



Ohio Healthy Homes Network 2026 Annual Conference

Theme: Beyond the Paint

Date: Friday, May 1, 2026

Time: 8:30am – 3:30pm

Location: Creekside Event Center, Gahanna, OH

Schedule

8:30am **Breakfast**

9:00am **Opening Meeting Remarks**

Recognition of Sponsors – Aaron Grant, OHHN Conference Committee Chair

Welcome and Announcements - Fred Strahorn, OHHN Executive Director

Introduction of Morning Plenary - Phillip Bouton, OHHN Board Chair

9:15am **Morning Plenary: Parents' Panel**

This session centers the voices of those most directly impacted by lead exposure—the families navigating its lifelong consequences. While clinical data outlines the biological effects of toxicity, our parents panel bridges the gap between the clinical and environmental programming and the living room, offering an expert perspective on the realities of managing a lead diagnosis. Panelists will share their personal journeys of identifying hidden hazards, navigating complex healthcare and lead hazard control systems, and the emotional resilience required to advocate for their children. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the "human data" behind the statistics, learning how to better support family-centered care and policy.

10:15am **Break**

10:20am **Breakout 1: Redlining's Intersection with Eliminating Lead Poisoning**

***Kelli Dodd, REHS Columbus Public Health**

Learn about the Healthy Children and Safe Homes by 2040 Initiative - a multi-sector health equity effort launched in 2023 to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Columbus by the year 2040. The initiative prioritizes communities that were historically redlined and continue to experience disproportionate housing-related health risks. This work is grounded in coordinated partnerships across city departments and community-based



programs to align resources, expand capacity, and reach populations at highest risk. This presentation will describe how Columbus Public Health (CPH) is building a localized, data-driven public health response to eliminate lead poisoning.

Breakout 2: The Impact of Home Repairs and Services for Low-Income Homeowners on Pediatric Health Outcomes in Cincinnati

***Cole Brokamp, Ph.D. University of Cincinnati College of Medicine**

Substandard housing conditions are a well-established contributor to poor pediatric health, yet evidence linking real-world home repair programs to clinical outcomes remains limited. People Working Cooperatively (PWC) provides critical home repairs, energy conservation services, accessibility modifications, and lead-poisoning prevention for low-income homeowners across the greater Cincinnati region. Although these services are not explicitly delivered as health interventions, many directly affect housing safety and indoor environmental quality. This session will describe an ongoing retrospective, address-linked study evaluating whether receipt of PWC home repairs is associated with changes in pediatric asthma-, psychiatric-, and injury-related hospitalizations and emergency department encounters at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

Breakout 3: Changing Course: A Roadmap for Increasing Pediatric Lead Testing

***Gail Gettens, MS, ECMP**

Pediatric blood lead testing rates are suboptimal in many regions of the US leaving children -- especially children living in "very low" and "low" [Child Opportunity Index \(COI\)](#) neighborhoods, vulnerable to asymptomatic exposure. Discover how New Hampshire reversed this trend through a coordinated effort between the NH Division of Public Health’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Office of Medicaid Services, Medicaid insurers, and NH Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. This session examines two effective successful initiatives launched in NH that identified and resolved systemic barriers, drove change, and increased testing rates. Join to learn how NH leveraged these partnerships to engage pediatricians and Medicaid insurers alike to move the needle effectively on testing. Leave with actionable strategies to launch similar initiatives to boost lead testing rates, reduce health disparities, and improve pediatric health outcomes in your region.

11:20am **Break**

11:30am **Lunch/Awards Presentations**

Legislator of the Year: Representative Lauren McNally, 58th District

Community Service: Miami Valley Community Action Partnership



Lifetime Achievement: Bill Faith

11:45am **Keynote Address: “Collaborating for Success: Lessons Learned from New Jersey” by Program Director Lead Safe New Jersey Heather Gable Storey (Formerly Sorge)**

Lead-Free NJ (LFNJ) is a collaborative with over 300 members that centers Community Hubs—local grassroots organizations that advance local efforts and support statewide advocacy. The collaborative is working to eliminate lead exposure in New Jersey. Heather will discuss policies, partnerships, educational initiatives, and best practices that have informed LFNJ’s work and success.

1:00pm **Connecting and Collaborating Network Event**—Phillip Bouton

This interactive collaborative learning session will provide participants with insight into current healthy homes practices, policies and resources while increasing valuable connections with other practitioners and content experts.

1:45pm **Break**

1:50pm Poster Presentations

2:15pm **Breakout 4: Empowering Communities to Prevent Lead Poisoning Together**
***Candace Buckley, Toledo Lead Resource Center**

This session will explore collaborative, community-driven approaches to prevent lead poisoning in homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Despite decades of progress, many communities, particularly low-income and minority populations continue to face disproportionate exposure to lead through aging housing, contaminated soil, lead dust and outdated infrastructure. Fragmented resources and limited cross-sector coordination often hinder prevention efforts. This session will highlight practical frameworks for uniting public health departments, housing agencies, healthcare providers, educators, and community-based organizations to create sustainable, culturally responsive prevention strategies.

Breakout 5: Development of Novel Point of Care Methods for Allergen and Mold Detection

***Karen Dannemiller, MS, MPhil, Ph.D. The Ohio State University**

Asthma affects 25 million people in the U.S. and carries an annual economic burden of \$81.9 billion. Indoor allergens and dampness contribute significantly to asthma morbidity, with 21% of cases linked to mold exposure with an estimated cost of \$22.4 billion annually. Despite this, allergen detection in homes is rarely performed due to cost, complexity, and delays in reporting. Learn about a new study that introduces two complementary innovations: (1) a smartphone-based system for rapid, point-of-care detection of four common household allergens (cockroach and two dust mite species),



and (2) a laboratory-based approach for identifying mold risk using fungal function rather than taxonomy. These technologies, combined with education, offer a new toolbox for clinicians, home professionals, and families to efficiently target clinically significant triggers and reduce asthma burden.

Breakout 6: Legal Aid & Housing Panel Discussion

***Jenée Lee, MSW, LSW, Ph.D., Columbus City Attorney's Office**

***Melissa Lenz, Esq., Legal Aid of Southeast & Central Ohio**

Moderated by Cari Stork, MSW, MBA, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Housing quality is a critical form of housing security. However, defining what constitutes quality housing often varies which makes addressing this housing security issue difficult. This panel discussion will explore housing quality as a critical dimension of housing justice and security. Panelists will offer strategies for identifying, documenting, and advocating for improved housing conditions, emphasizing the importance of centering resident voice in policy and practice development.

3:15pm **Break**

3:20pm **Plenary Wrap-Up Session**

3:30pm **Adjournment**

3:45pm **Networking Social**

Join us in the Cantina Sports Bar and Grill for complimentary appetizers located on the first floor, NW side of the building.

Poster Presentations:

1. **Housing Age and Parental Occupation as Risk Factors of Pediatric Lead Exposure**
Deyze Badarane, MD, MPH, University of Cincinnati
2. **Understanding the Link Between Asthma Medication Adherence, Environmental Triggers, and Chronic School Absenteeism Across School-Aged Populations**
Briana D. Belcher (Bri), MPH, CHES, New Jersey Department of Health
3. **The Invisible Neurological Underbelly to Toxic Homes**
Joanie Callum
4. **Place Matters Across Generations: Where People Work, Play, Live, and Learn Makes a Difference**
Gayle Covington Fowler
5. **Ohio Expands Services for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (3.5 - <10 µg/dL)**
Andrew Schumacher, MPH, REHS, Ohio Department of Health