

Children’s Environmental Health Working Group

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

Thursday, January 12, 2017 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Region 10 (ASTDR), 1200 6th Avenue, Suite 505, Seattle WA 98101

Host/Host group: Arthur Wendel, ASTDR

Speakers/Presentation: Arthur Wendel, ASTDR

Topic: “Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education” (CSPECE). This program of ASTDR identifies and works on early care and education sites to develop a preventive approach to exposures to environmental contaminants. Sites include childcare centers, daycares, preschools, nursery schools and Head Start programs.

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:

Nancy Beaudet	UW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Brian Fiedorczyk	EPA Region 10 Children’s EH Coordinator
Marilyn Hair	UW EDGE Center
Rhonda Kaetzel	ASTDR
Rachel Koller	Consultant
Elisabeth Long	WA State Department of Health The Evergreen State College, Tacoma and WWU Huxley
Fran Solomon	College of the Environment on the Peninsula
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health - Seattle & King County
Arthur Wendel	ASTDR, Division of Community Health Investigations

Attendees by phone:

Tom Austin	CHE National, intern
Carolyn Gleason	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Amy Leang	WA Department of Health
Gretchen Stewart	EPA
Lorelei Walker	CHE National

Opening

Arthur Wendel welcomed attendees in the room and on the phone, called the meeting to order, and facilitated the agenda.

Next meeting will be February 9 at the UW EDGE Center, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE. Speaker is Tom Austin, CHE intern and MPH student in epidemiology at UW.

Group Discussion

Arthur led a discussion about what direction CHE-WA should take in 2017. This is a follow-up to the exercise the group did at the December meeting, writing on post-its what we wanted CHE-WA to do in the next year. Arthur compiled the suggestions under 3 categories:

- Networking and Education
- Special Projects and Events
- Administrative and Other

He asked each person to read the suggestions, make a note of any gaps, mark 3-5 top priorities in each category, and, finally, to circle their one top priority. Then he asked us each to write a sentence from the perspective of a year from now to describe what CHE-WA had accomplished in 2017, and through what activities. He collected the handouts and asked those on the phone to email their comments to the CHE-WA list serve, collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com.

Updates

1. Tom Austin (CHE National) is a second-year MPH student in Epidemiology.
 - He is doing a Winter Quarter practicum at CHE National
 - Tom worked with the Cardiovascular Health Research Unit in the UW Department of Medicine on a study of atherosclerosis and said that working with CHE is a good next-step in his training
 - Tom will be the presenter at the CHE-WA meeting on February 9
2. Nancy Beaudet (PEHSU)
 - Catherine Karr just received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. She was one of 23 nominated by the Department of Health and Human Services. 102 awards were given, just 2 recipients are from UW
 - PEHSU is sponsoring a pediatric and EH fellow - Dr. Elizabeth Freedman. She is a pediatrician, also did a preventive medicine residency. She starts a 2-year fellowship in July
 - The UW PEHSU along with the New York PEHSU sponsored a government delegation from Vietnam to learn about managing lead. The delegation members want to learn how to address lead issues that arise in Vietnam from battery recycling
 - Catherine Karr or Sheela Sathyanarayana will present to the residents at Seattle Children's Hospital on April 24th about lead. They will use Flint, Michigan as a case study
 - Sheela will speak at the UW Diabetes and Metabolism seminar about obesity and endocrine disrupters
 - Sky Valley School, a homeschool center in Monroe School District, Snohomish County, addressed their indoor air quality issues and re-opened the building last fall. Nancy said the community seems to be less concerned as PEHSU is getting fewer inquiries about Sky Valley

