



# SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME FROM MAYOR CORY A. BOOKER

Welcome to the Spring/Summer Edition of the Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children Newsletter.

Childhood lead poisoning is a community issue that continues to affect thousands of children in New Jersey and our Nation. In Newark, we have made tremendous strides to combat childhood lead poisoning. The Mayor's Office in partnership with the City Council, Department of Child and Family Well-Being, funding partners and key stakeholders have been effective in marshalling resources and minds to create initiatives like the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. These collaborations have been a significant part of our City's transformation. All though we have made tremendous strides, we still have much to do.

I remain truly grateful for all of you who are working diligently in assisting the children and families that are impacted. Together, we are moving closer to creating a community that is safer and stronger for our residents.

Cory A. Booker  
Mayor



## Conference Examines Progress in Eliminating Lead Poisoning

by Crystal Motlasz, NJ Dept of Health and Senior Services

On April 16, the Interagency Task Force on the Prevention of Lead Poisoning sponsored an all-day conference in Edison, NJ entitled "Lead and Beyond: Progress in Eliminating Lead Poisoning and New Opportunities for Collaboration in New Jersey." Highlights of the event, which attracted nearly 300 attendees, included a keynote presentation by Terry Brennan whose expertise includes building design, policy analysis, development of codes and standards, and the assessment and resolution of building-related environmental health problems.

Mr. Brennan's presentation "Lead and Beyond: Healthy Homes, Schools and Workplaces" focused on preventing and solving indoor air quality problems where we live, learn, and work. Studies have concluded that on average people spend 75-90% of their time indoors, with workers and students spending half their waking hours at work and school. Some of his specific suggestions for improving indoor air quality are to:

- Educate the public to keep buildings dry, clean, and pest free;
- Establish and use exhaust ventilation systems for unavoidable, stationary sources (e.g. range hood);

- Identify and reduce potential sources (e.g. moisture) that contribute to poor indoor air quality (e.g. mold) and disease (e.g. allergies/asthma);
- Provide dilution ventilation for unavoidable sources in mobile or large areas;
- Use weatherization retrofits where able;
- Reduce the use of pesticides and instead use integrated pest management methods;
- Use low toxicity and irritancy cleaning products (e.g. no fragrance).

The conference offered attendees a choice of nine breakout session topics that appealed to employees at all levels of government, child care providers, contractors, and staff of community-based organizations, hospitals, and schools. In addition to the sessions, there were fourteen exhibitors present that provide a variety of services ranging from advocacy, education, and outreach to environmental investigation equipment sales.

To be placed on the distribution list for the Interagency Task Force, contact Ellen Dunn at 609-631-2298 or by email at [ellen.dunn@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:ellen.dunn@dhs.state.nj.us).

OUR  
VISION

A lead safe environment  
for the children of our  
communities.

OUR  
MISSION

To protect children from harmful effects of lead through collaboration that focuses on maximizing resources and eliminating service gaps through advocacy, education, and policy development for the City of Newark.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE NEWARK PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAD SAFE CHILDREN

### Great News!

Ms. Shonda Bryant, coordinator for the Newark Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was chosen to be a speaker at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control's 2010 Program Manager School in Memphis Tennessee on June 1-4, 2010. She spoke on Wednesday, June 2 on "Lead Grantee Best Practices/Avoiding Pitfalls" and June 3 on "Enrollment/Outreach."

Ms. Bryant was awarded this amazing opportunity after attending the Kresge Foundation's Annual Grantees



Shonda Bryant

Meeting in Detroit, Michigan. After hearing of the tremendous outreach that has garnered Newark amazing

results in reducing cases of lead poisoning, Ms. Bryant was offered the opportunity to discuss Newark's best practices.

### Become Part of our Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children!

Has our Newsletter piqued your interest in helping to eliminate childhood lead poisoning?

Consider joining our Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children! For more information, contact our Partnership Coordinator, Jose R. Acevedo, telephone 973-622-0613, or email [acevedoj@ci.newark.nj.us](mailto:acevedoj@ci.newark.nj.us).

## Rutgers Law Record Sponsors "Lead and the Law" Symposium

On April 23, the Rutgers Law Record held a symposium at Rutgers School of Law – Newark to discuss legal issues and ramifications surrounding the presence and effects of lead paint in homes. The symposium included presentations from medical practitioners, legal scholars, and attorneys who have litigated cases revolving around lead paint.

