

St. Joseph County Board of Health

Lead Action Plan

February 2017

Background

There is no safe lead level; even low levels of lead have been found to affect IQ, attention span and achievement. The St. Joseph County Board of Health and the Department of Health have developed a Lead Action Plan in response to several key factors. First, in 2012, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated its recommendations on children's blood lead levels. The new reference value is >5 ug/dL of lead in the blood; the former reference value had been >10 ug/dL. At present, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) requires initiation of case management services for elevated blood lead levels >10ug/dL. Given CDC's new recommendations, ISDH is considering a policy to initiate case management at >5 ug/dL . Second, from 2005 – 2015, the lead screening rates in our county have averaged about 10% for kids at risk of lead exposure. Third, nearly 80% of our county's housing stock was built before 1978 indicating lead risk. Fourth, the department has been faced with annual budget cuts for the past several years making expansion to meet new CDC guidelines and expand screening unrealistic.

This plan was developed in collaboration with Board of Health members and Department of Health Managers and Team Members. The plan builds upon and enhances the existing Lead Program policies and activities.

Public Health Framework

To develop an appropriate and thoughtful plan in response to the lead issue in our community, the Centers for Disease Essential Public Health Services Framework was utilized to guide the development of this plan. The core functions of public health (PH) are to (a) Assess, (b) Develop Policy and (c) Provide Assurance. In doing so the ten essential PH services are:

1. Monitor health status
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards
3. Inform, educate and empower people
4. Mobilize community partnerships
5. Develop policies and plans
6. Enforce laws and regulations
7. Link people to needed health services
8. Assure a competent workforce
9. Evaluate
10. Research

St. Joseph County Health Department Response Plan

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Improve Monitoring	➤ Coordinate with ISDH to install HELPS	W. Griffin	TBD	TBD
	➤ Conduct workflow analysis of lead lab results	W. Griffin	Immediate	2/28/17
	➤ Compile monthly report of lead action plan	N. Molchan	Immediate	Indefinite

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Expand Diagnoses and Investigation of Lead	➤ Prepare report and meet with County Commissioners to propose budget for expanded lead program	D. Deardorff K. Davis	Immediate	3/31/17
	➤ Continue to provide risk assessment for community members	W. Griffin	On-going	Indefinite
	➤ Develop monthly report of risk assessment and outcomes			
	➤ Continue to provide lead screening at the immunization clinic	C. Hinz N. Rust	On-going	Indefinite
	➤ Develop monthly report of lead screening			
	➤ Assess and remove barriers to lead screening at South Bend Medical Foundation			
	➤ Engage and educate health care community screening and expanded case management requirements	R. Vida	Immediate	4/30/17

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Inform, Educate and Empower	➤ Meet w media; develop schedule of monthly public health articles/stories	D. Deardorff R. Vida	Immediate	Indefinite
	➤ Re-design website	R. Vida	Immediate	??
	➤ Write Letter to the Editor	L. Galup D. Deardorff	Immediate	2/28/17
	➤ Develop social marketing campaign	R. Vida	Immediate	5/31/17

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Mobilize Community Partnerships	➤ Identify and co-facilitate key stakeholder meeting	R. Vida W. Griffin	In-progress	Indefinite
	➤ Participate in community meetings			
	➤ Meet with School District Officials to educate about status of lead in the community	C. Hinz N. Rust R. Vida	Immediate	
	➤ Explore and establish procedures to include lead screening in Kindergarten entry process			
	➤ Meet w key stakeholders, community organizations to seek ways to expand screening	R. Vida W. Griffin	Immediate	6/30/17
	➤ Meet with Government Officials to identify procedures and funds to assist with resources for lead contracting and abatement	D. Deardorff K. Davis	Immediate	6/30/17
	➤ Coordinate with Green Tree Environmental to provide lead certification workshops and training	R. Vida	Immediate	12/31/17

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Develop Policies and Plans	➤ Develop long term sustainability plan	L. Galup BOH Members	3/31/17	3/31/18
	➤ Meet with State officials to improve reporting and structure	BOH Members	Immediate	12/31/17

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Enforce Laws and Regulations	➤ Reinforce/educate health care providers regarding screening requirements	L. Galup R. Vida C. Hinz N. Rust	Immediate	Indefinite
	➤ Meet with State officials to advocate for funding	BOH Members	Immediate	12/31/17

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Link People to Case Management	➤ Continue to provide case management to individuals with EBLI of >10ug/dL	W. Griffin C. Hinz N. Rust	On-going	Indefinite
	➤ Meet with County Commissioners to propose budget to expand case management for individuals with EBLI of >5ug/dL	D. Deardorff K. Davis	Immediate	3/31/17

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Assure Competent Workforce	➤ Assess and implement high quality, on-going professional development	DOH Managers	On-going	Indefinite
	➤ Conduct staff evaluations	L. Galup DOH Managers	On-going	Indefinite

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Evaluate	➤ Review monthly progress of Lead Action Plan	BOH Members N. Molchan	Immediate	Indefinite
	➤ Data-driven decision making			
	➤ Monitor screening data			
	➤ Make changes as needed			

Goal	Action Steps	Party/Responsible	Begin Date	Due Date
Research	➤ Partner with academic institutions to gain assistance with data analyses; to seek innovative solutions; and to conduct research	L. Galup	Immediate	Indefinite