

City of Las Vegas

Agenda Item #



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: OCTOBER 15, 2008

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR: DOUGLAS A. SEBY

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE

Report from the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) on the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Fiscal Impact:

No Impact Augmentation Required
 Budget Funds Available

Amount:
Funding Source:
Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

In 2006 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) approved a grant to the Southern Nevada Health District to eliminate lead exposure as a public health concern for Nevada's children. Lead exposure to children under six years of age can hamper the ability of children to learn or develop properly. Damage from lead exposure is irreversible. Keith Zupnik, M.D. from SNHD will present a report to the Mayor and City Council on the CDC grant-funded Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. This program is a collaborative effort among representatives from federal, state and local government and community organizations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report only

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

PowerPoint Presentation by Dr. Zupnik

Minutes:

DR. KEITH ZUPNIK, Project Coordinator, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), gave an overview of the Southern Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) Program.

He quoted the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that lead poisoning is considered the foremost environmental childhood disease today. Lead is a toxic substance that attacks many different organs and body systems, specifically affecting the neurological and behavioral development of children. Children up to six years of age are the most vulnerable as their metabolism and developmental stages are rapid. Lead is found in common substances and

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materials. With sufficient exposure or intoxication, the outcome could lead to death.

The CLPP program began in July 2006 with a five-year CDC grant. To date, 24 percent of Southern Nevada children tested have lead in their blood. Community partners are involved and the goal is to determine the nature and extent of the lead problem in children up to six years of age. In doing so, the program evaluates the risk to children, assists families already exposed and, more importantly, connects with community organizations to prevent lead exposure through education.

DR. ZUPNIK recognized staff and community partners. He emphasized this is a community problem and that all children deserve to live in a safe and health home.

Responding to MAYOR GOODMAN'S queries concerning fees involved and a possible cure, DR. ZUPNIK replied that the testing is covered by families with insurance and by Medicaid. If the costs are out-of-pocket, the fee would be approximately \$20. There are some funds set aside to assist families who are not insured and/or do not have the financial means to pay for the testing. Although there is no cure, chelation therapy is given to minimize the blood lead level.

Responding to COUNCILMAN WOLFSOM and COUNCILWOMAN TALKANIAN'S queries, DR. ZUPNIK replied that a legislative bill has been developed in an effort to create appropriate legislation to make screening mandatory. In addition, individuals should request testing from their physician or call the lead poisoning hotline, 702-759-1283, to seek further assistance. The Councilwoman noted that many residents in her ward do not have a physician and/or insurance; DR. ZUPNIK offered to aid the SNHLS services in working with her regarding a screening date and ensuring that testing is done.

At COUNCILMAN BROWN'S request, MR. ZUPNIK explained the screening process. During National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, there will be a mobile unit giving free screenings. In addition, every Wednesday, individuals can bring their household items to the Health District for lead testing.

Relative to demographics, COUNCILMAN BARLOW confirmed with DR. ZUPNIK that zip codes 89030, 89115, 89101 and 89110 had the highest lead exposure. However, DR. ZUPNIK stressed that there is no correlation with the zip codes other than these zip codes were some of the areas where the testing was done. DR. ZUPNIK requested that the CLPP staff be notified when there are community events, so representatives can be present to educate and provide testing. In addition, homes can be evaluated for lead-based paint with possibly no charge to the homeowners.

MAYOR GOODMAN and the Council thanked DR. ZUPNIK for educating them with his thorough presentation.