The day began with remarks from the keynote speaker, Kevin Ryan. Ryan is a former child advocate and the president of Covenant House. He opened the symposium by discussing the significant dangers that children face due to lead paint exposure and how these dangers still exist despite the fact that the use of lead paint was banned in 1977.

Following the opening remarks, an in-depth presentation was given on the specific biological and neurological effects that are caused by lead paint exposure. Dr. Jay S. Schneider, a professor of pathology, anatomy and cell biology from Jefferson Medical College, explained the intricate

makeup of the human brain and how lead paint adversely affects its growth and development. He also explained how this affected children's behavior and intelligence. Dr. Schneider also fielded several questions from the audience of attorneys and law students.

Once the neurological effects had been thoroughly discussed and were understood, a panel was held to discuss the legislative attempts to solve this problem. The panel was made up of notable presenters and included Theresa Bourbon and Meghan Tierney, representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency; Joseph Pargola, a policy advisor from the New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate; and Crystal Motlasz from the New Jersey Department of Health.

A second panel was then held to discuss issues that have arisen during the litigation of claims arising from lead paint exposure. Professor Louis Raveson moderated the panel that included presentations from Robin Dahlberg, an attorney with the ACLU, and a spirited oration from Barry Sugarman, a litigator from the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer. These presentations included discussions of the hurdles that litigators faced

when they pursued toxic tort claims following lead paint exposure. They also discussed possible solutions to the hurdles that continue to exist and considered the history of the use of lead paint and how it added to the current problem.

Additionally, Ronald Chen, former public advocate and current assistant dean at Rutgers School of Law – Newark, discussed his work as a public advocate and how, as the public advocate, he had worked to remove lead paint from buildings throughout New Jersey. Finally, attendees were invited to join a break-out group on a topic of their choice. Topics included lead paint litigation, legislation and other legal issues.

The symposium was made possible by the efforts of Rutgers Law Record, a legal journal at Rutgers School of Law – Newark that is comprised solely on law students. Rutgers Law Record is the nation's only general interest law journal to publish solely online.

For more information, visit [www.lawrecord.com](http://www.lawrecord.com).



Kevin Ryan



Ronald Chen

## Op-Ed: Poisoned by paint

by Steve C. Gold, The Record

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At the November 19 IT IS SUPPOSED to be a problem of the past – children poisoned by the lead in the paint in their homes. After all, the government banned lead-based paint from homes in 1978. But the lead already on the walls stayed there. Except it didn't. It kept getting into kids.

Our image that children become lead-poisoned because they pick and eat chips of peeling paint is dangerously incomplete. Lead paint deteriorates to dust, especially around doors and windows and where workers sand, cut or puncture painted surfaces. This dust is a major source of children's exposure.

To reduce that exposure, the Environmental Protection Agency required contractors to contain, capture and clean up dust created during renovation, repair or painting of homes that might have lead-based paint. The so-called "RRP rule" also requires contractors to be trained and certified in these practices. The rule, phased in over two years, became fully effective last month.

At a conference on "Lead Paint Poisoning and the Law" at Rutgers Law School, I found myself thinking that the RRP rule is a very good thing, especially after a speaker described research showing how even low levels of lead can devastate a child's developing brain. The EPA believes the rule is workable, affordable and, above all, worth it: The benefits of protecting millions of children far outweigh the cost, even in purely economic terms.

A study commissioned by New Jersey's public advocate estimated that in this state alone, reducing blood lead levels in children under 6 could save \$27 billion in social costs.

Then I talked to someone whose small business specializes in restoring historic houses.

He understands the need for environmental regulation and obeys the law. But, he wondered,

did EPA understand how the costs, especially for smaller jobs, would affect contractors and homeowners? Wouldn't some owners avoid the expense by doing work themselves or by hiring less careful contractors or even deliberate cheaters?

These questions have lessons for us as we strive, finally, to end childhood lead poisoning. The lessons also apply more generally as the United States enters the fifth decade of modern environmental law.

Enforcement

Refusing to think about it will not make the problem of lead-based paint go away. It will only affect who pays for the problem.

First, enforcement remains important. Environmental law (like most law) depends on voluntary compliance. The RRP rule will touch millions of people right where they live and right in their bank accounts. Most property owners and contractors will spend the money and do the right thing.

But violating the rule will be tempting. Doing so undetected will seem easy.

