



# 2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum

*Sponsored by:*

*Senator Toni Harp, Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate &  
Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Chair of the Education Committee*



## Summary of Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum & Participant Survey Results

*View November 19, 2009 Forum on CT-N  
[www.CT-N.com](http://www.CT-N.com) or at [www.FEA-CT.org](http://www.FEA-CT.org)*

# 2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum

Sponsored by: Senator Toni Harp, Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate & Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Chair of the Education Committee

Collaborative Partners: The Foundation for Educational Advancement, Inc., Connecticut Health Foundation, African American Affairs Commission, The Commission on Children, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, CT DPH and CT-N

## 2009 Early Childhood H.E.L.P. Forum

### Table of Contents

Page

#### Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation Introduced by:

- Representative Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House
- Senator Donald E. Williams, President Pro Tempore

4

#### Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation Introduced by:

- Senator Anthony J. Musto, Co-Chair- Select Committee on Children
- Representative Diane S. Urban, Co-Chair - Select Committee on Children
- Senator Edward Meyer, Vice Chair- Select Committee on Children
- Representative Karen Jarmoc, Vice Chair– Select Committee on Children

5

#### Morning Section: Early Childhood H.E.L.P. Legislative Informational Forum

**Presenters:** Dr. Kim Dietrich, Dr. Janice Gruendel, Dr. Jeanne Zehr, Dr.

Cooper, Stewart Hudson (Emily Hall Tremain Foundation)

7

#### Afternoon Section: Early Childhood H.E.L.P. Legislative Informational Forum

Presentations by: **1)** CT Department of Public Health, **2)** Department of Education, **3)** Department of Developmental Disabilities, **4)** Parent's Perspective and Experiences with IDEA and, **5)** On-Line National Course – Foundation for Educational Advancement, Inc. and UCONN Curriculum

8

#### Part I of Forum Survey Results:

Responses on the overall quality and effectiveness of the Forum and pre and post test results of participants' understanding of childhood lead poisoning and its relationship to learning and behavior. . .

10

#### Part II of Forum Survey Results:

Participant Childhood Lead Poisoning Rating Results Include the following:  
1) Early Intervention, 2) Professional Development, 3) Federal Law Compliance, 4) University Course and Degree requirements, 5) Professional Development and training requirement for educators, health professionals, child care providers and school related service providers.

11

#### Part III of Forum Survey Results:

Participant Comments & Recommendations

12

#### Photo Collection of Legislative Forum Sponsors and Presenters

13

# *State of Connecticut General Assembly Citations*

**November 19, 2009**

**1) Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation for the 2009 Health Education Lead Poisoning Forum Introduced by:**

- *Representative Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House*
- *Senator Donald E. Williams, President Pro Tempore*
- *Secretary of the State, Susan Bysiewicz*

*Be it hereby known to all that:  
The Connecticut General Assembly  
hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:*

*Health Education Lead Poisoning Initiative*

*In recognition of*

*Your Efforts To Educate And Advocate For The Prevention of Lead Poisoning  
Because Of Your Educational Events Like the 2009 Early Childhood Health Education  
Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum, Outcomes Continue to Improve  
And We Can Look Forward to the Day When All Children Have Access to  
Essential Prevention and Intervention Health And Educational Services*

**2) Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation for the 2009 Health Education Lead Poisoning Forum Introduced by:**

- *Senator Anthony J. Musto, Co-Chair - Select Committee on Children*
- *Representative Diana S. Urban, Co-Chair – Select Committee on Children*
- *Senator Edward Meyer, Vice Chair- Select Committee on Children*
- *Representative Karen Jarmoc, Vice Chair– Select Committee on Children*

*Be it hereby known to all that:  
The Connecticut General Assembly  
hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:*

*2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Forum*

*In recognition of*

*Your efforts to educate the community about the impact of lead poisoning on  
children's learning and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas of how to  
aid affected children. As the leadership of the Select Committee on children,  
we look forward to working with you on this important issue.*

# State of Connecticut



## General Assembly Official Citation

**Introduced by** Representative Christopher G. Donovan, 84th District  
Speaker of the House  
Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr., 29th District

**Be it hereby known to all that:**  
**The Connecticut General Assembly**  
**hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:**

Health Education Lead Poisoning Initiative

### In recognition of

Your Efforts To Educate And Advocate For The Prevention Of Lead Poisoning.  
Because Of Your Educational Events Like The 2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning  
Legislative Informational Forum, Outcomes Continue To Improve And We Can Look Forward To The Day When  
All Children Have Access To Essential Prevention And Intervention Health And Educational Services.

