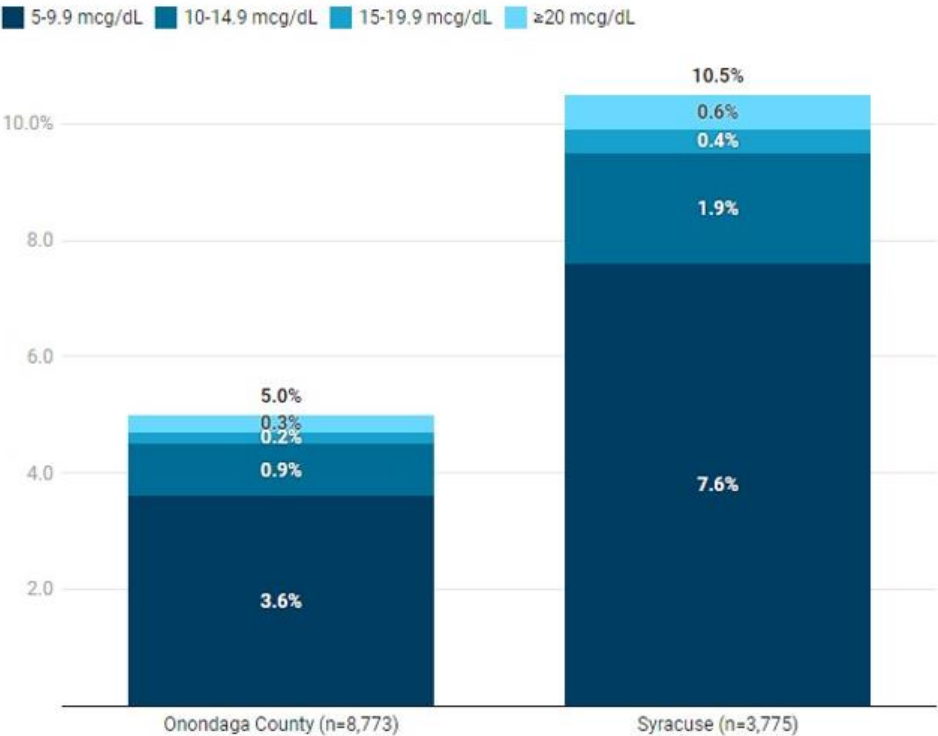
Percent of Tested Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels



Data includes children with elevated blood lead levels (greater than or equal to 5 mcg/dL) divided by the number of children tested for lead. For children with multiple tests, the highest result obtained by venipuncture is included in the analysis. If no venipuncture was performed, the highest fingerstick result is included in the analysis. Onondaga County includes the City of Syracuse. Updated 3/8/2022.

[Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Percent of Tested Children with Blood Lead Levels of 5 mcg/dL or greater, by Blood Lead Level, 2021



Data are preliminary. Last updated 3/8/2022.

Source: Onondaga County Health Department, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program; LeadWeb application, NYSDOH • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Percent of Tested Children with EBLL by Race and Zip Code, 2020

	Any Race	Black / AA	White	Other Race/More than 1 Race	Unknown
Onondaga County (incl. Syracuse)	4.0%	10.1%	1.8%	6.0%	2.2%
Syracuse	9.0%	11.8%	6.4%	9.0%	7.0%
Zip Code 13202	5.5%	9.9%	0.0%	1.6%	3.1%
Zip Code 13203	12.7%	17.5%	8.5%	11.4%	11.1%
Zip Code 13204	9.4%	9.0%	10.1%	10.1%	8.5%
Zip Code 13205	16.4%	20.1%	11.1%	15.9%	9.0%
Zip Code 13206	2.3%	2.4%	1.5%	1.4%	3.7%
Zip Code 13207	7.0%	6.2%	5.0%	9.4%	9.3%
Zip Code 13208	10.5%	12.0%	7.1%	11.5%	9.7%
Zip Code 13210	4.3%	6.7%	4.3%	1.9%	2.7%
Zip Code 13224	0.5%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%


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New York Codes, Rules and Regulations

[Home](#)
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[Title 18](#)
[Laws & Regulations](#)

[Home](#) / [VOLUME A-1a \(Title 10\)](#) / [SubChapter G - AIDS Testing, Communicable Diseases and Poisoning](#) / [Title: Part 67 - Lead Poisoning Prevention And Control](#)

