

Provisional Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2010 – Washington DC

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Presentation

Peter Grevatt , Ph.D., Director, Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education thanked the Coalition for taking the lead on this very important work. The EPA is learning from this group and is interested in developing a relationship with the Coalition. Administrator Jackson has seven priorities:

1. Taking Action on Climate Change
2. Improving Air Quality
3. Assuring the Safety of Chemicals
4. Cleaning Up Our Communities
5. Protecting America's Waters
6. Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice
7. Building Strong State and Tribal Partnerships

EPA's work is in line with Coalition priorities. The impact of these seven areas on children is a priority of EPA Administrator Jackson. In particular, EPA has 3 strategies to implement to protect children's health:

1. The enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. EPA will use the best science to address potential impacts on children in enforcing its laws and regs.
2. Safe chemicals management. In particular, EPA is taking a look at impact on children in setting pesticide tolerance levels and guidelines, as well as the implementation of Toxic Substances Control Act reform, to ensure that chemicals are managed in a safe way.
3. Expanding implementation of community based health programs with a focus on underserved populations. EPA will seek to better understand and measure progress on health housing and children (e.g., with lead poisoning) and use newer metrics like asthma and pesticide exposures, and emerging issues of concern, such as neurodevelopmental issues like autism and ADHD.

EPA is engaged in several healthy homes activities. Now, EPA's Children's Office will serve as the single point of coordination for all healthy housing activities within EPA, and will coordinate the relevant agency activities on indoor air quality, environmental tobacco smoke, mold, moisture, asthma, safe chemical management (e.g., lead Renovation, Repair and Painting rule and formaldehyde), pesticides, IPM, building products (e.g., Chinese drywall), green buildings, smart growth and sustainable community initiatives.

Federal Interagency Task Force on Children's Health & Safety: Under Executive Order 13045-- Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks – these are plans to revive this interagency task force. EPA and the Department of Health and Human Services would co-chair it.

Federal Interagency Healthy Housing Work Group: Has been created. Meets quarterly. White House is engaged. HHS points of contact are Mary Jean Brown/CDC and Mary Beth Bigley/Surgeon General. For DOE, it's the Office of Weatherization (Kathleen Hogan and Bob Adams). HUD contact is Matt Ammon.

The Interagency HH Work Group's *Draft Strategies for Action*, hopefully to be released in February, will have four priorities:

1. Building federal, state, tribal and non-profit partnerships
2. Building local capacity, including working with local authorities
3. Incorporating Healthy Housing principles into federal programs, and
4. Researching healthy housing activities.

The Work Group will also look at how it can increase the flexibility of funding, such as using Weatherization Assistance Program funds for HH-related programs/activities. DOE is engaged on this issue and is looking at it. Peter is willing to raise it at the next Work Group meeting. He can also arrange to have NS&HH Steering Committee members brief the Work Group on whether there are ways that non-profit organizations can qualify for funding for HH activities under current programs. (Some programs could be changed through administrative action, while others would require changes to statute.)

The Work Group will focus on:

- Establishing national standards that define what a healthy house is
 - How do we approach the problem?
 - Will levels or standards be established?
- Workforce development and training
 - How can we take advantage of activities that are already taking place beyond the RRP rule?
 - Can we work through weatherization programs to train energy auditors to look at mold, moisture, IPM and pesticides?
 - Can lead abatement workers also look for mold?
 - Can home inspectors look for a number of problems/issues instead of one?

The Council of Foundations met with philanthropic organizations where HUD Secretary Donovan and Ed DeSeve, head of the White House Office of Recovery, said the administration is looking at new ways to improve coordination with and collaborate with the non-profit community, citing the Green & Healthy Housing Initiative as an example.

Minutes of Previous Steering Committee Meeting

The December 1, 2009 Steering Committee meeting minutes were approved without amendment.

NCHH-AHH Merger

Rebecca Morley announced that the Alliance for Healthy Homes has been merged into the National Center for Healthy Housing.

Federal Legislation Work Group

Lars Peterson with Rebuilding Together, Work Group Chair, reported:

Sen. Reed's Safe & Healthy Housing Bill

- We are still looking for a Republican co-sponsor for the bill. Neither Bonds, Collins nor Snowe have signed on. Kara Stein (Staff Director and Counsel for Senator Reed's Banking Subcommittee) is the point person. James Ahn is the new Housing Legislative Asst. on Reed's personal staff.
- Stein says that the Senator is prepared to introduce the bill as is early next month.

