

MEDIA RELEASE

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Re: Nursing Lead Case Management Services

Since October 15, 2015, the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) has been providing Nursing Case Management Services to children known to have an elevated blood lead level. The goal of nursing case management services has been to reduce the blood lead level by ensuring children and families are supported in obtaining their optimal health. GCHD nurses assigned to these children have made in-home visits and performed nursing assessments and a developmental screening, provided education, developed individual plans of care, and advocated for families. GCHD nurses have made referrals to programs such as Early-On, HeadStart, Infant Mental Health, WIC, insurance services, housing services, and many other community resources. Case management nurses have also ensured that these children are connected to their medical provider and their insurance health plan. As part of the overall case management service, an environmental investigation of the child's home has also been offered and encouraged.

As of March 22, 2016, the GCHD nurses have made an in-home visit to 80 children identified as having an elevated blood lead level, and have several more appointments scheduled in the next few weeks. The case management nurses have also made over 700 phone calls, over 80 drop-by visits to homes, and sent over 400 letters trying to get in touch with other children identified as having an elevated blood lead level. "We really want these families to feel supported during this time of uncertainty. The nurses at the Genesee County Health Department were specifically trained to work with children having an elevated blood lead level, and have been working very hard over the past 5 months to ensure that these kids are well taken care of" states Jori July, Public Health Nursing Supervisor at the Genesee County Health Department.

The Genesee County Health Department continues to work with children identified as having an elevated blood lead level along with their family, medical provider, and other community partners to assure that their blood lead levels decrease. For more information on Lead Case Management Services offered through the Genesee County Health Department, contact Jori July at 810-237-4543.