August 22, 2019

Chemung County Lead Coalition Recognized

The Chemung County Lead Coalition was recently recognized for initiating action and collaboration to protect children from lead poisoning in Elmira and the surrounding area. The recognition came from the nationally recognized Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Monroe County.

Lead is a toxin that can cause serious damage to children’s developing brains. Children less than 6 years old, including fetuses, are especially vulnerable to health problems from lead exposure. It is also linked to hypertension, kidney disease and increased cardiovascular related mortality in adults. Lead levels in the children of Chemung County are among the highest in New York State. The Chemung County Lead Coalition was formed in 2017 to address this issue locally. The Coalition’s mission is: To work with community partners, leaders, agencies, and residents to reduce lead poisoning in families of Chemung County. Their vision is: To eliminate lead poisoning in families in Chemung County.

The Chemung County Lead Coalition is a collaboration consisting of representatives from many local agencies including the Economic Opportunity Program Inc., Chemung County Health Department, City of Elmira, Arnot Health, Legal Assistance of Western NY Inc., Chemung County Childcare Council, Arbor Housing and Development, University at Rochester Medical Center, Catholic Charities, Chemung County Planning Department, Chemung County Landlords Association, Inc. and the Chemung County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program among others. The Coalition meets monthly. All interested in addressing lead in our community are welcome to attend monthly meetings held at the Health Dept. For more information, contact Peter Buzzetti at pbuzzetti@chemungcountyny.gov or call 607-737-2868.