

## **Pompton Lakes Health CAG Meeting Summary May 18, 2011**

The following is a summary of the May 18, 2011 meeting of the Community Advisory Group for Health (Health CAG). The summary is organized by topic area, and should not be considered as chronological minutes from the meeting. The main issues raised during the meeting are as follows:

Update on Community Health Profile: Jerry gave a brief presentation on two reports titled “Presentation of Mortality Data for Pompton Lakes and Surrounding Municipalities” and “Presentation of Birth Outcome Data for Pompton Lakes and Surrounding Municipalities.” Additionally he mentioned that DHSS is moving forward with evaluating the various health outcomes as discussed in the public health response plan. This information will be provided to the CAG at future meetings.

Questions/Comments for Jerry from CAG: Mike Serra commented that he was particularly interested in seeing the results from Wanaque as he regarded that town to be very similar to Pompton Lakes. He also asked if low birth weight was associated with the chemicals of concern. DHSS responded that they did not believe low birth weight to be particularly associated with TCE and or PCE. One resident commented that historical data would be more indicative of impacts from past exposures – data from the 40s and the ensuing decades. Cas Stark also made a similar comment that the current data set covers birth rates “after the fact.” Jerry responded that the current birth outcome analysis was based on data from 2000-2007 which is available on the SHAD. Earlier data may be available but it may not be available electronically. Sufficient reason needs to be demonstrated before initiating a time-consuming process of analyzing historical records. Additionally only county level data may be available as opposed to data for individual towns. Similar questions about historical data were raised during the presentation of the mortality report.

Lisa Riggiola asked if DHSS will be doing a birth defect analysis and Jerry replied that the analysis is planned in the upcoming months.

Some other health concerns voiced by the community include depression and fibromyalgia.

Update on Community Survey: Jerry gave a brief update on the status of the community survey stating that DHSS is moving forward with designing a community survey as discussed in the previous CAG meetings.

Questions/Comments for Jerry from CAG: Most members were in favor of starting a survey of only the plume residents. There was a concern that residents may give out wrong information in a survey. There was a debate whether a survey would answer the question of contamination adversely affecting the community’s health. Jerry responded that the survey would strive to answer the question if there is an outcome whose frequency of occurrence is different in Pompton Lakes compared to other places.

**Agency Action Items:** NJDHSS will look into evaluating historical birth and mortality records.

List of Health CAG Meeting Attendees, May 18, 2011:

*Community Members (based on sign-in sheet)*

Lisa Riggiola	Mike Serra
Helen Martens	Gitta Curtiss
Cas Stark	Mary Anne Orapello
Debbie Priestner	William Baig

*Other Interested Parties*

Jacky Grindrod (Congressman Pascrell's Office)

*Department of Health and Senior Services*

Jerry Fagliano  
Somia Aluwalia  
Christa Fontecchio