

Draft

Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness
December 15, 2017
Minutes of the meeting

IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Dumond-DHHS, Pamela Levesque, Clark Friese, Tom Sherman, Rep. Mindi Messmer, Rep. J.C. Salloway, Rep Mark Pearson, Sen. Martha Fuller-Clark, Thomas Wold

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Commission was called to order at 10:10 by Chairman Pearson
 - B. Minutes for 10-20-2017 were moved.
 1. Dr. Sherman noted a spelling correction for Wainsatt
 2. Sen. Fuller-Clark asked for an attendance list
 - C. Minutes for 11/13/17 were moved
 1. Dr. Dumond voted a change to DPHS and not DES in III F.

- II. Sen. Feltes appeared in testimony on the lead abatement bill
 - A. Bill has passed committee- Senate Bill 247!
 1. Seeks to reduce to 5 micrograms blood level.
 2. Mandates universal testing
 3. Adds water testing
 - B. This is a bipartisan bill.
 - C. Children are being poisoned.
 1. Every dollar invested in abatement returns \$17 on investment
 - D. Rep Pearson asked how we might increase press coverage
 - E. Leadership of both parties are in support.
 - F. Sen. Fuller-Clark called for an op-ed piece
 1. Rep. Pearson offered to work on this
A parallel improvement was the move to unleaded gasoline.
 - G. Ms. Levesque noted the role of the Nurse Practitioners Assoc.
 - H. Mr. Dumond spoke in praise of Sen. Feltes
 1. He noted a nationwide drop in lead levels with elimination of leaded gasoline.
 - a. He distributed a chart of lead effects.
 2. 700-800 children per year test between 5-10 micrograms per deciliter.
 - I. Rep. Salloway noted rental restrictions as an option.
 - a. Sen. Feltes noted the conflict with the Fair Housing Act.
 - b. Rep. Pearson suggested a warning could be implemented, i.e. avoid lead if you have children.
 - J. Dr. Sherman pointed out the need for tracking procedures for contaminated housing units.
 1. Dr. Sherman noted the need for warning to tenants prior to rental.
 2. Ms. Levesque asked about opt-out/opt-in provisions
 3. Sen. Feltes and Mr. Dumond both spoke of current procedures to screen for lead.

- III. Chairman Pearson returned to the minutes of 11-13-17
 - A. Mr. Dumond moved to accept with corrections, Rep. Messmer seconded.
 - B. Motion passed.

- IV. Asst. Commissioner of DES Clark Friese spoke on collaboration between DES & DHHS
 - A. There is extensive sharing of data.
 - 1. DES & DHHS created a coordinated program to get public health needs regarding contaminated water – testing water/testing blood.
 - B. Rep. Pearson described the problem of identifying what is knowable and where data is accessible.
 - 1. Ms. Levesque asked how the data sharing process was put into place.
 - 2. Rep. Messmer asked what barriers exist to merging data on environmental risk and healthy outcomes. How do we make a dashboard work?
 - 3. Dr. Sherman pointed out the extreme diversity of data bases and the challenge of redirecting the complexity of these data sets.
 - a. Commission Friese spoke of the IT challenges.
 - b. There are shortcomings in the current system.
 - C. Rep. Pearson summarized the needs of the commission.
 - 1. Dr. Sherman asked DES to consider how we might create a solution to the data needs of the commission.
 - 2. Commissioner Friese said this was difficult and expensive and you can get it wrong!!
 - 3. Rep. Sherman asked what we have to do to accomplish this.
 - a. Commissioner Friese suggested the need to have a consultant to map the process.
 - 4. Dr. Wold commented on what the outcomes would look like.
 - a. Dr. Katie Bush said we need to do an IT assessment.
 - 5. Rep. Messmer discussed the pilot studies on arsenic as a demonstration.
 - 6. Rep. Salloway warned that observational studies can be fraught with bias and erroneous conclusions.
 - 7. Mr. Dumond cited the lead analysis as an example of a program that works.
- V. Chairman Pearson discussed future agendas.
 - a. We will meet January 19th and February 9th.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06