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2024

LEAD SERVICE LINE



DECEMBER 8TH- 10TH 2024
THE WESTIN HOTEL , BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Strategies for funding Upstate New York lead service line replacements & expanding equitable water workforce opportunities.

Register Today!
FLOW UP SUMMIT 2024

www.flowupsummit.com 

The Westin Hotel 250 Delaware Ave., 
Buffalo, NY



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up
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**FIGHTING LEAD OUT OF WATER
TOGETHER.**





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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Oluwole A. (OJ) McFoy, PE

Chairman, Buffalo Water Board

General Manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority, Buffalo, NY

Greetings,


The Buffalo Water Board is excited to invite you to the inaugural FLOW Up Summit 2024. This two-day collaborative meeting gathers several Upstate New York representatives for workshops, discussions, and strategic planning for lead service line remediation. This summit exclusively invites executives and leaders from sectors such as municipal water, city government, public health, and MWBE/SDVB specialists and construction trades labor leaders.

Several years ago, we determined that to have any chance of replacing LSLs at scale, Buffalo Water would need to develop a more intimate relationship with customers to gain access to tens of thousands of private homes. Since then, we have partnered with local community groups and healthcare professionals for a boots-on-the-ground approach utilizing the community's most trusted organizations to help increase public awareness and cooperation. However, much more needs to happen for this project to be successful.

The EPA's new Lead Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) challenge cities nationwide to replace all lead service lines within ten years. Like Buffalo, many Upstate NY cities do not have the funding or resources to complete the job. The FLOW Up Summit's objective is to develop strategies that will help drive state funding toward Upstate NY cities and generate ideas to improve upstate economies through equitable workforce development practices.

We believe our unified efforts will build a 'best practices' roadmap for Albany lawmakers. We invite you to join us as we push for LSL replacement progress for all Upstate New York cities.





Join our coalition of local government leaders, public health professionals, and water service providers as we build strategies that send state funding upstate to replace old lead service lines.



BACKGROUND

THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced a new rule for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which officially mandates that all lead service lines (LSL) be replaced within ten years. Despite its righteous intent to protect public health, the new rule significantly accelerates the deadline to complete an enormous workload for many communities and simultaneously creates a tremendous financial burden on municipal water service providers nationwide and their customers.

The rule does not require water providers to pay for private LSL replacements, but most working-class customers cannot afford the added expense. Some municipalities have been able to replace LSLs at no cost to customers through relief or grant funding. However, in old cities with thousands of lead service lines, costs can be tens to hundreds of millions, which will burden water service providers and their customers far beyond any other regulation or investment.

UPSTATE MUNICIPALITIES MUST UNITE TO FLOW EFC FUNDING UPSTATE

August 22, 2024 [press release](#):

"Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Board of Directors approved \$265 million in financial assistance for water infrastructure improvement projects across the state. The Board's approval authorizes municipal access to low-cost financing and grants to get shovels in the ground for critical water and sewer infrastructure projects. Of the project funding approved today, \$30 million in grants from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will help 30 communities across the state to inventory lead service lines in drinking water systems, a vital first step for starting replacement projects and protecting public health" The Board approved grants and financings to local governments from BIL, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF), and grants already announced pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) program. Leveraging BIL funding with the State's investments will continue to empower local communities to make critical system improvements to safeguard public health, protect the environment, bolster communities' climate readiness, and promote economic development."

LEAD SERVICE LINE FLOW UP SUMMIT PURPOSE & PLAN

The FLOW Up Summit aims to build a coalition of upstate New York water, public health and workforce professionals.

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) mandates that municipalities receiving federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF) comply with MWBE/SDVOB and Prevailing Wage requirements. Additionally, 49% of BIL funding must be allocated to disadvantaged communities. However, there are no specific requirements for municipalities to implement diverse workforce inclusion plans, a key focus of the Biden Administration's Justice 40 initiative.



