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Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Legislative Committee on Health Care

December 18, 2007



Childhood Lead Poisoning

"Lead poisoning is considered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be the foremost environmental childhood disease today."

-National Academy of Sciences 1993; CDC 1991a; ATSDR

Sources of Lead Exposure

- Buildings constructed prior to 1978
- Leaded gasoline
- Imports
- Home Remedies
- High-risk occupations
- High-risk hobbies

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program – CLPPP

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)
 - Local laboratory testing
- CDC CLPPP grant totaling \$2.6 million
 - Partnership with UNLV
 - Five-year grant
- Program Activities
 - Develop an elimination plan
 - Promote childhood blood lead level screenings
 - Conduct surveillance and investigative activities

CLPPP Goals and Objectives

- Maintain Strategic Advisory Committee
- Expand Elimination Plan statewide
- Develop legislation for 2009
- Increase BLL screenings
- Provide case management

CLPPP Goals and Objectives

- Provide community education
- Conduct environmental investigations
- Develop remediation plans to eliminate sources of lead risk hazards
- Share results with community partners

Program Staff and Consultants

- SNHD Staff
 - Surveillance
 - Environmental Hazard Assessment and Investigations
 - Screening and Case Management
- Health Insight
 - Health Care Provider Information
- University of Nevada Las Vegas
 - Advocacy
 - Housing-Based Primary Prevention
 - Data Management
 - Evaluation
 - Research

Workgroups

- Strategic Advisory Coalition (SAC)
 - Primary Prevention
 - Screening & Case Management
 - Surveillance
 - Legislative Affairs
 - Evaluation

Federal, State and Local Partners

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- State of Nevada
 - Medicaid
 - Nevada State Health Division
- WIC
- Washoe County District Health Department
- Carson City Health and Human Services
- Clark County
- City of Las Vegas
- City of North Las Vegas

SAC Community Partners

- Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
- Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- Sierra Health Services
- Nevada Health Centers
- Clark County Medical Society
- Catholic Charities
- LUCES – Latinos United Celebrating Health
- Clark County Credit Union

Year 1: Program Accomplishments

- Strategic Advisory Coalition
- Clark County Elimination Plan
- Screening/case management plan
- Identified potential high risk areas
- Educational outreach
- Mandated reporting
- Training and CMEs
- Advocacy

Blood Lead Screenings

Children age 6 and younger

- 2006 – 4,963
- 2007 – 6,965 (through November 2007)
- Screening results:
 - At least 25% of the children screened had a detectable level of lead.

Current Program Needs and Challenges

- Increase screening rates
- Identify and educate populations at risk for lead exposures
- Increase participation by other state and local agencies.

Current Program Needs and Challenges—Continued

- Sharing of electronic data
- Reimbursement of case management and environmental services
- Identify resources for lead hazard remediation
- Educate construction industry

Future Plans

- Western Regional Lead Conference
- Develop legislation for screening of children less than six years old and reporting of elevated blood lead levels to the health authority.
- Transform the lead program into a comprehensive "Healthy Homes" program

Healthy Homes Initiative

- Protects children and families from housing-related health and safety hazards
- Addresses multiple diseases and injuries
- Builds on Lead Hazard Control programs
- Applies hazard assessment and intervention methods
- Promotes public education

Questions?