

Children’s Environmental Health Working Group

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

Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: UW EDGE Center, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100, Seattle

Host/Host group: Marilyn Hair, UW EDGE Center

Speakers/Presentation: Tom Austin, intern at CHE National, second-year MPH student in the UW Department of Epidemiology, and Research Assistant at the UW Cardiovascular Health Research Unit.

Topic: “A Fresh Look at Cardiovascular Disease: Environmental Risk Factors Across the Life Course” - This presentation will explore the environmental factors that increase risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) through the framework of the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease and the Life Course Model of health. There will be a special focus on the importance of early environmental exposures, epigenetic interactions, and a discussion of policy implications and solutions.

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:

Tom Austin	CHE intern, presenter
Gail Gensler	Citizen, retired
Marilyn Hair	UW Edge Center (notetaker)
Nancy Hepp	CHE National
Erica Liebelt	Washington Poison Center
Fran Solomon	The Evergreen State College - Tacoma
Shirlee Tan	Public Health - Seattle & King County
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health - Seattle & King County
Lorelei Walker	CHE National
Arthur Wendel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations

Attendees by phone:

Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Stephanie Edlund	Public Health - Seattle & King County
Brian Fiedorczyk	EPA
Rachel Koller	Ecotope
Rhonda Kaetzel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Barbara Morrissey	WA Department of Health
Gretchen Stewart	EPA

Opening

Marilyn Hair welcomed attendees. Arthur Wendel called the meeting to order and facilitated the agenda.

The next meeting will be on March 9, 2017, hosted by Erica Liebelt at Washington Poison Center in Northgate.

Group Discussion

Nicole reviewed host duties for CHE-WA meetings. We may want to revisit them, but presently the host duties include:

- Securing a meeting room
- Capacity for conference call, projecting the presentation, and internet for remote participants to access the presentation on Adobe Connect
- Provide beverage and snacks (not required but appreciated)
- Facilitate the meeting (or recruit a facilitator)
- Recruit a notetaker
- Secure the speaker
- Send presentation slides the day before the meeting to Nicole Thomsen at: nicole.thomsen@kingcounty.gov

Arthur reviewed the 2017 goals prioritized by those who attended the January meeting. His slideset is attached. The top priorities include:

Networking and Education

- Host monthly meetings
- Build partnerships with other groups
- Reach out to audiences in eastern Washington
- Invite EH instructors and students to join

Special projects and events

- Present CHE-WA's work at conferences and/or PTA
- One-day Forum
- Facebook page for non-scientists with Hot Topic messages
- CHE trainings across the state

Administrative

- Expand the group's diversity
- Award mini-grants to help forward projects
- Share CHE-WA model at national conferences

Erica noted that the WA Poison Center has hired a staff member to work in eastern Washington and this has tripled their exposure. There are unique needs in that part of WA.

Fran supports expanding CHE-WA's diversity in several direction: racial and ethnic, students, and EH topics

Gail suggested the possibility of focusing on a topic for a year. She also recommended CHE-WA track its accomplishments every meeting to document results. It might be a collaboration resulting from sharing updates or informal networking during the break. This list would be helpful for grant proposals and presentations.

Gretchen suggested collaborating in 2017 with the Air Quality Group. They are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the WA Clean Air Act. They have funds to do outreach. Plans include: social media, publications, events in every county, tabling at community events. A logo is being developed for the 50th anniversary. Gretchen suggested CHE-WA might write FB posts about children and clean air, linking to the CHE-WA website. Gretchen will send the portfolio to Lorelei to distribute to the CHE-WA group.

Nicole asked whether CHE-WA should apply for (another) Public Participation Grant (PPG) from the WA Dept of Ecology. CHE-WA has been fairly successful at being awarded these grants, which focus on toxics. The application period is likely to open in June or July. CHE-WA submitted a grant application last year to hire a coordinator to plan a one-day forum, and pay for the forum. The application was not successful.

There was enthusiasm in the group to update and resubmit last year's proposal. One of CHE-WA's limitations is that we are a volunteer group with limited capacity to plan an event like a Forum.

Due to time constraints, updates were brief:

1. Brian Fiedorczyk (EPA) works 40% time on children's EH issues, with Gretchen Stewart. He took over Margo Young's responsibilities except Margo had twice the FTE. He is updating Margo's work plan, a work in progress. Brian did indicate that EPA has a national focus on lead.
2. Nancy Hepp (CHE National) reported that all the CHE-WA information from the beginning is now loaded on the CHE website (<https://www.healthandenvironment.org>). The CHE-WA website section is here: <https://www.healthandenvironment.org/what-we-do/special-partnerships/che-wa>). From the CHE homepage, go to What We Do > Partnerships > CHE-WA (in the right column). Or find it by searching for CHE-WA in the search window on the home page.
3. Rachel Kohler began full-time work at Ecotope, an energy-efficiency engineering firm. Rachel is working in the policy group. Her work combines climate change and children's health.
4. Erica Liebelt is the Executive and Medical Director of the WA Poison Center. A pediatrician by training, Erica has worked as a pediatric emergency medical doctor and as a medical toxicologist. She has worked with pediatric environmental health most of her career, mostly related to childhood lead.
5. Fran Solomon (TESC - Tacoma) is teaching a course on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC's) for the UW Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She will also present a one-day lecture on EDC's on May 3rd.
6. Gretchen Stewart (EPA) said that, in the new political environment, we must do more to promote our good work. She announced that, therefore, the presentation at the CHE-WA meeting in May at EPA, two Press leaders with EPA would present on outreach messaging.

7. Shirlee Tan (PH-SKC) is a toxicologist and “Rhonda’s replacement” at Public Health-Seattle & King County.
8. Lorelei Walker (CHE National) explained that CHE’s NextGen program requires students to make a presentation during the Academic Quarter they serve as an intern. CHE needs venues where interns can present. Today’s presentation was by Tom Austin, the current CHE intern. Please contact Lorelei for details, or if your group could host a presentation by a CHE intern.

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/special-partnerships/che-wa>. The presentation will also be attached to the March CHE-WA meeting invitation.

Lorelei introduced Tom Austin, CHE National’s winter quarter intern. Tom is a 2nd year UW MPH student in the Dept of Epidemiology. He has experience with cardiovascular disease (CVD) and is developing content for the CVD page on the CHE website. Tom has been accepted into the PhD program in Epidemiology for next year.

Presentation Topic: “A Fresh Look at Cardiovascular Disease (CVD): Environmental Risk Factors Across the Life Course”. The presentation explores the environmental factors that increase risk for CVD through the framework of the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, and the Life Course Model of health. There is a special focus on the importance of early environmental exposures, epigenetic interactions, and policy implications and solutions.

A lively Q&A followed.