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Lead Safe St. Louis

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Lead Safe St. Louis Annual Report

PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY
AND THE

City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen

October 6, 2006

Goal: The goal of the Lead Safe St. Louis program is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the City of St. Louis by 2010.

The Lead Safe St. Louis plan addresses this goal by shifting the focus of the City's efforts from secondary to primary prevention, incorporating strategies that include working with partners across the City to assist with education and outreach to homeowners, landlords, teachers and parents with children at risk, universal blood lead testing for all children under 6, proactive remediation of lead risks in City homes, enforcement of applicable laws, and providing leadership for City and community efforts.

Given the limits in the City's budget, the City also seeks additional resources to carry out these strategies.

Progress and accomplishments: Progress and accomplishments have been achieved in the following six (6) key areas:

- △ Partnership
- △ Education & Outreach
- △ Blood Lead Testing
- △ Inspection/Remediation/Clearance Activity
- △ Enforcement
- △ Resource Expansion

Supported by:

Missouri Foundation for Health • United Way of Greater St. Louis • Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services • United States Department of Housing and Urban Development • United States Conference of Mayors

PARTNERSHIP:

- △ **The Mayor's Lead Safe St. Louis (LSSL) Task Force** has continued to meet quarterly in 2006, with community partners serving on the following committees: Outreach/Education, Community Partners, Contractor, Housing, Legislative, and Enforcement.

- △ **Formal partnerships with community and faith-based organizations:** Representation on committees, the task force, and special projects include the following community and faith-based organizations: Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition, Catholic Commission on Housing, Beyond Housing/Neighborhood Housing Services, Midtown Catholic Family Services, St. Louis Investment Property Association, Southwest Garden Property Owners Association, St. Louis Association of Realtors, St. Louis Real Estate Investors Association, Affordable Housing Commission, Child Day Care Association of St. Louis, Children's Health Forum, SSDN, Interfaith Partnership of Metropolitan St. Louis /Faith Beyond Walls, Area Resources for Community & Health Services, Health and Environmental Justice, Carpenters' District Council, Painters District Council No. 2, YEHS/YouthBuild St. Louis, Missouri Policy Fellows Program, Jewish Community Relations Council, Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, International Institute of St. Louis, Operation Weed and Seed, Benton Park West Neighborhood Association, Incarnate Word Foundation, Block Link, St. John's Mercy Ministries, United Way St. Louis Cares, Adequate Housing for Missourians, Better Family Life.

- △ **Private Companies:** LTD Environmental Services, LeadCo, TBI Construction, Sherlock Environmental, Team Depot of Home Depot, McCormack Baron Salazar.

- △ **Medical community:** The City Health Department and LSSL program has established working relationships with the following; HealthcareUSA, Community Care Plus, Mercy Health Plans, St. Louis University School of Public Health, Children's Hospital, Cardinal Glennon, ConnectCare, Family Care Health Centers, Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, Peoples Health Center, St. John's Mercy Health Center, St. Louis Pediatric Society.

- △ **Schools:** The City continues its partnership to provide clearance testing to the preschool and kindergarten areas of public elementary schools for possible lead-based paint hazards, and to continue in the prioritization plan to address lead hazard reduction in the schools. Outreach, education, and testing are offered to public,

private, parochial, and charter elementary schools in the City. The goal is to offer testing in each school at least once per year.

△ **Federal, State, and Local Agencies:** U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (MDHSS), Missouri Department of Natural Resources, City Department of Human Services, City Courts, City Counselor's Office, City Police Department, St. Louis Community Development Administration, St. Louis Department of Health, St. Louis Department of Public Safety and Building Division, St. Louis City Board of Aldermen, St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, St. Louis City Neighborhood Stabilization Team, St. Louis City Department of Public Service, St. Louis County Health Department.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH:

- △ **Lead Safe St. Louis Hotline:** The hotline—314-259-3455—has been operational since July 2004. Through August 2006, 276 calls were received compared to 237 for the entire year 2005. 98 homes were referred for lead evaluations compared to 43 the previous year. 42% of those requests for lead evaluations came from the 7 ZIP Codes (of 29) with the highest Screening Prevalence Rates. After distribution of lead information in personal property tax mailings and the launch of the media campaign (see below) hotline calls more than tripled in February and June.
- △ **Website:** www.leadstlouis.org has contact information and periodic reports to the community. As the entire City Information Network will be revised over the next year, the LSSL website is scheduled for improvements and enhancements.
- △ **Health Fairs/Training/Educational Events:** 1975 persons have received lead education this calendar year, as LSSL focus is on providing a substantial educational experience compared to distribution of literature alone. 77 families were provided HEPA vacuum loans in this calendar year, and with the addition of 4 Citizen Advocates in this calendar year, that program should expand in coming months.
- △ **Blood lead testing:** Surveillance of blood lead testing data this year has continued to challenge LSSL, as the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) continued to transition to the database program called MOHSAIC. As a contractor to the MDHSS for surveillance, it is incumbent on the City to utilize this new program. The Department of Health's 2004 Annual Lead Report was delayed until November 2005 by this transition. This year the report was published in September 2005, and may be requested from the Health Department or it may be

