

**Partnership for a Healthy Durham
Health and Housing (H&H) Committee Meeting Zoom
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
Minutes**

Present: Charlene Reiss, Kevin Ogbonna, Bria Miller, Brian Goings, Lenora Smith, Charlene Harris, Kimberly Monroe, Jacquelyn Lowery, Manuel Hyman		
Topic	Major Discussion	Recommendations and Action Steps
Welcome/ Introductions/ Icebreaker <i>Charlene Reiss</i>	Please share a word or phrase that describes what you want to focus on in 2023. Feel free to share longer story in the chat.	
Review January Minutes & Updates <i>All</i>	The meeting minutes were approved.	
PEACH Presentation <i>Lenora Smith</i>	<p>https://peachdurham.org/ leadfree@peachdurham.org</p> <p>The presentation started with a video about a collaborative project between Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health (PEACH) and Durham Housing Authority. PEACH trains people to be lead renovators. Lead can cause decreased intelligence, behavioral problems, hyperactivity, and difficulty with reading and learning. It can cause high blood pressure, physical fatigue, and loss of sex drive. The damage can be permanent. Lead can also be found in the soil around homes and can be produced when making repairs to homes (lead dust and chips). Contractors are required to be lead certified. PEACH trains low-income, unemployed, and justice involved individuals in lead inspection and renovation. The skills learned help qualify individuals to work on projects with PEACH.</p> <p>PEACH sought to create opportunities for local residents to work on these lead projects. At the time, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had a job program. They created the program to offer an opportunity for McDougald Terrace residents and they wanted to expand it. PEACH had the opportunity to hire eight full-time equivalent Community Health Workers (CHWs). Some went through training to become certified CHWs while others did not.</p>	Charlene will schedule an outside meeting with PEACH to discuss the best ways to continue moving the work forward.

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The vision and mission of PEACH goes back to 1998 when the City of Durham had its first HUD grant. The target population was low-income people of color. Primarily, white contractors were doing lead abatement work. PEACH wanted to shift opportunities to local people of color.

The training that they do would still allow residents to take the training for free. There is no longer a large class, but they will hold a seat for a local contractor interested in doing work on lead. They teach the renovator course and focus on lead abatement.

One challenge was that PEACH was not looking to hire folks, but to build capacity so that when projects were available, low-income and justice involved individuals had the certification and could make a bid to work on the projects.

Question: what were people given when they completed training?

Answer: They received a certificate. To be recognized by NC, you have to apply and pay a fee. With PEACH, certification costs are covered.

Question: Is there a list of certified contractors who do lead work that people could access?

Answer: The state maintains a list of all who are certified in North Carolina.

The Green and Healthy Homes initiative started in Durham, Wake and Orange counties. They are now in three additional counties.

PEACH is also interested in research. There was originally a research project with North Carolina Central University. Right now, they are working with Duke on a chemical exposure research project called Hope 100. The target population is infants. They are looking at the development of a passive marker and chemicals

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being exposed to infants on a regular basis. One of the CHWs is working with Reinvestment Partners on an asthma program.

They are in transition right now. Catrina is the Interim Executive Director. As she continues training, they are looking at their capacity to host an intern.

The new phrase is “healthy homes” encompassing more than lead. HUD had \$40 million available last year and had up twenty awards. They want to be in position to apply for funding.

PEACH has an annual event in October where they test children for lead. Two of the children they tested had lead in their blood, but the levels were not high enough to report.

Q: What kind of help are you looking for with grant proposals?

A: This committee wanted to assist with projects when she attended before.

PEACH wants to use the information we are already collecting. They need grant writer. Lenora would like to work with this committee and use the things we are already doing to help gain funding to address health and housing. Having networks involved is helpful. As Catrina comes to the meetings, we can integrate the work.

Catrina also provided a list of needs and those will be shared with the minutes.

Next Meeting: March 21, 2023 at 8:30 AM



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