3. Nancy Bernard (WA DOH School EH and Safety)
 - Nancy works on indoor air quality in schools
 - DOH has \$3.5M to test water in schools for lead and copper. There is a proposal that all WA schools have their water tested for lead over the next 6 years
 - Nancy is co-chair of the Speakers Committee for the WA State Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference meeting May 1-3 in Wenatchee. Keynote is Dr. Patrick Breysse, Director of ASTDR. Nancy is looking for speakers; if you have ideas for speaker, email her at nancy.bernard@doh
4. Brian Fiedorczyk (EPA Region 10 Children's EH Coordinator)
 - EPA Region 10 is working on regional priorities and collaborating and networking to extend their effectiveness with limited resources and staff
5. Marilyn Hair (UW EDGE Center)
 - Catherine Karr is the Director of the Clinical & Translational Services in the EDGE Center and they are very proud of her receiving the Presidential Early Career Award
 - The EDGE Center outreach group is partnering with a group of Native American educators called Tend, Gather & Grow who are developing a curriculum for students age 5-18 about traditional Coast Salish foods including common wild plants, traditional land management practices, plant identification, harvest protocols, nutrition, cooking, medicine-making and traditional technologies. Lessons will include educator field guides to camas prairies, wetlands, and forests (for summer berries), saltwater beaches and mountain huckleberry meadows. The lessons will be piloted in native schools and public schools and then be available online.
6. Rhonda Kaetzel (ASTDR)
 - Among the projects ASTDR is working on are perfluror-alcohol substances in drinking water on Whidbey Island and throughout Washington state...
 - Toxins from glass manufacturing in Oregon
 - Creosote in Oregon
 - Silicates in the air at Valley School
 - ASTR representative in Alaska is working on 3 health consults
7. Rachel Koller (consultant)
 - Rachel is going to Olympia next Monday as advocate for Education Focus Day
8. Amy Leang (WA DOH)
 - Amy is a health assessor and toxicologist at DOH
 - She is working on the safe-siting initiative for Early Care and Education Centers, funded by ATSDR and is attending today to hear Arthur Wendel's presentation
9. Elisabeth Long (WA DOH)
 - Elisabeth works with the childhood lead prevention program

- DOH is compiling its surveillance system in a new database where county-specific lead measurements will be available
 - For the new legislative session, DOH is responding to the governor's directive on lead and case management of kids
 - DOH has 100's of lead-care test kits for blood-lead testing that expire in July. Elisabeth is offering them free to community groups such as Head Start. If interested contact her at Elisabeth.Long@doh.wa.gov
 - As requested at the meeting, Elisabeth provided the draft agenda for the CDC meeting in Atlanta on Jan 17-18 where CDC will consider lowering the maximum blood lead level. The agenda is attached to the February meeting invitation, or request it from Elisabeth.
10. Fran Solomon (The Evergreen State College Tacoma and WWU Huxley College of the Environment on the Peninsula)
- Fran teaching a course about endocrine disrupting chemicals for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the UW. The course is entitled *Chemicals That Disrupt Hormones: Health Impacts and How to Reduce Exposure*. The class will meet 4 Mondays beginning January 23 from 1-3pm at the Burke Museum. Registration is \$40 at www.osher.uw.edu.
11. Gretchen Stewart (EPA)
- Working on ground nitrate issue
 - EPA Children's EH is working to have a more consolidated program in 2017
 - Gretchen is on the national committee planning "Children's Environmental Health month" in 2017. If you have ideas for how to educate the public about children's EH, please email Gretchen at stewart.gretchen@epa.gov
 - Nancy Beaudet suggested the theme "Little Things Matter" & Bruce Lanphear's (Simon Fraser University) Little Things Matter video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6KoMabz1Bw>
12. Nicole Thomsen (PH-S&KC)
- Works on lead and healthy housing and loves the governor's directive on lead
 - Best Starts for Kids directive for King County includes work on lead and household toxins. 2 positions are opening. The county will also address lead poisoning
 - King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program is launching a social media campaign for lead
13. Lorelei Walker (CHE National)
- CHE is launching a Fireside Chat series moderated by EH policy expert Michael Lerner. The first chat will be at 11am PST on Tues, January 24. Register on CHE's website under What's New: <https://www.healthandenvironment.org>. You can post questions 2-3 days ahead of the chat on the CHE website.
 - For CHE's Next Generation Program, CHE hired a summer intern and now has a winter intern, Tom Austin, who attended this meeting. Tom will be the speaker at the February CHE-WA meeting

Networking break

Presentation

Find the PPT presentation in the Meeting Presentations and Handouts section of the CHE-WA website, <https://www.healthandenvironment.org> > What We Do > Partnerships > CHE-WA

Arthur Wendel presented on ATSDR's project, "Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education" (CSPECE). This program of ASTDR identifies and works on early care and education sites to develop a preventive approach to exposures to environmental contaminants. Sites include childcare centers, daycares, preschools, nursery schools and Head Start programs.