Experience with asbestos shows that there will be no shortage of people who, through ignorance or dishonesty, will break the rules. In the Eighties and Nineties, the EPA responded to widespread violations with penalties and court action. That type of aggressive enforcement of the RRP rule is essential to achieve the rule's purposes and to protect scrupulous contractors from unfair competition by lawbreakers.

Federal and state agencies must commit the resources needed to ensure that compliance is more attractive than violation.

Second, environmental policy, whether it increases or relaxes regulation, inevitably allocates costs. Lead-based paint, applied years ago to housing that today needs renovation or repair, is costing society now. So far, much of the cost has been borne by brain-damaged children and their parents.

The rest of us have paid, too, in the form of taxpayer-financed medical care, special education and law enforcement. Requiring contractors to use lead-safe work practices will shift some of the costs to contractors and their clients, as well as to tenants in rental properties.

Worth the costs?

Are the costs worth it? It depends on how you count. It also depends on where you sit.

As a society, we could choose to spread the costs among ourselves by devoting significant government revenue to abate lead hazards before children are poisoned. Or we might look to the Superfund program as a model for addressing past pollution.

Superfund used taxes and liability to assign the costs of cleaning up a toxic legacy, wherever possible, to industries that had created and profited from it, who would spread the cost to shareholders and customers. The best aspects of that strategy might be adapted to help address the toxic legacy of lead-based paint.

This may seem like an odd time to think about using tax dollars to do anything. But refusing to think about it will not make the problem of lead-based paint go away. It will only affect who pays for the problem.

In the meantime, if you plan to renovate, follow the advice in the EPA booklet your contractor is supposed to give you: Renovate right.

Steve C. Gold, a law professor at Rutgers School of Law-Newark, was an environmental enforcement attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice.

## THE SILENT DISEASE CHILDREN AND LEAD POISONING

### WHAT IS LEAD POISONING?

- It is too much lead in the body that makes you sick.
- There is no cure for it.
- Too much lead in the body can hurt a child's brain, heart and kidneys. It can cause learning disabilities and behavior problems. It is very dangerous for children and pregnant mothers and their babies.

### WHERE IS LEAD FOUND?

- Lead can be found in paint and paint chip from walls.
- It is found in dust from lead-based blinds and painted windows.
- It can be found in dirt around the outside of your home and in drinking water.
- Buildings built and walls painted before 1978 are at the highest risk of having lead-based dust and paint.

### HOW DOES THE LEAD GET IN YOU?

- You can eat it. Chips of paint can flake off walls and children will eat it.
- Dust can have lead in it. You and your child can breathe it in. If dust is on a child's toy, they may also eat it if they put the toy in their mouth.
- You can drink it if you get you water from old lead pipes in your home or city.



### HOW DO I KNOW IF MY HOME HAS LEAD-BASED PAINT OR WATER?

- Ask your landlord if your home is lead free.
- Call your local health department and ask someone to check your house for lead-based paint.
- Call the National Lead Information Center at **1-800-532-3394** for more information.

### HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CHILD HAS LEAD POISONING?

- You might not be able to tell until it is too late. Your AMERIGROUP Community Care doctor will check your children for lead until they are 6 years old.
- There are some signs to look for like headaches, throwing up, stomachaches and talking slower than normal.
- See your doctor for a blood lead test right away.
- Your doctor will do a blood lead

test when your children turn 1 and again at age 2. Your doctor will let you know if more blood tests are needed.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT LEAD POISONING?

- Wash all floors, toys and tables every day.
- Wash your children's hands and face before they eat.
- Keep children away from peeling or chipping paint.
- Have your child tested for lead by your family doctor.

**GET THE LATEST ON LEAD PREVENTION**  
Visit the Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children's official online blog for:

- news
- events
- recommended reading
- educational publications

<http://leadpartnership.wordpress.com>

## LA ENFERMEDAD SILENCIOSA LOS NIÑOS ENVENENAMIENTO POR PLOMO

### ¿QUÉ ES ENVENENAMIENTO POR PLOMO?

- Es una cantidad de plomo demasiado grande en el cuerpo que lo hace sentirse enfermo.
- No hay cura para esto.
- El tener demasiado plomo en el cuerpo puede dañar el cerebro, el corazón y los riñones de un niño.
- Puede causar trastornos en el aprendizaje y problemas de conducta. Es muy peligroso para niños y madres embarazadas y sus bebés.

