

# Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) – Flin Flon / Creighton Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

September 20, 2012 – HBMS Staffhouse  
Meeting #19

## Attendance

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership					
Don Aasen Town of Creighton		Bev Hill NorMan Regional Health	X	Deb Odegaard FF&D Env't Council	
Bob Smith Creighton School Board		Tom Lindsey Steelworkers Union		Bill Pauley Flin Flon School Division	
Christa McIntyre Healthy Flin Flon	X	Charlene Logan General Public		Dave Price Green Project	X
Ian Cooper HBMS (via telephone)	X	Barb Lyons General Public	X	Bill Hanson City of Flin Flon	X
Cheryl Hordal General Public					

Guests / Other		
Sheldon McLeod (Facilitator) S.L. McLeod Consulting	Blair Jackson Goss Gilroy Inc.	Erin McGregor Intrinsic Environmental Inc.
Joanna Miller AECOM	Jay Cooper HBMS	Lorraine Bleoo Goss Gilroy Inc.(GGI)
Dr. James Irvine Churchill River Health Region (via telephone)	Dr. Lawrence Elliott NOR-MAN Health Region (via telephone)	Dr. Susan Roberecki MB Health (via telephone)
Dave Clarry HBMS (via telephone)		

## Introduction

- Facilitator Sheldon McLeod called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.
- There were no action items for review from Meeting #18.

## Member's Commentary – Community Feedback

- Each CAC member was given the opportunity to share what they are hearing in the community regarding the Follow-up Blood Lead Exposure study ("Follow-up Evaluation of Lead Exposure in Children (under 7) in Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan"). General comments included:
  - People are noticing that the community seems greener since the smelter shut-down and due to other changes over the last year (*i.e.*, greening activities);
  - More positive attitudes have been experienced;
  - There is no longer the constant reminder of facility emissions (*i.e.*, improved air quality);
  - CAC members have been encouraging community involvement in the follow-up lead exposure study; and,
  - Nothing negative on the follow-up lead exposure study has been heard so far.

- Question from Blair Jackson: Are the CAC members aware of material promoting the study within the Reminder, including media releases, ads, and articles? Any comments?
- Response: Study exposure through newspaper media has raised awareness. The recommendation was made for additional advertising on the local radio to ensure outreach to those that don't access the local newspaper.
- Question from Sheldon McLeod: James/Lawrence, have you been in town lately? Have you heard anything regarding the study?
- Response: Dr. Lawrence Elliot indicated that he was in town over the past week and had the opportunity to meet with the study team and was impressed with the study organization and set-up. James Irving indicated that he read about the study in the paper.
- Blair Jackson indicated that the study has been well-received in the community and that an important factor that may influence study participation is lowered concern in the community.

### **Update on Risk Management Activities**

- Jay Cooper from HBMS provided an update on recent risk management activities completed by HBMS over the summer months (continued greening activities, summer paving, better containment of concentrate and lowered potential for dusting).
- Joanna Miller from AECOM provided a brief update on risk management activities and community involvement since the last CAC meeting, including: Trout Festival, World Bubble Day, McMunn and Yates contest to encourage pick-up of lead paint test kits, radio/paper ads regarding lead paint test kits and hand-washing, RHA hand-washing toolkit, and now in the process of finalizing school packages for kids to go out this fall.

### **Overview of Follow-up Blood Lead Exposure Study**

Reference Documentation: Sept20\_2012+CAC\_Presentation

- Blair Jackson from Goss Gilroy provided a presentation on the 2012 Follow-up Blood Lead Exposure Study. Key notes from the presentation are provided below.
  - Study Questions:
    - (1) What is the current level of internal exposure to lead in the child population residing in the Flin Flon Area?
    - (2) Compared to the lead exposure levels measured in 2009, have levels in Flon Flon Area children increased, decreased, or remained the same in 2012?
    - (3) Are the personal factors associated with children's lead exposure measured in 2009 (e.g., place of residence, age, gender) similar in 2012?
  - General Methods:
    - Similar to the 2009 study (*i.e.*, CAC and TAC oversight, children under 7 years old, conducted at the same time of year - September and October 2012), except only blood lead measured.
    - Blood clinics are being held in same location (office at 32 Main Street, Flin Flon).
    - Environmental sampling involving soil, dust, water sampling collection and paint scanning, occurs at the same time as household interviews.
    - Results will be shared with home owners

- Sample: stratified random e sample approach based on municipal tax roll; study also allows interested (volunteer) eligible households to participate. Data from these households will be initially treated separately from the original sample to determine if differences in characteristics exist.
- **So far 55 households with 75 children have been recruited into the study; data collection and recruiting is ongoing.**
- Reporting of Results:
  - Individual Results (November, 2012): Individual results to the participants' parents/guardians along with general information on lead exposure and interpretation of results. If additional follow-up is needed, the team physician (Murray Lee) will call to go through the results and coordinate follow-up procedures with local doctors. Dr. Sidiqqi will handle follow up for participants with no family doctor.
  - Technical Reporting: The study team will prepare a scientific technical report for the study for peer review.
  - Community Reporting (January/February, 2013): A community report that translates the scientific technical report for a general population audience. This report will focus primarily on the findings from the study. The study team will present to community groups and further describe the findings.