Title: Part 67 - Lead Poisoning Prevention And Control

Effective Date

10/01/2019

[Outline](#)
[^up](#)

Part 67 - Lead Poisoning Prevention And Control

- [SubPart 67-1 - Screening and follow-up](#)
- [SubPart 67-2 - Environmental Assessment and Abatement](#)
- [SubPart 67-3 - Reporting of blood lead levels](#)
- [Subpart 67-4 Lead Testing in School Drinking Water](#)

Statutory Authority

Public Health Law, Sections 206(1)(n), 1370-a and 1110; article 13, title X

Volume

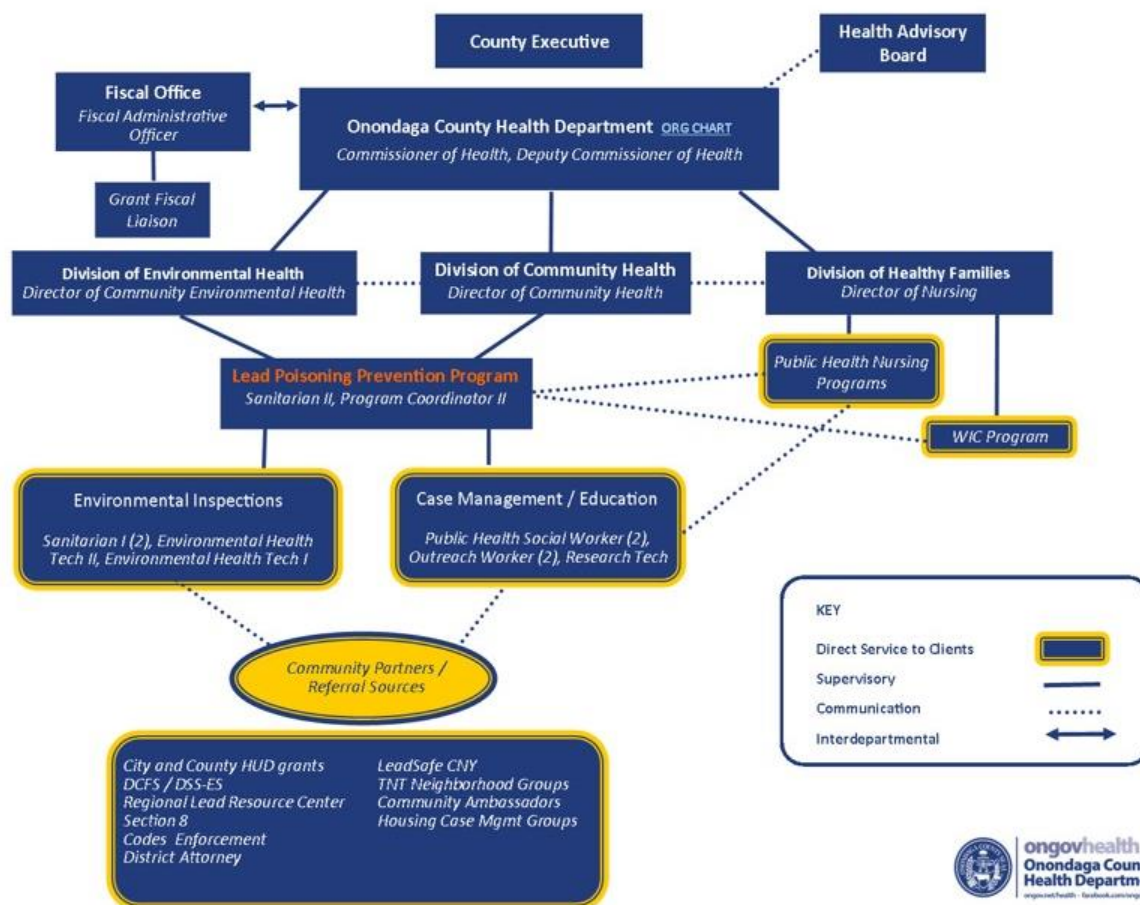
VOLUME A-1a (Title 10)

<https://regs.health.ny.gov/volume-1a-title-10/content/part-67-lead-poisoning-prevention-and-control/>



Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Organizational Chart

Supervisory and Intra-Departmental Communication Chart



Future Planning and Discussion

- LeadCare machine back in business
- WIC and Lead program
- Remediation Programs: County and City
- New changes in legislation: Lowering of actionable blood lead level (CDC 3.5 microgram/dL) will increase number of case management by 3 times requiring more resources.
- Addressing misinformation about the program

Thank You!