### ¿DÓNDE SE ENCUENTRA EL PLOMO?

- El plomo puede encontrarse en la pintura y las escamillas de pintura de las paredes.
- Se encuentra en el polvo de persianas que contienen plomo, pinturas a base de plomo y pintura al rededor de las ventanas.
- Puede encontrarse en la tierra alrededor de su casa y en el agua potable.
- Los edificios construidos y las paredes pintadas antes de 1978 tienen más riesgo de tener polvo y pintura a base de plomo.

### ¿CÓMO ENTRA EL PLOMO AL CUERPO?

- Se puede comer. La pintura de las paredes puede escamillarse y los niños la pueden comer.
- El polvo puede contener polvo.

- Usted y su niño lo pueden respirar. Si hay polvo con plomo sobre un juguete del niño, también lo puede ingerir si se lo mete en la boca.
- Lo puede tomar si el agua que usted usa viene de tuberías viejas de plomo en la casa o de la ciudad.

### CÓMO SÉ SI MI CASA TIENE PINTURA O AGUA A BASE DE PLOMO?

- Pregúntele a su arrendador si la casa está libre de plomo.
- Llame al departamento de salud local y pida que venga alguien a chequear su casa para detectar la presencia de pintura a base de plomo.
- Llame al Centro Nacional de Información sobre Plomo (National Lead Information Center) al 1-800-532-3394, para más información.

### ¿CÓMO SÉ SI MI NIÑO TIENE ENVENENAMIENTO POR PLOMO?

- Quizá no lo sepa hasta que sea muy tarde. Su médico de AMERIGROUP Community Care revisará a sus niños para detectar la presencia de plomo hasta los 6 años de edad.
- Hay algunas señales que se pueden detectar, tales como dolores de cabeza, vómito, dolor de estómago, y hablar más lento que lo normal.
- Vaya inmediatamente a su médico para hacerle un examen de sangre para detectar plomo.



- Su médico de hará un examen de sangre para detectar plomo cuando sus niños cumplan 1 año y otra vez a los 2 años de edad. El médico le hará saber si es necesario hacer más exámenes de sangre.

### ¿QUÉ PUEDO HACER PARA EVITAR EL ENVENENAMIENTO POR PLOMO?

- Lave todos los pisos, los juguetes y las mesas todos los días.
- Lave las manos y la cara de sus niños antes de comer.
- Mantenga a los niños alejados de pintura descascarada o en escamillas.
- Haga que el médico de la familia examine al niño para detectar la presencia de plomo.

## YON MALADI KI SILANSYE TIMOUN AK PWAZON PLON

### KISA ANPWAZONMAN PLON YE?

- Se lè ou gen twòp plon nan kà w ki fè w malad.
- Pa gen tretman pou li.
- Twòp plon nan kà l kapab domaje sèvo yon timoun, kè li ak ren li yo. Li kapab koze pwoblèm aprantisaj, ak pwoblèm konpètman. Li danjere anpil pou timoun ak fanm ansent ansanm ak ti bebe yap pote a.

### KIBO MOUN JWENN PLON?

- Moun jwenn plon nan penti ak maso penti ki soti nan mi.
- Li soti nan pousyè ki soti nan rida fenèt ak fenèt ki pentire.
- Li soti nan labou arebà deyà kay la epi nan dia ke moun bwè.
- Batiman ki te bati oswa mi ki te penti re anvan 1978 gen plis risk pou yo gen pousyè ak penti ki a baz plon.

### KOUMAN MOUN FÈ KONTAMINE PA PLON?

- Ou gen dwa man je li. Maso penti gen dwa dekalè soti nan mi an epi timoun manje li.
- Pousyè gen dwa gen plon ladan l. Ou menm ak pitit ou gen dwa respire l. Si pousyè a sou jwèt yon timoun, yo gen dwa man je l tau pandan yo lilete jwèt la nan bouch yo.
- Ou gen dwa bwè li si ou bwè dia ki soti nan tiyo dia ki la lontan e ki gen plon oubyen lakay ou ou byen nan villa.



### KOMAN M KA KONNEN SI KAY MWEN GEN PENTI OSWA DLO A BAZ PLON?

- Mancie mèt kay la si kay la pa gen plon.
- Rele clepatman sante lokal ou epi mancie pou yon moun vinn tyeke kay la pou wè si pa gen penti a baz plon.
- Rele Enfòmasyon nan Sant Nasyonal Plon nan 1-800-532-3394 pou plis enfòmasyon.

