

Transparency and Community Trust



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Flint and Lead: The Water-Public Health Connection

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“Preparing to share my thoughts concerning the Flint Water Crisis required me to search the very depths of my soul and quiet my heart to begin to unleash some very painful truths...”

Ella Greene-Moton



Transparency with Lead Values



- **Transparency of lead levels**
- **Community trust**
- **Barriers to trust**
- **Community resilience**
- **Rebuilding community trust**



• **Transparency of Lead Levels**

- **The Lack of Transparency**

- **Understanding the timeline of the Water Crisis**
- **Understanding the information shared**
- **Understanding what should have been shared**
- **Understanding the accuracy of the information shared**



- **Community Trust**
 - **Given the already fragile status of community trust here in Michigan, as a result of the poor economy, loss of jobs, cuts in funding for schools, and more, the Flint water crisis was simply insult to injury.**



- **Barriers to Trust**

- **In order for trusting relationships to develop over time, the individuals involved must consistently exhibit certain behaviors and characteristics**



- **Community Resilience**

- **The sustained ability to withstand, respond to, and recover from adverse situations, utilizing available resources and even when those resources are not available**



- **Rebuilding Community Trust**
 - **An acknowledgement of the broken trust**
 - **An acknowledgement of the distrust**
 - **Identifying areas of the brokenness**
 - **Owning the brokenness**
 - **Beginning a healing process**



• **Rebuilding Community Trust**

- **Recognizing that the rebuilding process begins at the individual level, I had to focus on a healing process. My personal healing began with owning my truth.**
- **Owning the fact that I had experienced a very deep lingering hurt, when I began to hear and understand that we (the residents of Flint) had not been protected by our local public health office, nor by the State of Michigan.**



- **The information about the Flint water contamination was not shared with this community early in the process and we were allowed to use that contaminated water for better than a year, prior to the September 2015 public announcement.**
- **I equate that inaction to being allowed to walk out in front of a bus... where there might have been knowledge or a suspicion that the bus was moving toward us but where there was no warning given...**



•Reference:

- Public Health Code – Act 368 of 1978 ~ Part 22 (Local Health Departments)
- 333.2433 Local health department; powers and duties generally
- 333.2451 Imminent danger to health or lives; informing individuals affected; order; noncompliance; petition to restrain condition or practice; “imminent danger” and “person” defined.