

WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2003

**The NIA Center
Second Floor Conference Room
2900 West Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky**

Arnita Gadson, Presiding

ATTENDEES:

Peggy J. Bolton, Shawnee/Bd
Bobby Hickey, Portland/Bd
Jonathan D. Miller, DuPont Dow Elastomers/Bd
Tom Herman, Zeon
Mark Schreck, UofL Labs
Suzy Szasz-Palmer, UofL Library
Isaac Shoulders, Russell
Fran Thomas, Chickasaw
R. Hackett, Russell
Sandra Withers, Hallmark
John Metaxes, UofL Air Lab
Waddell McGee, Mid-American Engr/Bd
Norman L. Robinson, Shawnee/Bd
Patricia Germany, California
Cheryl Fisher, DuPont
Art Williams, APCD
Gloria Scherer, Shawnee
Fred Nett, MDA
Mary Arthur-Brown, Rubbertown
LaLetta Jenkins, Shawnee

I. Lupus – Suzy Palmer

Suzy has had Lupus for 34 years since age 13. Lupus is an auto-immune disease that is among the leading causes of death. The immune system is overactive. It attacks any organ at any time. Steroids are the main treatment. The disease has been around many years. Symptoms include fatigue, joint pain, flu symptoms, kidney failure, low white blood cells, and rash on the face.

People are often misdiagnosed. Many doctors have little knowledge of the disease and do not recognize the symptoms. Little is known about the cause. Environmental exposures to silica

dust, and genetics have been connected to possible causes. Triggers for the onset have been related to drugs, hormones, sulfur drugs and ultra violet light/sun.

1.5 million people have Lupus. It is more common in women 44 – 50. It is two to three times more common among Blacks and Hispanics. It is treatable but not curable. Many times treatment is hampered because of lack of access to healthcare. Suzy's diagnosis took four years and three doctors. Four out of ten patients are treated by three or more doctors and take up to seven medications. The cost for medication for Lupus patients is between \$6,000 - \$10,000 annually.

Suzy's book "LUPUS, Living with It" has triggered emails from persons with the disease concerned mostly with health accessibility. A copy of the book is located in the information center.

More information can be received by contacting Gloria Scherer, President of the Kentuckiana Lupus Foundation at (502) 456-5265.

II. Materials Lab, University of Louisville – Mark Schreck, Director

The materials lab located in Ernst Hall at the Speed collects ambient air field samples. The 78 VOC compounds are analyzed, quality controlled, stored and put on the web site. The canisters are cleaned and evacuated for re-testing.

The samples are collected from 7 locations every 12 days. Each location is monitored for 24 hours on the designated sampling day. The locations are the Firearms Training Center, 4210 Algonquin Pkwy, Ralph Ave/Campground Rd, Farnsley Middle School – Lees Lane, Chickasaw Park, 942 So. 47th Street, Cane Run Elementary – 3951 Cane Run Rd. and UofL Shelby Campus which is a control site.

In the air that we normally 78.1% Nitrogen, 20.9% Oxygen and 1% CO₂, CH₄, and inert gasses. The gasses that are measured are VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds). The sample summa canister has a capacity of 6 liters. A clean canister must eliminate all gas phase and surface bound contaminants, and must have followed all procedures to certify cleanliness. Results from the Ralph Ave site used as a example of a September finding, showed an elevation of 1,3 Butadiene.

The future of the air monitoring program is slated to include a new improved web site, risk assessment study completion and comparison. The commitment of the lab is to continue year-round, independent air quality monitoring in West Jefferson county.

III. Risk Assessment/Risk Mgt. Plan update – Art Williams

Art attended an ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) conference in Atlanta where the 1998 Louisville Petitioned Public Health Assessment was discussed. ATSDR

could not draw a conclusion because the “representativeness” of available data is uncertain and the length of time people may have been exposed to detected contaminants is unknown. Simply stated, “Not enough data to render a conclusion”

ATSDR is under the office of the US Surgeon General. They are paid as active duty military focusing on public health.

At the EPA, Raleigh National Conference on Air Toxics, regarding federal, state and local health offices, the Louisville project was used as an example. Many communities do not have the data that we have collected. Louisville is a model for data collections, understanding and future planning.

On the **Risk Assessment Plan**, the Sciences Int’l **draft** is scheduled for completion at the end of March. The **Draft** report will be presented to the subcommittee, and Board to review for comments. The review process should be completed by mid-April with the final completion scheduled for mid-May. Included in the contract are stipulations that Sciences must complete informational materials for public presentation.

The **Risk Management Plan** is very near completion. The Risk Mgt. Plan provides the process to handle a problem or concern. This plan states what is done about the “problem/s”; the procedure for responding to the problem/s; steps taken to handle a major concern, i.e., continued monitoring, education outreach, changes in laws and /or procedures, etc.; what chemical threshold will trigger an action plan; identifying chemical sources. As an example, Benzene comes from gasoline (mobile sources) as well as Industry, what strategies can be used to reduce emissions. Defining the best ways, picking the options that makes sense to handle these issues, are the goals of the Risk Mgt. Plan

Parallel Timing of the two plans has worked well. Reason being to make sure the Risk Mgt. Plan would be objective and not skewed by the results of the Risk Assessment Plan.

IV. Aaron Leibson – Sierra Club

Aaron could not make the meeting.

V. NEJAC conference review

Do to time; this will be presented at a later date.

VI. Comments from the community

Fran Thomas from the Chickasaw community expressed concern about monitors not being in the Portland area.

Mark stated that there is a possibility monitors could be moved with the availability of qualified sites.

Fran expressed concern about the need for more employment at the Rubbertown plants from the surrounding communities. She asked that the number of people employed from the surrounding communities be discussed in the next task force meeting. Fran stated that Rubbertown should be marketing jobs to West Louisville residents.

Pat Germany once again stated that she would like to see DuPont Dow Elastomers' credits **retired.**

VII. Comments from the Board

The Champions of W. Louisville completed their seminar that provided tools to identify ways of assessing economic development. There are 1400 businesses in west Louisville. Barriers for growth are the perception of crime and lack of land. Assets to business growth are transportation and trainable personnel, according to the Brookings Report.

The Champions of W. Louisville graduation ceremony was held at Jay's. Included in the 35 graduates were the following members of the Task Force: LaLetta Jenkins, Peggy Bolton and Norm Robinson. Congratulations!!!

VIII. Comments from the Board

News articles discussed were: "TVA breaks ground for pollution controls"
"Committee begins search for new health director"
" Three fires put out after blast at MSD plant"

These articles are located in the information center.