**The entire membership extends its**  
**very best wishes on this memorable occasion**  
**and expresses the hope for continued success.**

Given this 10th day of November 2009  
at the State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut

by

  
President Pro Tempore

  
Speaker of the House

  
Secretary of the State



# State of Connecticut



## General Assembly Official Citation

Introduced by *Senators Anthony J. Muto, 22nd Dist.*  
*Representative Diana S. Malachuk, 43rd Dist.*  
*Senators Edward Meyer, 12th Dist.*  
*Representative Karen Jarman, 59th Dist.*

**Be it hereby known to all that:**  
**The Connecticut General Assembly**  
**hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:**  
*2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Forum*

### In recognition of

*Your efforts to educate the community about the impact of lead poisoning on children's learning and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas of how to aid affected children. As the leadership of the Select Committee on Children, we look forward to working with you on this important issue.*

**The entire membership extends its  
very best wishes on this memorable occasion  
and expresses the hope for continued success.**

Given this 19th day of November 2009  
at the State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut

by

*Donald E. Williams Jr.*  
President Pro Tempore

*Christopher G. Donovan*  
Speaker of the House  
*Jim Byrnes*  
Secretary of the State







## **2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum**

*Bridging the Health & Education GAP: Early Identification /  
Intervention and Successful Outcomes*

***Sponsored by:***

***Senator Toni Harp, Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate &  
Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Chair of the Education Committee***

### **A G E N D A**

**November 19, 2009**

**Connecticut Legislative Office Building - Room 2C**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description of Forum Sessions</b>
<b>8:00 – 8:45a.m.</b>	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b> <i>(Compliments of CT Health Foundation)</i>
<b>9:00to 11:50 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Session (Key Note Presenters and Panel Session – Part A of Forum</b>
<b>11:50 – 12:25p.m</b>	<b>Complimentary Lunch</b> <i>(Compliments CT Health Foundation)</i>
<b>12:30 – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Session - Panel Session –Part B of Forum</b>



## **2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum: Bridging the Health and Education GAP: Identification / Intervention and Successful Outcomes**

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator Toni Harp, Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate &  
Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Chair of the Education Committee**

**Connecticut Legislative Office Building - Room 2C - November 19, 2009**

**8:00 – 8:45a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast** *(Sponsored by CT Health Foundation)*

**9:00am to 11:50 Morning Session (Key Note Presenters and Panel Session –Part A 12:15 –**

**12:45p.m. Complimentary Lunch** *(Sponsored by CT Health Foundation)*

**12:50 – 3:00 pm Afternoon Session - Panel Session – Part B**

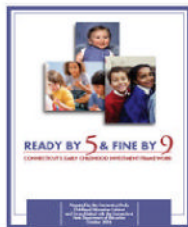
### **FORUM AGENDA**

**9:00 a.m. Welcome and Remarks: Senator Toni Harp and Representative Andrew  
Fleishmann, Senator Edward Meyers, and Representative Denise Merrill**

**Master of Ceremonies: Leo Canty, CT Health Foundation – Chairman of the Board and  
American Federation of Teachers - Second Vice President - CT**



**Keynote Presenter: Dr. Kim Dietrich** is a nationally renowned researcher and expert on Childhood Lead Poisoning. Dr. Dietrich is a professor of Environmental Health and Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Department of Environmental Health. He has also served as Associate Director of the Cincinnati Children's Center for Environmental Health.



**Dr. Janice Gruendel** is Co-Chair, Governor's Early Childhood Education Cabinet, Senior Policy Advisor for Children and Youth to the Office of Governor M. Jodi Re Il, Member of the Governor's P-20 Council and member of the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy Council. 2005 to 2009. She will provide a presentation on the EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE: "Ready at 5 fine at 9"



**Dr. Jeanne Zehr** is the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for East Allen County Schools in New Haven, Indiana. Dr. Zehr will provide an overview of an Innovative Preschool Intervention Program for Lead Poisoned Children. This program also utilizes a Cognitive Enrichment Program that has more than 30 years of research behind it. (i.e., Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment - Basic Version for Preschool Age Children)



**Dr. Eric Cooper** is the President of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA). He served in a similar position as Executive Director for the NUA at Columbia University's Teachers College and as Adjunct Associate Professor for 7 years. He has also served as the Vice President for In-service Training & Telecommunications for the Simon & Schuster Education Group and Associate Director of Program Development for the College Board. Dr. Cooper is the first educator to receive the distinguished Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. International Award by Israel, the Israeli Consulate of New York City, the Jewish National Fund and the Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

