

Polk County Advisory Board of Health Minutes

September 20, 2024

Members present: Rick Kozin

Members absent: Reylon Meeks, Thomas Newton, Anne Bacon, Jennifer Olson

Agenda Items	Summary
<u>Approval of Minutes</u>	Board minutes from August not approved, no quorum.
<u>Director Update</u> <i>By Helen Eddy</i>	None
<u>Deputy Director Update</u> <i>By Mandy Penning</i>	None
<u>Wesley Life Homecare Update</u> <i>By Pam Reeves</i>	- Serves most needy of Polk County, whether clients have mental health issues or are elderly. Individuals served must be 18 older. - Housekeeping or bathing serves: 150 clients, 50 on a waiting list - Nursing: Increase up to 40 (were holding steady at around 20) - A lot clients in hospitals with no insurance and as a last resort – whether it is one nurse visit a week after the client is home or some clients receive services for six months. - Qualifications remain the same: no other funding - Copays range from \$0 - \$15 - Difference of the visits are covered by Aging Resource, United Way and Polk County - Referrals from hospitals (Unity Point and Broadlawns), doctor's offices, senior living communities. - Staffing challenges: - Still trying to recoup from COVID – people either do not need a job or they don't want a job - Biggest impact for our community, keeping people out of hospitals and in their homes. - Spring clean-up program offer by all staff. One client selected to clean up their home (typically a hoarding or boarder-line hoarding situation).
<u>Lead Program Update</u> <i>By Stephanie Appleby</i>	Board of Health Presentation Polk County Health Department - Lead Team September 20, 2024 Although preventable, lead poisoning remains a significant health concern for young children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is no safe level of lead in a child's blood. Elevated levels can harm a child's central nervous system and are associated with reduced IQ, behavioral problems and learning disabilities. We are trying to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning in Polk County, eliminate lead-based paint hazards in pre-1978 housing stock and provide awareness to members of the community. 

Our Plan

Remediate 150 owner -occupied homes in Polk County through our Lead Hazard Control Grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

We are currently on our # Lead Hazard Control Grant. At this time we have:

- Remediated 95 homes (16 in progress)
- Provided a lead-safe environment for 135 children under the age of 6

Continue working with Iowa HHS, Childhood Lead Advisory Workgroup (CLAW) and the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

We have responded to the following:

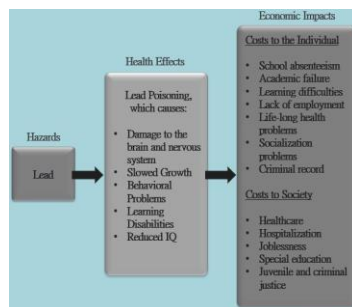
- 138 cases > 5 µg/dL
- 36 cases > 10 µg/dL

Attend Community Events for Outreach/Education Opportunities

➤ We have attended:

- Latino Heritage Festival
- I8 Make Me a World in Iowa
- Preschool Palooza
- Kites on the Green
- Farmer's Markets
- Polk County Senior Fest
- CelebrAsian Festival
- Johnston Family Fest
- National Night Out
- Multicultural Festivals

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Impact in the Community

Eliminating the risk of lead poisoning for young children helps their overall health, behavior and learning capabilities. This helps the community by lowering school absenteeism, academic failures, lack of employment, criminal activities, healthcare costs and special education needs.

Healthy Homes interventions help with pests, mold, radon, etc. which can contribute to asthma, cancer and many other unintentional injuries.

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Challenges



Conflicts and quality issues with our lead certified contractors and workers



Amount of time it takes to get projects completed



The increasing cost of projects

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Successes



Identifying problem areas and completing repairs quickly and effectively.

-S. M.

Gives parents a peace of mind about removing lead from home, offers safety to family.

-J. & S. M.

I could not have afforded this on my own but it needed to be done. I am very grateful.

-J. S.

Love the new windows. Feels good having kids knowing it is a bit safer for their health.

-L. D.

The fact that there was no cost for me – very appreciative of this program.

-A. M.

How fast & easy the whole application process was.

-M. A.



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Successes (Before & After Photos)



7

Successes (Before & After Photos)



8

Successes (Before & After Photos)



9

Successes (Before & After Photos)



10

Successes (Before & After Photos)



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What is on the horizon?



Building and maintaining a quality contractor pool



Applying for another Lead Hazard Control Grant with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as our current grant will be up in April 2025

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<u>Committee Member Comments</u>	• Rick Kozin questions: ○ Contractors - increased cost, slow projects, etc. ○ Lead benchmark questions ○ Lead service lines • Questions were addressed by Stephanie Appleby and Helen Eddy
<u>Public Comments</u>	• None
<u>Adjournment</u>	9:02 a.m.

Next Meeting October 18, 2024 at 8:30am

Others present:

Helen Eddy, PCHD

Stephanie Appleby, PCHD

Andrea Petrovich, Asst. Polk County Attorney

Pam Reeves, Wesley Life