

Children's Environmental Health Working Group

Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE-WA)

Thursday, December 10, 2015 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: UW Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100, Seattle

Host group: Marilyn Hair, Outreach Manager, Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health

Speakers/Presentation: Nancy Beaudet, Exposure Scientist for the Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and UW Occupational and Environmental Medicine Clinic

Topic: Nitrates in drinking water in Washington, and Blue Baby Syndrome

CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group: Our mission is to work collaboratively with diverse groups to eliminate children's harmful environmental exposures in the Puget Sound region and beyond during their most critical developmental years: preconception to age 8.

Attendees in-person:

Shirli Axelrod	Retired from SPU where she did the green purchasing for toxics reduction for the City of Seattle
Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Nancy Beaudet	UW PEHSU
Katie Frevert	UW Superfund Research Program
Gail Gensler	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Marilyn Hair	UW Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health (CEEH)
Rhonda Kaetzel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Rachel Koller	
Emily Polstein	American Lung Association
Fran Solomon	The Evergreen State College - Tacoma
Lorelei Walker	Health Equity Circle - Washington
Arthur Wendel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life™

Attendees by phone:

Megan Dunn	Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
Carolyn Gleason*	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration
Elizabeth Long	WA State Department of Health
Eric Saganic	Puget Sound Clean Air
Gretchen Stewart	EPA
Laura Stewart	EPA

Opening

Gail Gensler welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. Marilyn Hair facilitated the agenda.

Next meeting January 14, 2015 at ATSDR, EPA Building, 1200 Sixth Ave, Seattle. Host: Rhonda Kaetzel, Topic TBD

Group Discussion

1. Update on lead film showing from Lorelei Walker, Health Equity Circle
CHE-WA will host the viewing of a film on lead (MisLead) at the Seattle Home Show which will be February 20-28. They are thinking about also holding three interactive sessions and have been offered to hold them in the main auditorium. One session could be lead-safe work practices, one station with lead test kits, and one on regulations. Possible visuals include a Tyvek suit man. With funding, the producer Tamara Rubin could attend. In January they'll be looking for volunteers. The next Working Group meeting is in January.

Gretchen Stewart (EPA) said the Department of Commerce and EPA are hosting a booth for the 10 days of the Home Show and want partners. They are looking for \$700 in total funding. CHE could post their logo, have display space, and be able to help staff the booth.

Discussion followed about whether CHE-WA has any funds right now. Gail will talk to Steve Gilbert who keeps the funds. Another option is for CHE-WA member groups to provide funds. The group authorized the CHE-WA leadership group to make financial decisions regarding booths at the Home Show.

If there is opportunity for a speaker in the main auditorium, it was suggested to get a keynote-level speaker. Suggestions included Dr. Catherine Karr or Dr. Ada Otter from PEHSU, or have L&I speak on occupational lead standards.

2. Rhonda Kaetzel (ATSDR) asked for suggestions for a presentation for the January meeting. She received these suggestions:
 - Children's health initiatives - Child care, Mercury, PCBs
 - Most important Superfund sites in Washington and how they affect the population around them
 - ATSDR and Child Care - Bright Cities and Best Starts for Kids
 - Flame Retardants and Children's Health

3. Update on meeting host schedule for 2016 (finalized post-meeting):

January: Rhonda, ATSDR

February: Gail, LHWMP

March: Marilyn, UW-CEEH

April: Gretchen, EPA

May: N. Bernard and E. Long, WA DOH in Kent

June: Aileen, ALA

July - August: No meeting

September: Katie, UW Superfund Research Program

October: Nicole, PH-S&KC

November: Megan, NCAP (Nicole will help with space.)