# Panel Presentations

*Bridging the Medical & Education GAP: Identification / Intervention / Successful Outcomes*



- (1) **Department of Public Health / Birth to 3 and Department of Children & Families:**  
**How to Develop a Multiple Agency, Successful, Coordinated, Seamless Process:**  
**Prevention and Linking Medical Blood Lead Screening Results with Identification and Intervention Services for Lead Exposed / Poisoned Children**

**Presenters:** **Rhonda Pales & Krista Veneziano:** Department of Public Health  
**Dr. Janet Williams,** Medical Director - Department of Children & Families  
**Eileen McMurrer:** Department of Developmental Services – Birth to 3 System

- (2) **Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation – Recognition and Response**

**Presenter:** Stewart Hudson, *President of the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation*  
**Recognition and Response:** An Early Intervening System for Preschool

**LUNCH - 12:15p.m to 12:50p.m. (Compliments of CT Health Foundation, Inc.)**

- (3) **Department of Education (SDE) Compliance and Intervention Models**  
**Early Childhood:** IDEA- EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES (ECO) and Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI)

**Presenters:** Maria Synodi and Michelle Levy, SDE Consultants

- (4) **Duke University Study on the Relationship between Early Childhood Lead Exposure & Achievement Tests.**

**Presenter:** Dr. Cheryl Resha, Consultant – CT State Department of Education

- (5) **UPDATE on National, State and Local Training Initiatives**

- a) New Britain, New Haven and Hartford H.E.L.P. Initiatives
- b) Health Education Lead Poisoning (H.E.L.P.) On-Line CEU Course
- c) Curriculum for Educators - University of Connecticut - Lead Poisoning: Limiting the Ability to Learn

- (6) **I.D.E.A. and Parent Perspectives**

Identifying children from birth through adolescence: Leads impact on learning, social-emotional development and adaptive behavior.

**Presenter:** Leann Howell, American Lead Poisoning HELP Association (ALPHA)

- (7) **WRAP UP – Questions / Answers / Recommendations**

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to discuss / reference / summarize and / or make recommendations on:

- Current research on the relationship between early childhood lead exposure and academic performance
- The educational impact of lead poisoning and the effects on student learning behavior
- Effective assessments and cognitive interventions for children impacted by lead poisoning
- The development of guidelines for bridging the gap between elevated blood lead levels and appropriate early childhood intervention services for lead poisoned children

**Audience:** Policy Makers, Educators, Health Professionals, Parents and Childcare / Social Service Providers

**Legislative Informational Forum Coordinator:** Dr. Vivian Cross, Health / Education Consultant (860) 214-6472

**Sponsored in collaboration with:** Foundation for Educational Advancement, Inc., Connecticut Health Foundation, Office of Protection and Advocacy, CT Department of Public Health, Commission on Children, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and the African American Affairs Commission.





## **2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum**

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

- 1) Forum participants' rating of the quality and effectiveness of Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum**
- 2) Participants' Ratings of their understanding of childhood lead poisoning and its relationship to learning and behavior "Before" and "After" forum training.**
- 3) Legislative Forum Participants Rated the Need for the following:**
  - (a) Childhood Lead Poisoning Professional Development / Training for Educators / Health Care / Social Service Providers, etc.**
  - (b) Birth to Three and Early Childhood Education services to address the early intervention and related service needs of children who are impaired due to lead poisoning**
  - (c) The Development of Guidelines to ensure compliance with Federal Law (I.D.E.A. Parts B and C) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**
  - (d) Early childhood professionals, preschool educators, parents, K-12 educators to receive professional development for the recognition, identification, educational intervention and related services needs of children with elevated blood lead levels.**
  - (e) Childhood lead poisoning professional development or course training as a University degree program requirement for teacher education degree programs or related school services fields (*i.e., social workers, speech and language clinicians, school psychologists, school nurses and other school based child study team and / or planning and placement team members*)**

