



WASHINGTON STATE

Board of Health

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DATE: June 9, 2010

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Environmental Health Committee:
Karen VanDusen, Keith Higman, and John Austin

SUBJECT: BRIEFING: STATE LEAD ACTION PLAN AND CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health's strategic plan for 2009-2011 includes Objective 5.3, *Support efforts to reduce human exposure to environmental toxins*. The two strategies for this objective are: (1) *Support efforts to reduce levels of persistent bioaccumulative toxins* and (2) *Increase awareness of threats to children from environmental toxins*. Today's briefing will provide information about Department of Ecology and Department of Health efforts related to both of those strategies regarding lead exposure. Please refer to materials behind Tab 15.

Carol Kraege, the Department of Ecology's toxic policy coordinator, is here to provide an overview of the State's Lead Chemical Action Plan, which was finalized in September 2009. The Plan focuses on protecting children from lead exposure, especially in rental housing, because of the bioaccumulative affects to which young children are most susceptible. Lead is a neurologic toxin and can cause permanent damage resulting in diminished life-time abilities to learn. Exposure is related to lower economic status resulting in health inequities. The primary exposure in Washington, though to a lesser extent than in other regions, is from paint in older housing.

Lauren Jenks, Environmental Epidemiology Section, Department of Health, is here to provide an overview of the Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. This includes a collection of children's blood lead testing data from various public programs and medical laboratories. A major part of the Department's prevention efforts are directed at developing partnerships for educating parents about potential sources of lead exposure for their children.

Recommended Board Action:

No action recommended.