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program J. Ron McMahon, County Executive
Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health **ongov.net**

Connect with Onondaga County

How May We Help You? Where Can I Find? ENHANCED BY Google

Select Language

Welcome to the Onondaga County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
 Protecting children from lead is important for their lifelong good health. Even low levels of blood lead have been shown to affect children's physical and cognitive development. Fortunately, lead poisoning is entirely preventable.

We can prevent lead exposure before it occurs by addressing lead at its source – old housing in poor repair. We help ensure a healthy foundation for our children by testing for lead and identifying at-risk children early. The Onondaga County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program works to:

- Educate the community about lead poisoning prevention
- Provide information in languages other than English
- Identify homes with lead based paint before children are harmed
- Ensure property owners complete needed repairs
- Provide follow-up services for children with lead poisoning
- Promote enrollment in grants and other home repair loan programs

BUILDING A LEAD-SAFE COMMUNITY
 See the Lead Town Hall Videos

We all have a role in helping to improve the health and safety of our homes and community. The links below provide information for:

Parents	Tenants	Property Owners	Homeowners	Pregnant Women	Home Repair Workers
Test your children	Request an inspection	Find a contractor	Find a contractor	Protect your child	Learn about the RRP Rule
Request lead test results	Know your rights	Apply for grants	Learn lead-safe home repair	Talk with your doctor about your risk	Get Lead-Safe Certified
Learn more	Learn more	Know the law			

<http://www.ongov.net/health/lead/>

LeadFree KIDS
 For a Healthy Future

Onondaga County Health Department
 Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
 John H. Mulvey Civic Center
 425 Montgomery St., 9th Fl.
 Syracuse, NY 13202
 Phone: 315.435.321
 Fax: 315.435.331
 Email: LeadFreeKids@ongov.net

Dr. Chase asked if a child moves into the community and there are issues in school, is there any way to check this. Dr. Gupta replied yes, is a mother brings her child to the doctor's office and there is suspicion in the pediatrician's mind, then they would order testing. A refugee up to 16 years old can and should be tested. County can get involved.

Ms. Kuhn asked if Dr. Gupta has data on the number of kids currently at 3.5 blood lead level. Dr. Gupta replied:

- Started to look into that; graph shows increase from 3.5 to range of 10; looking for more guidance
- More items attached to different levels, house inspection; would start at 15 or 20; so many other things public health is tied to; could be 2-3 times more, hoping more kids are being tested this year

Ms. Kuhn said in terms of prevention, what would it take for the Health Department to work with hospitals and new mothers to inform them about the dangers of lead poisoning. Dr. Gupta replied:

- At birth, give the mothers information on lead with their birth certificates
- As health alerts are sent to entire health care community, they are reminders of the dangers of lead
- There are a lot of touch points from physicians; quite an awareness of lead poisoning/exposure
- Lead is a conversation that is ongoing

Ms. Kuhn asked if the brochure is in different languages, and Dr. Gupta replied they do primarily Spanish.

Ms. Lewis:

- Number of touch points to reach parents of newborns through WIC; WIC educates parents as they come in for services
- Work with non-profit agencies and provide information for constituents and parents of newborns
- Not all are translated into other languages, 1 sheet is for nutrition, general fact sheet is translated into multiple languages

- Not all speakers of languages other than English can read the information in their native language; providing information to translators in local agencies so they have text in front of them and can assist in educating their client

Dr. Gupta:

- Currently sit on a refugee committee; pre- COVID, work goes on with Catholic Charities, St. Joes, Upstate, etc.
- Meet almost every month on issues of translation, used both Interfaith Works/Catholic Charities
- Lead an important part going into 2022