The FLOW Up Summit will generate a regional plan to help upstate cities meet BIL requirements while developing strategies to replace lead service lines through inclusive recruitment within local plumbing and construction trades. The outcomes will be compiled into a best practices report and presented to policymakers in Albany, demonstrating how upstate cities are effectively enhancing economic growth and capacity by prioritizing diverse workforce strategies for lead service line replacement.

These results should encourage EFC to create a rubric for rewarding cities that are growing their economy and workforce while meeting the EPA lead and copper rule requirements.



From MWBE/SDVOB certification guidance, to right-sized contracting, and local trade union inclusion agreements - our coalition of upstate public health professionals stands poised and ready to prove our regional commitment to LSL replacement and including many underrepresented residents as possible.

LEAD SERVICE LINE FLOW UP SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Oluwole A. (OJ) McFoy, PE

Chair, Buffalo Water Board & General Manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority

A Native of Buffalo, NY, McFoy was educated in the Buffalo Public School system, and is a 1993 graduate of Hutchinson Central Technical High School. McFoy is a graduate of Clarkson University with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New York, bringing over 20 years of executive leadership, program management, and infrastructure design experience to regional water quality initiatives. Joining the Buffalo Sewer Authority as Chief Operating Officer in 2006, McFoy has also held positions of Chief Engineer, responsible for executing the 20 year commitment to minimize the effects of combined sewer overflows on local waterways, and Chief Financial Officer, charged with managing the Authority's bonds, investments and annual budget. In 2007, McFoy was appointed Chairman of the Buffalo Water Board by Mayor Byron W. Brown, and continues to serve in this role. McFoy serves as the New York Water and Environment Association's representative to the Water Environment Federation House of Delegates, on the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Taskforce, and was recently elected to the Board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



Richard Diaz

Regional Field Manager for Water Infrastructure at the BlueGreen Alliance

Being from Milwaukee, WI, Diaz strives to fight for racial and economic justice for black, brown, and working class people everywhere. Within his 10-years as a community organizer, Diaz has been able to help create Milwaukee neighborhood association Amani United, increase member participation and achieve worker oriented contracts for members of the Amalgamated Transit Union local 998, help thousands of voter's register and get out to vote, and also co-found the Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE). His experience in building relationships, increasing civic participation, and advocacy efforts amongst marginalized groups, has resulted in numerous policy changes, newly elected officials, and partnerships between advocacy based and serviced based non-profits.



April N.M. Baskin

Chair, Erie County Legislature, NYS Senate-elect 63rd District

As a Buffalo native April N. M. Baskin is a devoted community advocate for equity and social justice. In 2017 April was elected to represent District 2 of the Erie County Legislature. District 2 is the most diverse district in Erie County, as it contains the region's wealthiest and poorest neighborhoods, as well as being home to immigrants and refugees from dozens of nations from around the world. Immediately upon taking office Baskin was selected to serve as the Majority Leader. A year later, her colleagues elected her Chairperson of the Legislature in spring 2019, making her the youngest person and the first freshman to serve as Chairperson in the history of the Erie County Legislature. She was re-elected to serve as Chairwoman in 2020 through present day. Public Health and Environmental Justice victories include: author and sponsor of the local law establishing an Office of Health Equity ("OHE") within the Erie County Health Department. Legislative Sponsor, Erie County American Axle Plant Community Advisory Board; Policy Architect, Erie County 'Lead it Go' Program; Legislative Advocate, Call for Erie County Cancer Cluster Funding.



PANELIST & MODERATORS



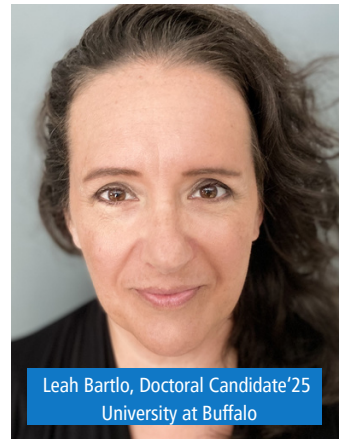
Dr. Kim Diana Connolly
UB School of Law



Erica Galante-Johnson, Ph.D.
Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC)