### KOUMAN MAP KONNEN SI PITIT MWEN AN PRAN PWAZON PLON?

- Ou gen dwa pa konnen anvan li cleja twa ta. Doktè w la nan Swen Kominotè AMERIGROUP ap gen pou tyeke pitit ou a pou wè si li pa gen pwazon nan san l jiskaske li gen 6 zan.
- Gen kèk siy pou tyeke tankou tèt fè mal, vomisman, vant fè

mal, epi si timoun nan ap pale pi lantman ke nàmal.

- Al wè cloktè pou tès san tau swit.
- Doktè w la gen pou 1 fè yon tès san lè pitit ou a gen liane epi yon lèt lè 1 gen 2 lane. Doktè w la gen pou fè w konnen si ou bezwen fè plis tès san.

### KISA MWEN KAPAB FÈ POU MWEN PREVNI ANPWAZONMAN PLON?

- Lave tout planche, jwèt ak tab chak jou.
- Lave men ak figi tout timoun avan yo man je.
- Pa kite timoun yo dekalè oswa koupe penti.
- Mancie cloktè fanmi an pou li fè yon tès plon pou pitit ou.

**DON'T LET  
YOUR CHILD BE  
THE NEXT FACE OF  
LEAD POISONING  
GET YOUR  
CHILD  
TESTED  
GET YOUR  
HOME  
INSPECTED  
GET THE  
FACTS**



FOR A FREE LEAD TESTING AND HOME INSPECTION CALL:

**1.866.697.LEAD (5323)**

**Newark**  
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a stronger, safer,  
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**CORY A. BOOKER, MAYOR**  
THE NEWARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
**Maria E. Vizcarrondo, Director**  
Department of Child and Family Well-Being

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

## Newark Celebrates Annual Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

The Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Program (CLPP) is kicking off its "Lead Poison Prevention Week" from June 14 – June 19.

Although National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is celebrated in the month of October, the City of Newark celebrates this initiative during the first week of June. The summer months are critical for our children since they are home from school and spend more time at home, which make them more susceptible to lead exposure. National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of lead dangers in homes and workplaces, and to encourage removal of such hazards from homes and testing of children for signs of lead poisoning.

The Newark CLPPP will be educating the community on lead safety prevention from June 14 through June 19, 2010 throughout Newark. On Saturday June 19, 2010 the finale, which is open to the public will be held at JFK Recreational Center located at 211 West Kinney Street, Newark, New Jersey 07103. The Finale features a day of music, food, and entertainment. Throughout the event, the CLPPP will be incorporating information into the festivities to

educate on what lead poisoning is, and how to stay safe. The CLPPP will also offer lead blood testing screenings for Newark children ages six months to six years from 12 noon to 4:00 pm, with a full compliment of health educators, nurses, lead inspectors, and medical technicians present.

The Newark CLPPP has drastically reduced the number of children lead poisoned by providing comprehensive lead prevention services. The CLPPP has tailored its services to meet the needs of our community. Lead poisoning continues to be a problem that involves medical, social, housing, and environmental factors. The CLPPP's lead inspectors, nurses, health educators, relocation staff, and support staff work very hard to make sure children are safe year round. Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Week is an annual program to educate residents about the dangers of lead poisoning and to raise awareness about measures they can take to protect their families.

For more information about free lead poisoning tests and home inspections, contact the Newark Childhood Lead Prevention Program at 973-733-5352 or the Newark Non-Emergency Call Center at 973-733-4311.



**CORY A. BOOKER, MAYOR**  
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### The BILL OF RIGHTS for the CHILDREN of NEWARK

- The Right to...* Nurturing and Responsible Parents, Caregivers and Family Members.
- The Right to...* Safe Homes, Schools and Neighborhoods that will preserve an Individual's Dignity, Respect and Freedom from Discrimination.
- The Right to...* Good Nutrition, a Decent Permanent Home, Clean Air and Healthy Drinking Water.
- The Right to...* Accessible, Quality Physical and Behavioral Healthcare.
- The Right to...* Age and Developmentally Appropriate Care, Guidance and Education.
- The Right to...* Meaningful Spiritual, Cultural and Recreational Experiences.

### Newark Partnership



**Lead Safe Children**