Leveraging Partnerships to Advance Lead & Healthy Homes Programming in North Carolina

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Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC)
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Translating interdisciplinary research on environmental health threats to improve public health in North Carolina

- **Research foci**: environmental cancer, cardiopulmonary disease (asthma) & developmental disease (toxic metals)
- **COEC** engages public health professionals, community health workers & susceptible populations
  - Lead poisoning prevention and asthma outreach for >10 years
  - Supplemental funding to manage statewide education and engage communities and professionals in lead poisoning prevention
Evolution of NC Healthy Homes Programming

**Lead Ad Hoc Committee**
- Founded in 1989
- Goal: advance primary prevention
- Local & state health and housing agencies
- Informed investigation and remediation policy
- State & CDC funding

**NC Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force**
- Evolved from Lead Ad Hoc in 2006
- Goal: expanded focus to asthma & home safety
- Home visiting professionals saw opportunity to broaden outreach
- Better positioned to seek federal funding

**COEC as participant**

**COEC as co-convener**
Developing a Statewide Strategic Plan, ~2010-2012

- Initial focus: create strategic plan to reduce home health hazards
- Task force co-convened by NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program-DHHS and UNC CEHS
- Key partners
  - Asthma Alliance of NC
  - Local housing coalitions
  - Local health departments
  - NC Asthma Program
  - NC Pediatric Society
  - Partnership Effort to Advance Children’s Health
  - Reinvestment Partners
  - State Laboratory of Public Health and other DHHS programs
Training PH Professionals to Reduce Home Hazards

• 6-hour train-the-trainer course to prepare public health professionals to address environmental health hazards
  o Over 300 participants
  o Content knowledge improved for over 90% of participants, especially related to lead, pests/IPM and indoor air quality
  o Subset used materials and recommended interventions during home & clinical visits, reaching over 1,000 families
    o Interventions focused on asthma triggers, mold & pests

• Additional healthy homes outreach
  o 3-hour course on environmental asthma triggers
  o 90-minute updates on emerging sources of lead & policies
  o Tailored training sessions
Supporting Implementation of Screening for Pregnant Women

- Assisted in developing exposure assessment questionnaire
- Trained over 320 EH & clinical staff in screening procedures
- Informed addenda to health department policies
A healthy home assessment by a trained professional can help uncover hidden hazards in your home. Watch this video to see the Vazquez family's story.
Opportunities to Expand Programming

- Work with PH professionals & healthcare providers to identify interventions for children with blood lead levels < 10 µg/dL
- Improve cultural competency of those leading interventions
- Share resources with tribal nations to address their identified needs related to healthy housing
- Seek funding to sustain healthy homes programs
We are grateful for the leadership and support of our colleagues!

Members of the NC Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force

National Healthy Homes Training Center

NIEHS Core Center Collaborators
• Katrina Korfmacher, PhD, & Val Garrison, University of Rochester
• Ogonnaya Dotson-Newman, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

NCDHHS
• Children’s Environmental Health Branch: Ed Norman, David Brown, Kim Gaetz, PhD, Tena Hand
• Women’s Health Branch: Maria Valentin-Welch

UNC CEHS: Rebecca Fry, PhD, Megan Hughes, Amy Macdonald, Terry Noah, MD, David Peden, MD, Karin Yeatts, PhD

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