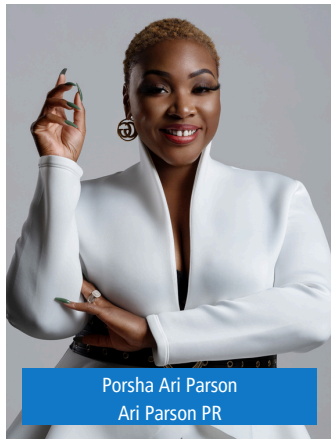
Anna Falicov, JD, MPH
Buffalo and Erie County Lead Safe Task Force



Leah Bartlo, Doctoral Candidate '25
University at Buffalo



Jill Witkowski Heaps
Surfrider Foundation



Porsha Ari Parson
Ari Parson PR



Stephen Waldvogel, PE
GHD



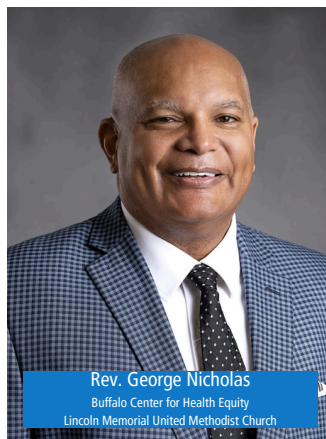
Kelly Marie Wofford
Erie County Department of Health



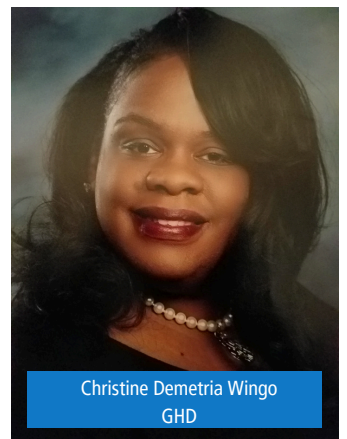
Franchelle Parker
Open Buffalo



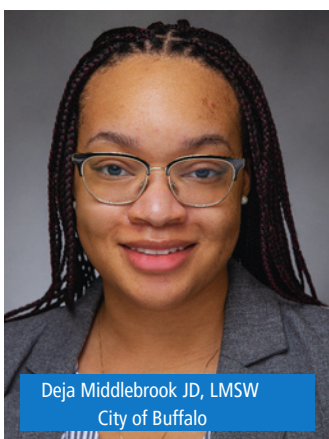
Marc Hennig
Beyond Support Network/Lead 716



Rev. George Nicholas
Buffalo Center for Health Equity
Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church



Christine Demetria Wingo
GHD



Deja Middlebrook, JD, LMSW
City of Buffalo



Darren Saxon
City of Buffalo



Rich Evans
UA Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 22





LEAD SERVICE LINE FLOW UP SUMMIT AGENDA

SUN. DECEMBER 8TH

3:00pm-5:30pm

Registration

Westin Buffalo

Guests, facilitators and attendees pick up official FLOW UP summit registration packet and swag bags.

6:00pm-8:00pm

Opening Night Welcome Dinner

Welcome Keynote:

“Turning Federal Cents into Sense”

April Baskin, Chairwoman, Erie County Legislature



MON. DECEMBER 9TH STRATEGY SESSIONS



8:00am Breakfast

Keynote: “More than Replacing Lead Pipes: Building Health & Wealth in Water Service Line Replacement” Oluwole A. (OJ) McFoy, Chair, Buffalo Water Board

9:00am-9:45 Presentation

“Set of Circumstances, The Lead Copper Rule” Stephen Waldvogel, Technical Director GHD

10:00am-11:30 am Fire Side Chat

“At First Glance: Predicting local impact of new EPA Law” and “Emerging Policies Around Lead”
Moderator: Christine Demetria Wingo, Technical Engagement Specialist, GHD

Panelists:

- Dr. Kim Diana Connolly, Professor; Vice Dean for Innovation, Interdisciplinarity and Community Impact Research
- Dr. Erica Galante-Johnson, Senior Analyst, Lead Service Line Replacement at Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC)
- Anna Falicov Esq., Lead Policy Analyst
- Leah Bartlo, Ph.D Candidate, University at Buffalo
- Jill Witkowski Heaps, Senior Legal Director at Surfrider Foundation