Community Development: Marty Skahen, Director

- Community Development Involvement with 2 grants; partnered with city of Syracuse, started in April 2019 and received \$3.5M for lead, \$600,000 for healthy homes work
- City handles applicant qualification, sends file over to county; county does production, dust wipes, SRS gun to detect lead in the paint on walls, and determines where it is, then bids out project, file sent back over to city, and city certifies with HUD that the work has been done; reimburse contractor
- County grant received in January of 2020 for \$5M for lead and \$600,000 for healthy homes portion, Community Development does all the work
- Currently 29 units completed, 270 goal applied for, between city and county could only have 77 applications in process
- County has \$943,000 remaining on their grant, \$2.4M on Community Development grant, both grants will most likely receive an extension with COVID shutdowns
- Currently if units require over \$20,000 in lead work or \$5,000 in healthy homes work, considered a high cost unit, go back to HUD for approval to spend more than \$20,000 a unit
- HUD is having initial discussions to adjust that, with high cost being addressed; other funds are used, state funds (Global Housing Corp.), federal program called HOME added to that project to get work done
- Typical work is to replace windows, doors, and siding; eligibility is determined by income by tenants or property owner
- Individual is 80% of income, factor for a family of 4 is \$63,600; other factor is children under age of 6 need to spend more than 3 hours a day and at least 2 days a week for a total of 6 hours a week
- When work is done there are no liens, property owner has to agree to attempt to rent to someone who has a child under 6 for up to 3 years after
- City grant expires in October of 2022; good chance in line for next grant

Dr. Chase asked if people willingly apply for these grants, and is the city code helpful. Mr. Skahen replied:

- People willfully apply, if person works, it is turned into county; city codes can be very helpful; it is part of the process
- When someone applies, if child has elevated blood level, that application moves to the top of the pile
- Right now have 77 applications; still getting documents that are needed; qualified, done inspections, and waiting for results to come back; city has done 80 units out of 230 of projected, county 29 out of 270 projected

Ms. Kuhn talked about bidding out the work and asked what the percentage of city contractors is. Mr. Skahen:

- All local, city/county contractors, they have to be HUD certified; pool of contractors that county send bids out to, 4-5 contractors for every bid that goes out
- Before COVID, county had forum to get contractors, trying to recruit more minority contractors, more bids sent out
- Contractors are slammed with all the work, but keeping an eye on it; most are city based

Ms. Gunnip asked if there are any handouts that can be distributed to people in the community. Mr. Skahen replied yes, and he will send them over for distribution.

Ms. Ervin asked what happens to the money if not all the units for the county are complete. Mr. Skahen replied:

- Numbers will be hit; HUD grades quarterly on where about with grants
- Starting this quarter, first reporting done since 2019; if slow spending, HUD makes sure one gets to where one should be, heavy management hand
- Both grants most likely to be extended; nationwide reopening scoring system to see where everyone is
- City should be eligible to apply for another grant; county will find out next year; still have over 1.5 yrs on current grant

Dr. Chase:

- City Councilor Mr. Driscoll is present; he stated that the city wants to make an awareness regarding the forum to recruit more contractors based in the city, those from the census tracks
- Grant enacted between Community Foundation and Center State actively developing a pipe line of contractors of colors, contractors living in the city, can touch base on how to further that network
- Both county and city, so many contractors are so busy, would love to collaborate on working with county on that

Ms. Lewis:

- Grants are valuable to this community, and they come with rules; some families served fall outside of the rules; there are families that are above 80% of that; conditions make them not available for HUD grants
- Do what can be done to make families eligible; there are a lot of people that do not qualify; not a lot of other resources for those that do not qualify
- County works with Home Headquarters to connect families to other services that are available; new grant coming soon that helps people get connected to that; Healthy Homes production - helps with units with children, asthma triggers, etc.

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Gunnip, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously. Motion CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Kaminski

DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**
DATE: **MARCH 15, 2022**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
<i>John Acade</i>	<i>Comptroller</i>
<i>John Messeri</i>	<i>DSS-ES</i>
<i>Lisa Littley</i>	<i>Health</i>
<i>Debra Lewis</i>	
<i>Stacy Napier</i>	
<i>Wendy Kurlowicz</i>	
<i>Amy Cunningham</i>	<i>DCFS</i>
<i>Don Mulvihill</i>	<i>Financial Operations</i>
<i>Ann Rooney</i>	<i>CE</i>
<i>Tenisha Murphy</i>	<i>CE</i>
<i>Carl Hummel</i>	<i>Personnel</i>
<i>Ann Debejian</i>	<i>Personnel</i>
<i>Donna Briscoe</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Marty Stelm</i>	<i>Community Development</i>
<i>Josep Priscoll</i>	<i>City Council</i>
<i>Oceanna Fair</i>	<i>Families For Lead Free Lead</i>
<i>Indu Gpte</i>	<i>Health Dept</i>
<i>Darcie Lesniak</i>	<i>Leg</i>