# 2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum Participants' Survey Rating Results November 19, 2009



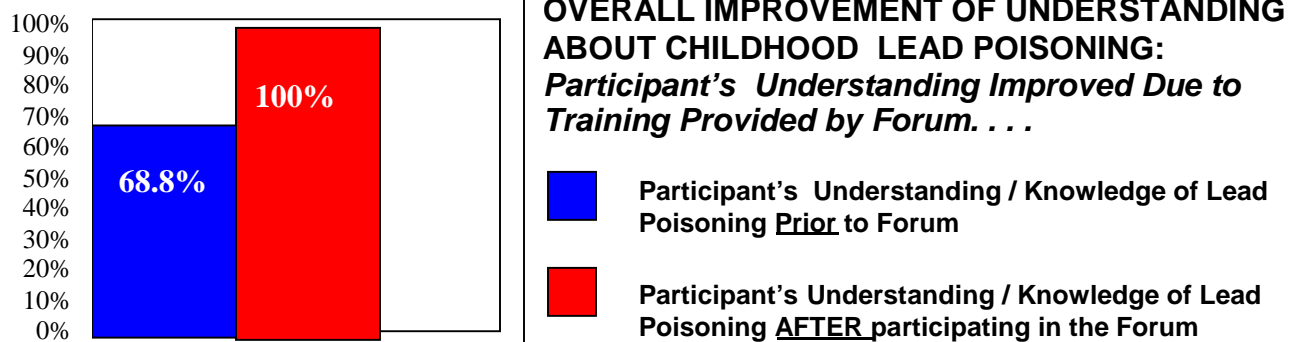
After participating in the Early Childhood H.E.L.P. Forum , participants were asked to respond by rating, commenting or making recommendations for the following inquiries:

## Legislative Forum Participant Recommendations / Comments:

- 1) One hundred percent (100%) of forum respondents rated the overall quality and effectiveness of the November 19th Legislative Informational Forum as exceptional, excellent and very good.

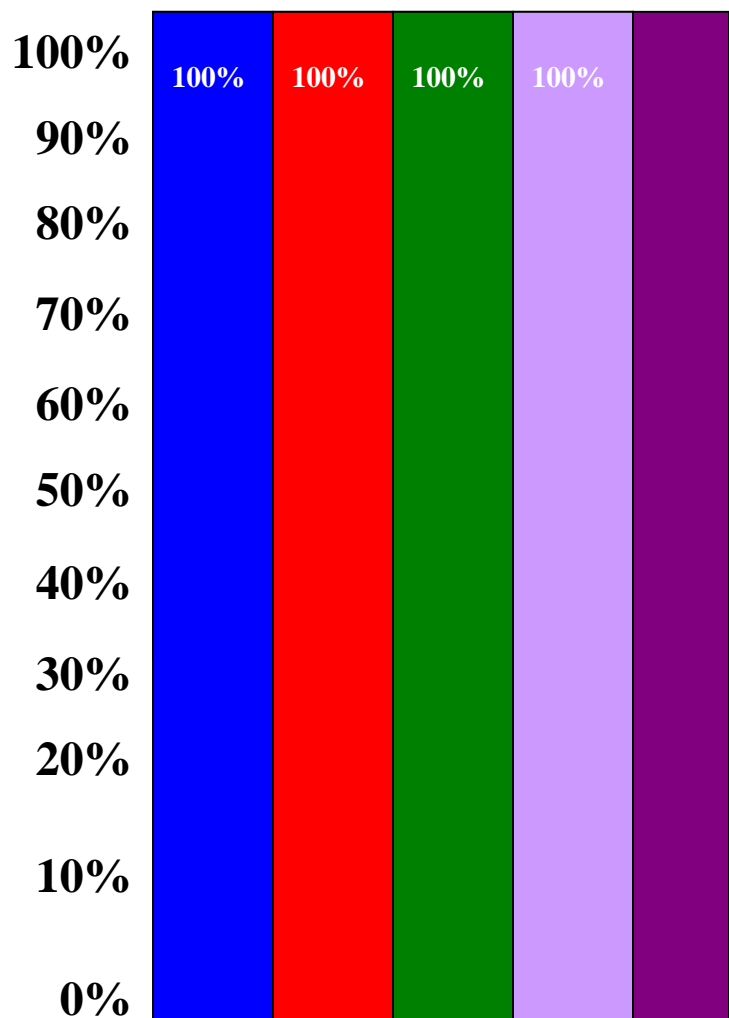


- 2) Participants' rating of their understanding of childhood lead poisoning and its relationship to learning and behavior improved from 68.8% having an overall exceptional / high understanding PRIOR to the forum to 100% having an exceptional / high understanding AFTER to participating in the Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Forum :








**OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING:**  
*Participant's Understanding Improved Due to Training Provided by Forum. . . .*

**Legislative Forum Participants Reported “there is a Very High and Significant Need for”:**  
**(1) Early Intervention; (2) Childhood Lead Poisoning Training for Educators / Health Care Providers;**  
**(3) Guidelines to assure Compliance with (I.D.E.A.) Federal Law; (4) University Courses, etc.**