11:30am- 12:00 Session Break #1

12:00pm Lunch

Keynote: Richard Diaz, Regional Field Manager
Water Infrastructure at the BlueGreen Alliance

1:00pm-1:45 Panel Discussion

“Engaging & Marketing Environmental Health in Marginalized Communities”

Moderator: Rev. George Nicholas, Buffalo Center for Health Equity, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

Panelists:

- Porsha Parson, Principal, Ari Parson PR
- Kelly Marie Wofford, Director of Health Equity, Erie County DOH
- Franchelle Parker, Executive Director, Open Buffalo
- Marc Hennig Deputy Executive Director, Beyond Support Network/Lead 716

2:00pm-3:00 pm Panel Discussion

“Building a Recruitment Pipeline for New Workers & New Subcontractor Inclusion”

Moderator: Oluwole ‘OJ’ McFoy

Panelists:

- Deja Middlebrook, JD, LMSW, MWBE Inclusionary Compliance Specialist, City of Buffalo
- Darren Saxon, Chief Diversity Officer, City of Buffalo
- Rich Evans, UA Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #22

3:00pm-3:15 pm Session Break #2

MON. DECEMBER 9TH STRATEGY SESSIONS



3:15pm-4:15 pm Part 1: Road Map Home, Small Group Brainstorm & Presentation

Moderator: Stephen Waldvogel

Attendees will brainstorm around Summit subjects that include: (1) technical understanding of the rule (LCRR), (2) the community impact of rule, (3) what lead policies to consider for my community, (4) how can my community be further engaged and educated about lead, and (5) what are the inclusion opportunities for subcontractors in my area.

4:15 pm-5:00 pm Part 2: Road Map Home Small Group Brainstorm & Presentation

Moderator: Christine Demetria Wingo

Using a sample FLOW UP Summit water workforce example, attendees will partner with attendees from the same hometown in small groups. Groups will customize a collective draft plan of action for LSL replacement inclusionary practices for their hometown. Small groups will present their draft action plan to FLOW UP attendees during an open dialogue presentation session.

6:00 pm Dinner at The 1970 Club inside of the KeyBank Center

1st Shuttle (meet in The Westin lobby)

A complimentary dinner buffet will be provided at 6:00 pm. Shuttle capacity seating is 10. The 1970 Club is located on the 100 level of the arena. Upon entering the arena, take the escalators on the right hand side to 100 level and the entrance to 1970 Club is just ahead, next to the Coca-Cola concession stand.

6:30 pm Sabres Game



2nd Shuttle (meet in The Westin lobby)

A complimentary dinner buffet will be provided at 6:00 pm. Shuttle capacity seating is 10. This option is only available until 15 minutes before the game. The 1970 Club is located on the 100 level of the arena. Upon entering the arena, take the escalators on the right-hand side to 100 level and the entrance to 1970 Club is just ahead, next to the Coca-Cola concession stand.

7:00 Sabres Game KeyBank Center – Downtown Buffalo



The game will be in the KeyBank Center in downtown Buffalo. At intermission, FLOW UP SUMMIT attendees can go The 1970 Club for more complimentary refreshments.

****Transportation after the Game****

Return from KeyBank Center to Downtown Buffalo Westin

The Westin will provide additional shuttle service from the game for the Hotel guests.

TUE. DECEMBER 10TH

****CHECK OUT****



LET'S WORK TOGETHER



Special Thanks to:

Host – Oluwole OJ McFoy, PE

FLOWUP PLANNING COMMITTEE

April N.M. Baskin

Stephen Waldvogel, PE

Christine Demetria Wingo

Porsha Ari Parson

FLOWUP SUMMIT VOLUNTEERS

GHD BEATS & YP MEMBER – Nina

Odekhiran

GHD YP Members – Connor

Bannochie & Brithney Malchan

FLOW UP SUMMIT SPONSORS