Question: Is the study recruitment curve and timing consistent with that observed in 2009?

Response: Yes. We expect recruitment to peak in September. We will eventually reach the point of diminishing returns.

Question: Can you predict/project sample numbers?

Response: This is difficult at this point. We are expecting recruitment peaks over the next few weekends after which point we will have a better idea of projected numbers.

Question: How many children are targeted for study recruitment?

Response: The sample strategy is targeting 250 children under the age of 7 (0-83 months). We need approximately 200 study participants to match the 2009 sample.

Question: When can the CAC expect to learn about results?

Response: Prior to the release of community wide-results (January/February 2013).

Question: Did the CAC meet prior to the release of individual household results in 2009 (*i.e.*, so that the CAC could help to address questions that may arise in the community??

Response: No recollection amongst the group.

Question: If not enough children are recruited by the targeted study end date is it possible to go further?

Response: We cannot press further if we have gone through the entire sample (*i.e.*, all households in the community have been approached). If there is sample left, we could continue with recruitment. This decision will be made in consultation with the TAC and HBMS with consideration of several factors: (i) community interest; and (ii) numbers required for scientific validity (statistical significance). Caution must be taken to not skew the sample by doing anything drastically different from the 2009 study.

Question: Are there ways to get additional sample? Could the newspaper be used a method to encourage participation (*i.e.*, used as a tool to help people respond more favourably when approached).

Response: The sampling frame is based on the entire Flin Flon area population. In 2009 we went through the entire sampling frame (*i.e.*, the entire population was sampled) in a randomized fashion. If this occurs, there is no additional sample to draw from as all households will have been approached.

Question: Will everyone eventually get sampled if they want to be?

Response: Not necessarily. Households are sampled until the required number of children in each geographic area is obtained. Theoretically, we could reach our target sample of 250 children before every household unit is sampled.

Question: Are there other ways the CAC can think of to improve positive responses when households are approached?

Response:

- Encouragement of study participation using the attitude of “*Why wouldn’t you participate?*”
- Local radio should be utilized over newspaper to reach out to those that do not or cannot read the newspaper.
- People might be upset that they’re not being approached due to their unawareness of the random sampling strategy. As such, it needs to be emphasized that the study is allowing volunteers.
- Family first program visitors have been encouraging participation.
- The study team will continue to provide clear messaging at the door (*i.e.*, at the time of recruitment) to encourage study participation.

Question: Is there a way to speed up the recruitment process and identify if people are not eligible or interested in participating?

Response: We have provided our study telephone number on all study related materials provided to the public (*e.g.*, newspaper materials, study invitation letters delivered to households). People have been calling in to express their interest in participation or ineligibility or lack of interest in participating.

Question: To summarize, is it correct to say that we are neither ecstatic nor alarmed by the participant numbers so far? Is it also correct to state that the study does not want to rely on volunteers to make up the target sample of 200-250 children?

Response: Yes. However, the study does welcome volunteers.

Question: Is there anything going on in the community over the next few weeks that could be used as an opportunity to promote the study?

Response: Cultural days organized by the Arts Council. It was also recommended that the study team consider speaking to the family coordinators at the local schools.

Question: Are the Cultural Days events that the appropriate venue for study advertising/promotion?

Response: It was recommended that the study team speak with the Arts Council to determine this.

Question: Have there been many takers of lead paint test kits from McMunn and Yates (hardware store) and has there been any tracking follow-up of results captured using these kits?

Response: Few kits have been picked up. Results from these test kits have not been tracked; however, as part of environmental monitoring component of the follow-up blood lead study, paint scanning is being conducted to measure lead paint in study participant households.

Question: Is extension of the study timelines possible? If required, would the study team be prepared to stay in the field longer than originally planned.

Response: We will have a pretty good idea of where the potential response rate is heading by the end of next week (*i.e.*, end of September). At that time we will need to determine if extending the study timelines would be beneficial or if we will likely have given an opportunity to all eligible households by that point. We would be prepared to stay longer if determined to be necessary/beneficial and justified. This determination will be made in consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee and HBMS.

- Blair Jackson from Goss Gilroy communicated to the CAC that if there is anything going on (questions/concerns) and they would like to get a hold of the study team to please call or refer other to the study line (204-271-9555).

#### **Next Meeting(s)**

- No specific date was set for the next meeting. It was proposed that a meeting be held in January, 2013 to relay the community level results to the CAC and to seek input into the related messaging for results. It was also suggested that there may be the need for a brief meeting prior to reporting of individual (household) level results in November, 2013. The potential for the next meeting to be a teleconference was also suggested as an alternative to encourage CAC attendance.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status