



**Provisional Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2009 – Washington DC**

News:

- Sign-on letter supporting \$1 million increase (to \$14.564 million) for EPA's Categorical Grant for Lead to support state lead-based paint programs signed by 10 organizations and sent to conferees of Interior/Environment Appropriations bill. Funding included in the final bill!
- Sign-on letter supporting a \$52 million FY11 appropriation for CDC's Lead Hazard & Healthy Homes Program signed by 11 organizations (attached). Will be recirculated for additional signatures and sent in November to House and Senate Labor H&HS Appropriations Subcommittees.
- NCHH has received a grant from the Kresge Foundation to support the Coalition's work and fund a full Coalition meeting in April 2010.
- Acknowledgements to Work Group Chairs Patricia Adkins, Lars Peterson, Melanie Hudson, and Patrick MacRoy for their leadership and progress, and to NCHH staff John Giglio, Kate Kuholski, Michelle Harvey for their supportive work for the Coalition.

Housekeeping:

- September 15 Steering Committee meeting minutes approved without amendment.
- Meeting Materials included EPA and CDC sign-on letters (above), revised draft Coalition Guidelines, new Membership Kit, and Coalition Membership Kit. All documents are on the Coalition website.

Community Building Code Administration Grant Act (S.970 and H.R. 2246)

Sarah Yerkes and Justin Wiley/International Code Council presented. ICC facilitates the development and updating of all types of model codes (housing, fire, energy, health), administration of which is key for effectiveness. Code enforcement and compliance in the U.S. varies greatly. Compliance is strong in some areas, but weak in others, often due to limited/insufficient local budgets for code training and enforcement. As budgets are reviewed and pared down, these types of hazard prevention programs are sometimes the first to go.

In response, ICC has been working for past 5 years on the *Community Building Code Administration Grant Act*, S.970 and H.R. 2246 (bill summary, FAQs, Dear Colleague and Dear Colleague handed out). It authorizes grants to localities totaling \$20 million/year for five years for training, staffing and equipment to improve the administration, enforcement and compliance of all codes – zoning, building, plumbing, electrical, fire, health. (Hurricane Katrina showed how updated codes didn't protect the public because they weren't uniformly applied and enforced.) The House version (with bipartisan cosponsorship) passed and has been inserted into the Waxman energy bill, with support from HUD. The Senate version by Senator Landrieu (D. La.) is pending with the Banking Committee. While Chairman Dodd is aware of the bill's need, the Committee has many other major bills pending and time for a hearing is hard to get. Sen. Landrieu had Mel Martinez (R. Fla.) as the original Republican cosponsor, but he is

leaving the Senate, so the bill needs a Republican co-sponsor. The ICC has been working with the office of Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), but is open to ideas. Any support through calls or letters is welcome.

40 organizations support the bill, including NAHB, AIA, BOMA and Alliance to Save Energy. While there is no opposition, potential Republican cosponsors skeptical because it's a new program and would fund state activities. ICC has met with Banking Committee majority staff, which is supportive. Minority staff have also been briefed, and they wanted to know where the funds to support the bill would come from. HUD would have to secure them through new appropriations. Bill does not designate an office within HUD to administer it.

Proposed authorization is \$100M over 5 years, though ICC would be satisfied with funding of a pilot program for less. \$20M per year divided by 50 states and 40,000 jurisdictions may not go far, but seed money will at least help some states to build on it, including health departments that administer health/sanitation codes.

Sen. Shelby (ranking Republican) and minority staff haven't voice objections, but bill is competing with higher priority issues for committee time. ICC looking at Sen. Dodd's "Livability" bill (S. 1619) as a possible vehicle to attach this bill to. ICC encourages all NS&HH Coalition members to support the bill by calling/emailing Sara Yerkes and adding their group's name to the list of supporters on the ICC web site.

National Collaboration/Partnership-Building Work Group, Patricia Adkins, Co-Chair (Home Safety Council) reported the following progress:

Coalition Guidelines: They were updated (Draft 4.2 distributed with changes underlined) to clarify membership provisions. Each group should designate a representative and alternate, both of whom may attend meetings. When voting by email, the voters must have first been briefed on the issue by a meeting, conference call or materials. While more than one representative may attend Coalition meetings, there will be one vote per organization. Rebecca Morley still maintains day-to-day management of the Coalition. Direct any questions re the Guidelines to Patricia.

Membership Kit: We now have a model invitation letter to be sent to prospective new members, with a response/sign-up form, summary of the Coalition's Mission and Priorities, and a one-pager on Why Focus on Safe & Healthy Housing (copies distributed). The 1-pager provides Coalition members with bullet points for a thirty-second "elevator speech" on why groups should join us and can assist in meetings with Hill and Administrative staff or explaining the goals of the Coalition to others who may have interest.

Current and Target Membership List: The Work Group compiled a preliminary list of groups who have joined the Coalition and groups to target for inclusion in the coalition, starting with the May 7th Summit attendees (distributed). Anyone with ideas for additional groups to target should email them to Patricia or Melanie Hudson. The Work Group will begin reaching out to the target groups to recruit them. ICC and NACCHO agreed to join the Coalition. For other stakeholders – Hill staff, Agency staff, think tanks, and foundations – we won't formally ask

them to join but will invite them to meetings or otherwise engage them. As for reaching out to CMS, health plans, major employers and insurance companies, the Work Group is just starting to look at that and will learn from the Asthma Regional Council, which has been doing it.

