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**press Release**

**NEWS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monday, May 14, 2012

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**PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM**

**Public Health Leaders Focused on Lead Poisoning Prevention**

A team of public health leaders from Burlington County recently participated in a national program sponsored by the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health (NLAPH), and used the opportunity to focus on the pressing community issue of preventing lead poisoning in children, Freeholder Mary Ann O'Brien said today.

The program, held last week in Atlanta, Georgia, was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS). It was implemented by the Center for Health Leadership and Practice, a center of the Public Health Institute.

"If this sounds like a gathering of local public health specialists on the highest order, it is," said O'Brien. "Burlington County residents should be proud to have such dedicated public health leaders working on their behalf to prevent disease and improve the health of our county.

The Burlington County team focused on primary lead poisoning prevention efforts through the use of geographic information systems (GIS). GIS can aid in the identification of neighborhoods at risk for increased lead poisoning prevention and that can be targeted for screening and outreach.

Team members consist of: Jeff Grosser, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, and Holly Cucuzzella, Coordinator of Community Health Services, with the Burlington County Health Department; April Lyons, Director of Virtua Community Nursing Service - Health Promotion Services; and Trina Gipson-Jones, Assistant Professor at the College of New Jersey.

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NLAPH will provide training and support to assist the team in successfully addressing lead poisoning prevention. Training and support will focus on two tracks. The first is the development of leadership skills, including personal and collaborative leadership in a multi-sector environment. The second emphasizes growth from team-based collaborative work to policy and systems change. NLAPH is provided at no cost to the participants or the community.

For more information about the project in Burlington County, contact Jeff Grosser at the Burlington County Health Department, [JGrosser@co.burlington.nj.us](mailto:JGrosser@co.burlington.nj.us) or 609-265-5522. For more information on NLAPH visit <http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/NLAPH/index.html>.

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