found at: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/health/pdf/2005LeadReport.pdf>. Based on testing rates as of September 1, 2006, it appears that there could be an annual rate for 2006 as low as 29%. Both the State's CLPPP program and the City continue to focus resources on this problem. MDHSS has filled positions established when the State's testing law went into effect. The City and State with the assistance of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the St. Louis Pediatric Society are planning a seminar on increasing testing for the medical community in Spring 2007. The City's media campaign: "Time to Test – Be Lead Safe", funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) was launched in June 2006 to increase awareness of testing children and testing homes (see below). The media campaign included distribution of labels for medical charts of children living in at-risk ZIP Codes to physicians' practices and clinics by the managed care plans. A mailing of information regarding testing and a medical provider brochure has been mailed to 675 pediatricians and family care physicians in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Grand rounds and early bird rounds sessions for pediatricians are scheduled in October 2006 at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

The City's CLPPP is now almost exclusively using filter paper testing, which is a simpler, cost effective, less intrusive, yet reliable method for blood lead level screening. Venipuncture blood testing is used as required to confirm elevated blood lead levels.

- ⊠ **Media Campaign:** In June through August 2006 a media "blitz" funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Health Department's Lead Remediation Fund was launched. A graphic design and media consultant, Schweppe Studios, was hired through the City's Professional Service Agreement process. Images and media outlets were selected in part through a series of focus group meetings with parents of children in the target age range, including New Americans, as well as a number of pediatricians. This year's campaign consisted of the following: 20 billboards per month for 3 months, 40 bus shelters per month for 3 months, and 12 "King" and 12 "Tail" bus ads, as well as 100 interior bus cards per month for 3 months were distributed primarily in the 5 ZIP Codes with the highest prevalence rates for lead poisoning; newspaper ads were run in English, Bosnian and Hispanic editions in conjunction with special testing events, such as the 27th Ward AIDS/HIV walk, the Festival of Nations, and several back to school events; radio spots included 186 30-sec spots on Z107, 102 30-sec spots on KATZ-AM, 140 60-sec spots on Foxy 95.5 and Hot 104.1, as well as public service announcements (PSAs) sent to many additional stations; television ads included 160 30-sec spots on WRBU and 600 30-sec spots on Charter: BET, MTV, VH-1, Nickelodean, as well as PSAs sent to many other stations; medical, caregiver and property owner brochures (still being finalized); in addition to numerous testing incentives such as

balloons, punch balls, water bottles, stickers, bibs, magnets, back-to-school pencil bags with pencils, rulers, and hi-liters. The images developed during the media campaign will be utilized to “brand” the importance of getting tested and will be repeated over the next two years of funding. The City thanks volunteers who provided substantial pro bono assistance to the program, particularly Mr. James Morice, whose public relations background provided invaluable guidance throughout the entire campaign, Ms. Lisa Richter of the United Way of Greater St. Louis who managed and reported on the focus groups, and Mr. Henry Elbert of b-cast, who assisted with radio and TV ad purchases and contributed his media discount to the campaign. City TV10 staff lead by Communications Commissioner Donna Brooks developed the TV and radio spots, and the Health Department’s Public Information Office headed by Warren Nichols, managed the graphic design firm selection process.

- ⊞ **Lead Safe Kids & Homes Week:** A separate agenda is available listing the weeklong education and outreach events held in conjunction with the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 22-28, 2006. This year the events have been spread throughout October, National Children’s Health Month. Outreach through congregations to sign up for testing of children and homes, Mayor’s Day at a home-based, licensed day care home made lead safe through a joint project of the Child Day Care Association and LSSL, introduction of City legislation, meetings of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Grand Rounds and Early Bird Rounds at the hospitals, as well as the annual Lead Safe Work Practice training events are among the high points this year.

