

Pompton Lakes Health CAG Meeting Summary February 8, 2011

The following is a summary of the February 8, 2011 meeting of the Community Advisory Group for Health (Health CAG). The summary is organized by topic area, and should not be considered as chronological minutes from the meeting. The main issues raised during the meeting are as follows:

Status of outreach/education activities: Christa Fontecchio explained that several education/outreach activities were planned for the next two months. The first is the physician education initiative planned for March 9th and 23rd at two area hospitals. Dr. Michelle Watters from ATSDR will be giving presentations at two grand rounds sessions and DHSS is requesting feedback as to any questions/issues for Dr. Watters to address with the physicians during her presentations.

In addition to the grand rounds activities, Dr. Watters will be attending the next CAG meeting scheduled for March 22, 2011 and DHSS requested feedback from the CAG as to any questions/issues which they would like to discuss with Dr. Watters during her visit.

Christa also discussed the mailing of letters to area physicians to get feedback as to whether Pompton Lakes residents are visiting their doctors with concerns about exposures to the DuPont contamination and health effects. Christa stated that responses are coming in and this information will be summarized at the next CAG meeting.

Lastly, Christa explained that in April 2011, there will be an availability session for the Pompton Lakes residents to discuss their health concerns with physicians from two institutions specializing in environmental health issues: The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI). The DHSS requested feedback from the CAG pertaining to questions/issues they would like to address with these physicians during the availability session.

Update on Post-Mitigation System Results: Somia Aluwalia gave an update on the post-mitigation system effectiveness based on indoor air sample data for 15 homes within the plume area. Somia stated that based on the available data provided by the NJDEP, the systems are working properly. Michael Serra asked about why one contaminant, 1,2-dichloroethane, a plume-related contaminant, was still present in the indoor air in one sample, while the PCE and TCE levels had decreased to no detectable levels. Somia stated that while DEP is not sure why this is the case, the 1,2-dichloroethane may be coming from an indoor source. Somia reminded the CAG members that in order to interrupt the current exposure pathway (vapor intrusion), a mitigation system should be installed.

Discussion on Ambient Air Quality (National Air Toxics Assessment): In response to an earlier request from the Health CAG about general ambient air quality information, Jerry Fagliano described the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National-scale Air Toxics Assessments (NATA), and provided a handout showing results from the 2002 assessment for Pompton Lakes in comparison to the state. NATA is USEPA's effort to model annual average air concentrations of over 100 hazardous air pollutants, based on the cumulative impact of multiple factors such as stationary emissions sources, roadways, ports, and population density.

Status of the Public Health Response Plan/Community Survey: Jerry presented an aggressive timeline for the community profile which may help to focus on specific health outcomes for a health study. The components of the profile will be cancer incidence, birth defects, birth outcomes (low birth weight and prematurity), hospitalization and emergency department use, major causes of mortality, and childhood lead exposure. In addition, DHSS agreed to provide the CAG with the original July 2010 draft of the community survey template, which may also provide information on which a future study could be based. Some of the Health CAG members intend to provide comments and a proposed investigation strategy to DHSS and ATSDR.

Agency Action Items:

Lisa Riggiola stated she would like a list of all the chemicals related to the DuPont site and the target organs that are affected. DHSS stated we will provide this list to the CAG.

A large outreach effort will be conducted in preparation for the March 22, 2011 CAG meeting with Dr. Michelle Watters, including the possibility of contacting the local media (local radio and cable) to advertise the meeting and holding the meeting in a larger venue than the high school library.

DHSS and ATSDR will work on methods of notification and publicity to area physicians regarding Dr. Watters' grand rounds presentations.

DHSS will provide a copy of the draft survey template and design method originally presented at the July 2010 CAG meeting.

As part of the updated cancer incidence analysis for the community profile, DHSS will look closer at cancers in the Barbara Drive area due to the community's observations of many cancers in this area, specifically, brain cancer and brain tumors.

DHSS will modify the list of geographical areas for analysis of cancer incidence and other health outcomes based on feedback from the Health CAG.

List of Health CAG Meeting Attendees, February 8, 2011:

Community Members (based on sign-in sheet)

Lisa Riggiola	Michael Serra	Cheryl Rubino	Gitte Curtiss
Cas Stark	Michael Keough	Ruth Paez	Mary Anne Orapello
Daria Sweeney			

Other Interested Parties

Jacky Grindrod (Congressman Pascrell's Office)
Dana Patterson (Edison Wetlands Association)
Nancy D'Uva (WGHT Radio)
Merwin Kinkade (Veridian Inc.)

Department of Health and Senior Services

Joe Eldridge
Jerry Fagliano
Somia Aluwalia
Christa Fontecchio

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Raquel Stephenson