Federal Legislation Work Group, John Giglio delivered the Legislative Work Group's progress report for Lars Peterson of Rebuilding Together:

Sen. Reed's Interagency Housing Council Bill: Sen. Reed has introduced the smaller of his two HH bill, the bill to create a federal interagency council on healthy housing.

Sen. Reed's Larger Healthy Homes Bill—the Legislative committee has reached out to the staff of three prospective cosponsors. First, Henry Hanscomb, Senator Olympia Snowe's (R-ME) staffer, who said they will review the bill. (Sarah Yerkes has been working with Senator Snowe's office and can touch base with Lars Peterson, the Legislative Work Group Chair). Second, Che Kim w/ Senator Bond, who will also look at it. And third, Jen Capriola w/ Senator Collins. None have signed on yet.

Congressman Robert Brady (D-PA) has introduced companion bills to the Reed bills. The legislative workgroup met with Eriade Hunter, Brady's staffer.

The Work Group distributed a Coalition sign-on letter supporting the two bills for everyone's consideration, which will be sent to Snowe, Bond and Collins (latest version attached). Rebecca will circulate it by email to all groups and offer them two weeks to review it. We want to get as many groups as possible to sign on. Brady's office may use it as a template for a Dear Colleague letter to show that we are ready to assist his office in moving the bill. ASHI asked to be added to the Reed sign-on letter and the CDC and EPA appropriations letters.

Federal Regulatory/Administrative Work Group, Patrick MacRoy delivered the group's progress report:

Meeting with HUD Senior Mgmt.: Last Steering Committee meeting's goal was to get a meeting with the HUD Deputy Chief of Staff to explain the coalition's goals and advocate for healthy housing as a HUD priority. We weren't successful so we are changing our target to meet with Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary, who has HH as an issue in his portfolio. Scheduled meetings are in a holding pattern.

Meeting with OMB: The working group had a productive meeting with APHA to discuss the strategy of a proposed meeting with the OMB where we would advocate for HUD's Office of Healthy Housing & Lead Hazard Control's fy11 budget. There is a committee conference call November 5 to discuss preparations for the OMB meeting and HUD meetings. [OMB did a PART analysis on the HUD Lead Program but not the HUD HH program.]

TSCA Reform: Rebecca and Melanie met with the White House Council on Environmental Quality recently, during which TSCA reform was a key topic. The Coalition may have an interest in this legislation as it relates to addressing toxic chemicals in building materials e.g., prevention of Chinese drywall problem, asbestos, and others. We will invite a representative from the Coalition for TSCA reform to a future meeting.

ATSDR and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) have launched a National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures, working with government, non-government, business and industry, and members of the public to create an action agenda. The

agenda will outline how the United States can meet public health goals and achieve the NCEH/ATSDR vision that the United States will use and manage chemicals in ways that are safe and healthy for all people. APHA may have time on the next Coalition agenda to discuss their role in the National Conversation. Health Resources in Action/Eileen Gunn/Laurie Stillman may also have time on the next agenda to further support discussion around household product coating, finishes, and drinking water contaminants. Finally, Lynn Snyder from the Energy Programs Consortium will be invited to present the work of her organization at the intersection of energy and health at a future meeting.

Next Steps:

- Rebecca will send all the minutes, CDC sign-on letter, Reed bill sign-on letter, and date for the November Coalition Steering Committee meeting. (ICC volunteered conference space to hold next meeting.) No Steering Committee meeting in December.
- Rebecca will send subsequent email to the Coalition summarizing Code Administration bill, attaching materials, and offering link to ICC for groups that want to add their name to list of supporters
- Legislative Work Group will convert Reed sign-on letter to draft Dear Colleague for Rep. Brady to use. Once out, coalition will reach out to HH groups in TX, MN, FL and IL districts of House Financial Services Committee
- Rebecca will invite *Coalition for TSCA Reform* to upcoming Steering Committee meeting
- A full Coalition meeting is being planned for April 2010.

Steering Committee Attendees:

John Giglio (Natl. Ctr. for Healthy Housing)
Melanie Hudson (Children's Health Forum)
Patricia Adkins (Homes Safety Council)
Randy Pence (American Society of Home Inspectors)
Greg Secord (Rebuilding Together)
Tracy Kolian (American Public Health Assn.)
Patrick MacRoy (Alliance for Healthy Homes)
Wilhelmine Miller (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
Rebecca Morley, Chair (Natl. Ctr. for Healthy Housing)
Michelle Harvey (Natl. Ctr. For Healthy Housing)
Kristin Siglin (Enterprise Community Partners)

Other Coalition Member Attendees:

Eileen Gunn (Health Resources in Action)
Ruth Ann Norton (Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning)
Madeline Shea (Baltimore City Health Dept.)
Jennifer Li (Natl. Assn. of County and City Health Officials)
Elyse Pivnick (Isles, Inc.)

Invited Guests: Sarah Yerkes and Justin Wiley (International Code Council)