**100% of Early Childhood Health Education Legislative Forum Participants Reported that there is a High and Significant Need for the following:**

-  Early childhood professionals, preschool educators, parents, K-12 educators to receive professional development for the recognition, identification, intervention educational and related services for children with elevated blood lead levels
-  Birth to Three and Early Childhood Education to address the early intervention educational and related service needs of children who are impaired or at risk due to lead poisoning?
-  Federal and state agencies (i.e., U.S. Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs, the Birth to Three System, Early Childhood Programs under State Departments of Education, etc.) to develop guidelines or policy for the identification, evaluation and provision of services for children who qualify for assessments and intervention under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) 2004 (PART B and PART C) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Birth to three through adulthood)
-  Early childhood professionals, preschool educators, parents, K-12 educators to receive professional development for the recognition, identification, intervention educational and related services for children with elevated blood lead levels.
-  Childhood lead poisoning professional development or course training as a University degree program requirement for teacher education degree programs or related school services fields (i.e., social workers, speech and language clinicians, school psychologists, school nurses and other school based child study team members):

## **Participant Survey Results:**

### ***Comments and Recommendations***

**One hundred percent (100%) of participant evaluation respondents rated the overall quality and effectiveness of the 2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning (H.E.L.P.) Legislative Informational Forum as exceptional, excellent and very good.**

#### **Comments included:**

- **I can use every bit of the information.** It renews my passion and interest
- I don't know how this forum could have been better
- Very good presentation(s). I felt that Eric's presentation was well needed in the school system in Hartford
- (Recommendation) Cross Training for all educators, medical professionals and parents
- Wonderful Job!
- Excellent Presenters
- Birth-to-Three and Early Childhood Education must always have the funding to continue for their families
- I think that the educational system (Board of Education, Teachers and Medical Doctors) all must be educated on the effects of lead on children.
- I hope that all of the legislators will work on this very important issue.
- (Recommendation) There needs to be a requirement for schools to provide mandated early intervention and required services for lead poisoned disabled children.
- We must work as partners on this very important topic
- "This one day event was more interesting and *had* more informational than some three day conferences that I have attended", Great job!, etc. . ."
- Thank you very much, Dr. Cross for making this great and important available to all of us!!!
- (Recommendation): Test people in CT prisons for lifetime lead exposure
- (Recommendation) Educate on how to make your home completely lead free in a lead safe way



# Welcome to the Connecticut State Legislative Office Building

Location Site for the 2009 Early Childhood H.E.L.P Legislative Forum

*November 19, 2009*





# 2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum

## *Legislative Forum Sponsors and General Assembly Official Citation Supporters*

*“CT Legislators. Making a Difference for CT’s Children and Families”*

### Connecticut Legislative Forum Sponsors

- Senator Toni Harp, Chair of Appropriations Committee
- Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Chair of Education Committee



### Connecticut Legislative Forum Participants

- Senator Ed Meyer, Vice Chair of Select Committee on Children
- Representative Denise Merrill,



### Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation Introduced and Signed by:

*Representative Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House, Senator Donald E. Williams, President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the State, Susan Bysiewicz*



### CT General Assembly Official Citation Introduced by Select Committee on Children Chairs and Vice Chairs

- |   |   |                                       |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Senator Anthony J. Musto, Co-Chair      | • Senator Edward Meyer, Vice Chair        | • Susan Bysiewicz, Secretary of State |
| • Representative Diane S. Urban, Co-Chair | • Representative Karen Jarmoc, Vice Chair |                                       |



# 2009 Early Childhood Health Education Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum

## A Collection of Forum Presenters' Photos



Leann Howell, President, American Lead Poisoning Help Association  
Dr. Vivian Cross, Executive Director of FEA, Inc.  
Dr. Jeanne Zehr, President of North American Feuerstein Alliance



Stewart Hudson, President of the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation  
Dr. Jeanne Zehr, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, New Haven, Indiana  
Dr Eric Cooper, President, National Urban Alliance



Dr. Vivian Cross, Director, Foundation for Educational Advancement, Inc  
Dr. Jeanne Zehr, President of North American Feuerstein Alliance  
Irv Schein, Director, International Consulting & Trade Associates, Inc.



Dr. Vivian Cross, Director of FEA, Inc.  
Dr. Kim Dietrich, Director of the Division of Epidemiology and  
Biostatistics – University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Researcher and Expert on Childhood Lead Poisoning