- Reed's office is prepared to take recommendations and modifications to the bill from the Coalition. Steering Committee comments should go to Lars.
- Stein said the bill is unlikely to move in 2010 but Reed may consider trying to attach pieces of it to another vehicle.
- We will meet with Stein to discuss the bill and next steps

House Version of Reed Bill

The Legislative Workgroup had a meeting with Robin Appleberry and Melissa Cheetam of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Energy and Environment Subcommittee, and Eriade Hunter, the Legislative Assistant to Rep. Brady, who introduced the House version. These staff raised several points:

- Coalition needs to learn what the administration's response to the bill will be, as well as the business community's.
- Coalition should be aware of using the word "label" in bill discussions
- Coalition needs an outreach strategy, once we have a "live vehicle" in both houses, which includes anecdotes/examples to demonstrate the problems the bill aims to address.
- Coalition should meet with Rep. Pallone's staff, because Pallone chairs the Health Subcommittee of the Energy & Commerce Committee
- Rep. Brady should consider redirecting the funds for USDA to another agency (CDC?) in the bill, because otherwise the bill will have to be heard by the Agriculture Committee, too.
- The House Financial Services Committee (which also has jurisdiction over the bill) is now turning back to substantive housing policy issues, including funding the National Housing Trust.

Strategy for Meeting with Senator Johanns' Staff

- Johanns (R. Neb.) cosponsored Reed's federal interagency healthy housing council bill, so hopefully he will consider sponsoring this bill. Legislative Workgroup to meet with his staff this week.
- Discussion on how best to pitch cosponsorship to him. Agreed that we should not discuss our amendment ideas but rather just the bill as is and see if he will help get it introduced. Amendments could be considered after introduction.

Federal Regulatory/Administrative Work Group

Rebecca Morley reported that the Working group is currently pushing for the effective implementation of the the lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule.

2nd Annual Full Coalition Meeting – Collaboration/Partnership-Building Work Group

Patricia Adkins reported that planning for the April 2010 full Coalition Meeting has begun. The date will be chosen soon and a Save-the-Date message sent. Meeting tentatively scheduled for mid-April. Venue suggestions and potential invitees/speakers from Steering Committee should be forwarded to Patricia Adkins. Plan is:

- Half day with breakfast and/or lunch
- Invitees: May 2009 Summit attendees, current Coalition members and prospective/targeted Coalition members
- Provide sufficient time before and in between sessions for personal interaction/networking
- Invite members of the Federal HH Work Group and the Federal Children's Health and Safety Task Force
- Consider having breakout sessions or smaller groups rather than remain in one large group to promote more interaction
- Follow meeting with a Hill briefing for legislative staff (ideally with a continental breakfast or lunch) to discuss our issues and pending legislation

Healthy Housing Funders Group

Rebecca to participate in a by-invitation-only meeting of funders (Kresge Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, Home Depot and others) to discuss HH issues.

Business Case for Health Insurers Funding Home Asthma Prevention

The new England Asthma Regional Council is updating its Business Case and meeting with several health insurance companies with the hope of persuading two to fund home asthma education and interventions.

HSC Fire Safety Training Program

The Home Safety Council is building an online fire safety program with the fire departments national association under a FEMA grant.

Steering Committee Attendees:

Alliance for Healthy Homes:	Jane Malone
Children's Health Forum:	Melanie Hudson
Enterprise Community Partners:	Lynne Snyder
National Center for Healthy Housing:	Rebecca Morley, John Giglio, Michelle Harvey
Rebuilding Together:	Lars Peterson
Home Safety Council:	Patricia Adkins and Meri-K Appy

Other Coalition Member Attendees:

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities:	Todd Jean Pierre
American Society of Home Inspectors:	Randy Pence (via teleconference)
Baltimore City Health Department:	Genevieve Birkby (via teleconference)
RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America:	Wilhelmine Miller (via teleconference)
New England Asthma Regional Council:	Eileen Gunn and Stacy Chacker (via teleconference)
Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc.:	Michelle Nusum
Sustainable Resources Center:	Dan Newman

Guests:

Peter Grevatt PhD, US Environmental Protection Agency
Matthew Davis, US Environmental Protection Agency