

CITY OF BALTIMORE

MARTIN O'MALLEY, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner
210 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Media Contact: Ingrid Wells, Public Information Officer
Phone: 443-984-2623 or Ingrid.wells@baltimorecity.gov*

Madeleine A. Shea Tapped To Be First Assistant Commissioner for Healthy Homes

BALTIMORE, MD (May 10, 2006) Today, Baltimore City Health Department Commissioner, Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, announced that Madeleine A. Shea, Ph. D, has been named as the new Assistant Commissioner for Healthy Homes. This is the first such appointment in a U.S. city health department.

At the outset, the new position will oversee public efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Baltimore City. It will expand to cover new efforts to reduce triggers for asthma attacks, prevent injuries at home, and address other threats of unsafe housing.

“Research is documenting that a wide variety of illnesses are affected by the home environment,” said Dr. Sharfstein. “I am thrilled that Dr. Shea, a proven public health administrator, will be leading a coordinated effort to keep Baltimore’s children and families safe at home.”

Dr. Shea’s career has been built around prevention. She is the former Acting Director of the Maryland AIDS Administration, where she previously served as the Chief of the Center for Prevention, Planning, Development and Evaluation. She previously served as the director of research and evaluation for United Way of Central Maryland. In the mid-1980s, Dr. Shea served in the Peace Corps in Monrovia, Liberia.

Nationally, a growing movement is studying the impact of housing on health and designing innovative strategies to prevent disease. The new position will position Baltimore to be at the forefront of this movement.

“We are thrilled that Baltimore is the first city in the country to dedicate a key leadership position to healthy homes,” said Rebecca Morley, executive director of the National Center for Healthy Housing.

“By protecting families from hazards in their homes, the city will save lives and reduce health care costs. We hope other cities will soon follow suit.”