BLOOD LEAD TESTING:

- ⊞ Total number of children less than 6 years old that should be tested annually (Universal testing goal): 29,064
- ⊞ Total number of children tested, January – August 2006: 5,562 [Note: This number represents a collaborative endeavor between the City Health Department (782 tests) and the medical community (4780)].
- ⊞ Percentage of children tested provisional January – August 2006: 19%
- ⊞ For January – August 2006 the provisional percentage of children tested with EBLs ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$: 8.4%. [Note: this is down from the Jan. – Sept. rate in 2005 of 12%, 2004 rate of 9.0%, 2003 rate of 13.6%.]
- ⊞ The City provides medical case management for about 25% of the EBLs, but beginning June 1, 2006 began following every EBL ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ (previously followed at ≥ 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$) for home evaluation, and continues to provide emergency 24 hour services for every EBL ≥ 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$.

INSPECTIONS/REMEDIATION/CLEARANCE ACTIVITY:

- △ 36 Building Inspectors have been cross trained in Lead Risk Assessment in addition to those trained for the CDA's Healthy Home Repair Program. Now each building inspection crew has one person who has completed the 5-day training program. The other 60 building inspection employees, except for 4 fire safety inspectors, have all been through a 2-day lead awareness training program. Each of the City's Lead Inspectors are trained and licensed as Lead Risk Assessors.
- △ The City's Lead Inspection staff moved to facilities at 2923 N. Broadway, so that all the Building Division's Lead Inspection and Hazard Control Section are located in one facility. The Community Development Administration's specialists for program intake were also located at this address to facilitate that process.
- △ The Healthy Home Repair Program (HHRP) Database, designed and supported by Wireless Blue Yonder, came online in January 2006. This web-based database facilitates the City's HHRP through the contracted intake agency at Catholic Charities, and the remediation of lead and code violations through Neighborhood Housing Services. A similar web-based database is under construction for the lead program.
- △ The first of four Citizen Advocates was hired in the Building Division in January 2006. Two were added to the Health Department staff in April and the fourth joined the team in September 2006. These Citizen Advocates assist with social service concerns, such as language barriers, and other impediments that may prevent a citizen from successfully navigating the lead safe process.
- △ The following data represent the period January – August 2006:
- △ Total referrals to Building Division for inspections: 736
- △ Total referrals to Building Division for EBLs (≥ 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ and ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ beginning June 1, 2006): 346 (47% of total—remaining 53% of referrals are primary prevention referrals)
- △ Total number of housing units inspected for lead risks by Building Division: 495 (121 No Contacts i.e., 5 attempts made to contact owner or occupant and no response was received; 50 inspections were not permitted; 54 incorrect addresses; 15 vacant units)
- △ Total housing units cleared as lead-safe: 408
 - By risk assessment (where no lead hazards were found): 159
 - By remediation (Building Division Detoxification Crews, certified lead abatement contractors, or by owners with EPA clearance testing): 249
- △ Total number new lead-free housing units (new construction permits issued): 323
- △ Total housing units eligible for the Lead Safe Housing Registry: 759

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- △ Lead Safe Housing Registry was launched through Socialserve.com in April, 2006. Landlords may list units available through the following 4 categories of housing:
 - Lead-based paint free
 - Lead safe
 - Lead risk reduced
 - Housing conservation compliant
- △ A link to the City's Lead Safe Housing Registry allows the user to confirm the status of the dwelling unit.

ENFORCEMENT:

- △ Total number of violation notices issued (housing units requiring remediation) January – August 2006: 336
- △ Total number of referrals to Problem Property Court, Special Lead Paint Dockets for non-compliance January – August 2006: 46

RESOURCE EXPANSION/GRANT PRODUCTION:

- △ Under its three HUD Lead Hazard Control and Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grants the City has continued to receive “green light” ratings for production and compliance. Homes remediated under HUD Grants for January – August 2006: 137. In Fall 2006 a new unit-cost method of contracting is expected to expedite the turnaround time for contracting and execution of remediation activities.
- △ The City submitted and has received notification that its applications were awarded for the 2006 HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant for \$4 Million and the Lead Hazard Control Grant for \$3 Million. Besides extending grant-funded salaries of many lead program positions, the funds will provide for the remediation of 913 additional housing units. A majority of these new units will be produced through new “pipelines” from community-based and faith-based organizations, which will focus on recruiting multi-family property owners, “repeat offender” (more than one child has been lead poisoned at an address) properties, homes of expectant mothers, physician referrals, and unlicensed home-based child care. An emphasis will be placed on owner remediations via construction trades trained in lead safe work practices. A request for proposals will be issued through the City's Professional Service Agreement process to contract with an agency to perform lead inspections and risk assessments, project design, bidding and monitoring for these additional “pipelines”.