December: Carolyn Gleason, HRSA

Member Updates

- Rachel Koller – Cleaning for Health
Rachel, and Aimee Boulanger (Aimee is from Port Townsend), and Karen from Jefferson County Health District Environmental Health Consultant, would like to replicate Rachel’s Seattle Public Schools “Cleaning for Health” presentation in Port Townsend. Rachel may be able to train parents from Port Townsend who can make the presentation. Nancy Bernard (WA DOH) offered to make the presentation, if needed as Nancy can go to any school in Washington State. Rachel’s presentation is a 10-minute presentation at a staff meeting, directed to the whole school staff.
- Dennis Weaver – Change Your Food Change Your Life™
Dennis brought his new CD, “A Celebration in the Song of Livin’ the Good Food Life” that promotes organic food. CHE-WA gets 10% of all proceeds. When users use the code, CHEWA10 and enter a C after their last name on checkout (for example “Weaver C”) they get a 10% discount and CHE-WA gets \$2.00 per CD, or \$1.10 per CD download or \$0.38 per track. Dennis sold several CDs and handed in the portion for CHE-WA. Thanks, Dennis!
- Gail Gensler – LHWMP
Gail expanded her child care outreach this fall and was able to train child care administrators and WA State Dept. of Early Learning licensors about how to reduce exposures to toxins in the child care setting. It was well received by the licensors. With the Best Start for Kids initiative passed, the King County Public Health nurses want to know what the new funding will mean. Gail will attend their meetings. Gail and Nicole Thompson will also attend a planning meeting for a different national initiative, First Thousand Days: Healthy Babies, Bright Futures, which is aimed at protecting babies from exposure to neurotoxic chemicals. They have named Seattle as one of its showcase cities. **Gail reminded us that her job is morphing and someone else is needed to take over coordinating CHE-WA. This involves keeping track of information and sending invitations.**
- Nancy Bernard – www.doh.school.environment
Nancy does school environmental health and safety for the WA State DOH, which includes offering cleaning guidance for schools, including alternatives to bleach for disinfection.
- Emily Polstein - American Lung Association
Emily is new to Seattle, having graduated from Oberlin College in June, and joining Americorps and ALA. She is doing home visits for air quality, for homeowners and renters in Seattle, and asthma visits to reduce and manage asthma triggers. The visits last about an hour.
- Katie Frevert - UW Superfund Research Program (SRP) The UW SRP was re-funded through 2017 and is reapplying for the next grant cycle. The SRP has 4 investigators who do basic science research. They also have Community Engagement and Research Translation Cores that focus on disproportionately affected communities. SRP interacts with state agencies and organizations that have Superfund issues. UW-SRP developed a consortium of affected community groups so communities can talk to one another about common issues and concerns.
- Arthur Wendel – ATSDR
ATSDR is working on a Child Care Siting Initiative, which is still in the formative stage. The initiative is writing a draft manual and guidelines to implement policies to review environmental hazards before a child care is sited. They are working to merge documents to provide guidance, collect guidelines at a national level, and write a schedule of policy changes. A website also is being developed to communicate the guidelines. The hope is to check for possible environmental exposures before a site is approved for a child care, and that, if something bad happens, to use the experience to improve for next time. They are using the PS Clean Air map of toxicants and WA State DOH mapping resources.

- Rhonda Kaetzel - ATSDR. Rhonda wants to expand their work to issues in the other Region 10 states, Alaska, Idaho and Oregon.
- Lorelei Walker - Health Equity Circle (HEC)
Since the Best Starts for Kids initiative passed, HEC-WA will follow implementation to make King County accountable to distribute funds equitably. Lorelei is also looking for 25% FTE work in epigenetics and environmental health.
- Fran Solomon - The Evergreen State College-Tacoma. Fran teaches environmental studies and focuses on pollution and toxic chemicals. She is teaching a 1-day course at Bastyr University on February 27th about endocrine disruptor chemicals. The course is targeted for environmental and health care professionals.
- Nancy Beaudet - PEHSU. PEHSU is planning a Pediatric and Reproductive Environmental Health 'Boot Camp', 10 hours of instruction for clinicians and Public Health professionals for Region 10 states. Dr. Sheela Sathyanarayana (PEHSU) presented at the regional Obstetrics meeting in Silver Valley, Idaho about pediatric and reproductive environmental health, with a focus on lead. Dr. Ada Otter and Dr. Katherine Carr have joined the WA State Lead Screening Advisory Panel, advising on blood lead testing for children. L&I is holding stakeholder meetings for lead standards; Nancy is attending these meetings for PEHSU.
- Gretchen Stewart - EPA. Working on smoke and children's health, also the Seattle Home Show. EPA partners with ATSDR and PEHSU on air quality, wood smoke, and nitrates.
- Megan Dunn - NCAP. Filed comments with EPA about organic quality. NCAP is drafting a statement for the WA State PTA on issues around chemical use in schools, to promote indoor air quality and healthy schools. This information will allow PTAs to support legislation for safe chemicals and healthy schools.

Networking break

Presentation

Nancy Beaudet (PEHSU) presented about nitrates in groundwater, an issue in the Yakima Valley and other locations in Washington, and methemoglobinemia or Blue Baby Syndrome. She asked for (and received) feedback for the next time she makes this presentation. Nancy will find answers to the questions that were asked and follow-up with the group. PEHSU has factsheets about nitrates in drinking water for clinicians and families, as well as factsheets on other topics: <http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/factsheets> .