

Pompton Lakes Health CAG Meeting Summary July 12, 2011

The following is a summary of the July 12, 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:

Update on Community Profile: Brief presentation on two reports titled “Preliminary Analyses of Childhood Lead Exposure” and “Preliminary Analyses of Hospitalization and Emergency Department Use” were given by Jerry Fagliano and Kate McGreevy, respectively. It was mentioned that DHSS is moving forward with evaluating the cancer incidence in the surrounding municipalities and birth defects analysis and that this information will be provided to the CAG at future meetings.

Questions/Comments regarding presentation from CAG: Mike Serra asked about how long can lead be detected in the blood following exposure. Jerry responded that the blood lead test best represents exposure over the previous few months. Lisa Riggiola asked why the lead report focused only on children. Jerry responded that lead is a known neurotoxin and children’s developing systems are particularly vulnerable to the neurotoxic effects of lead. Additionally the majority of lead exposures occur in children due to hand-to-mouth behavior that young children exhibit.

Some of the questions on the Preliminary Analyses of Hospitalization and Emergency Department Use report were related to where diseases like Crohn’s disease and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome would fit within the diagnostic codes. There was a request to expand the broader diagnostics codes categories, such as nervous system disorders, and to list conditions relevant to PCE/TCE exposure within those broad categories. Jerry stated that would be possible and would be included in the next level of analysis. There was also a request to evaluate hospital events to further break it down to account for repeat visits.

Update on Community Survey: Jerry gave a brief update on the status of the community survey stating that DHSS is moving forward with designing a community survey as discussed in the previous CAG meetings.

Questions/Comments for Jerry from CAG: There were general comments on what will be done after all the reports have been finalized. DHSS will prepare a summary report that will look across the various reports and evaluate if there is a reason to study any health outcomes that can be related to environmental exposures.

Agency Action Items: NJDHSS will e-mail copies of the four preliminary analyses presented in the last two meetings to the CAG.

List of Health CAG Meeting Attendees, July 12, 2011:

Community Members (based on sign-in sheet)

Lisa Riggiola	Mike Serra
Helen Martens	Dana Patterson
Debbie Priestner	Tom Kennedy
Ruth Paez	

Department of Health and Senior Services

Jerry Fagliano	Kate McGreevy
Somia Aluwalia	Pam Agovino
Joe Eldridge	