

**Children's Environmental Health Working Group
Collaborative on Health and the Environment- WA (CHE-WA)**

Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 12, 2012 9:30-11:30

Host: Gensler, Singer, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

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: pre-conception to age 8.

Attendees: Gail Gensler, Margo Young, Lauren Jenks, Barbara Ross, Gretchen Stewart, Ada Otter, Nicole Thomsen, Rachel Koller, Julia Singer, Sandy Zeimer, Nancy Bernard, Tracy Bier, Steven Gilbert, Holly Davies, Aimee Boulanger. By phone: Michelle Gaither, Toni Nunes.

Facilitator: Gail Gensler

Note taker: Julia Singer

Sub-Group Report-outs:

1. Medical Providers – Gail Gensler

The sub-group is talking with Great Minds (GM). GM is a new grant program at WA DOH for children with special needs. It focuses on developmental screening. We want to add in CEH messaging. They are offering to put in materials they give health providers that are participating and materials to give patients. They are not really offering instruction time for our messaging. A new person just hired for GM.

The Medical Home model is on hold. If and when they start another cohort, they may be interested in working with us. Our challenge is demonstrating that we have something of interest/concrete to offer doctors.

SG offered to draft one page explanation of epigenetics. HD will help him.

HD suggested re-connecting with Planned Parenthood, because Planned Parenthood does basic health care.

GG mentioned CHE-Alaska's phone conference showcasing PSR organizer from Los Angeles, who has made good connection with doctors via a promotora model. GG will follow up.

2. Pediatric Nursing Conference – Rachel Koller

Evidence based practice in schools and ambulatory care settings – January 27. It will focus on kids with developmental disabilities. RK will table there sharing CEH, PEHSU info.

3. UW [Children's Environmental Health Research Matters conference](#) – Margo Young

It is intended to kick off a monthly webinar series and reach a wide audience. It will not replace the locally focused ongoing environmental health journal club. MY says we can offer ideas for webinars in upcoming year.

Member Report-outs:

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Steve Gilbert (INND)

- [Particles on the Wall](#) is up at Odegaard Hall at the University of Washington. January 26 from 6:30-9:00 is a free reception and the artists will be there. SG will speak.
- *The Alzheimer's President* is a book written during the Reagan era and just re-published by Healthy World Press. It is a fictional account of what might happen if a sitting president faced a mental decline. Available as a [free e-book](#).
- Small Dose of Toxicology is now an e-book.

Ada Otter (PEHSU)

- PEHSU has developed a [new fact sheet](#) for clinicians on managing blood lead levels <10. Catherine Karr and AO are working on developing a framework for case management protocols for lead and asthma, within the CDC grant.

Holly Davies (Ecology)

- Washington Toxics Coalition is putting out amendments to Children's Safe Product Act (2008) that will ban chlorinated flames retardants. The bill is an environmental priority this year.

Julia Singer (LHWMP)

- She communicated with the producer/director of [Toxic Baby](#), Penelope Jagessar Chaffer. CHE-WA CEH may want to help promote this film locally, but first we would want to see a copy. Three local scientists are in it.

Lauren Jenks (WADOH)

- She reminded us of a small CDC (Environmental Health Center) grant opportunity to create a conference between May 1 2012 through April 30 2013. A letter of intent must be submitted January 18, 2012. The grant deadline February 2.
- Grants. gov is a challenging way to submit a grant.
- SG suggested a title: *Ethical implication of Epigenetics for Children's Health*.
- LJ will write letter. SG will submit because he has a DUNS number for grants. gov

Barbara Ross (EPA)

- EPA is offering free workshops on lead, PCB's and asbestos around the Region. The Alaska training geared toward school staff.
- BR and Nancy Bernard will talk.

Aimee Boulanger (CHE-WA Board)

- The CHE-WA steering committee meets next week by phone.
- She and SG would like to see a Spring and Fall meeting of CHE-WA.
- There is absolutely no budget, so the steering committee will consider ways to bring in resources.

Rachel Koller (volunteer at LHWMP, Washington Toxics, parent blogger)

- She went to environmental priorities (WA Environmental Council) legislative workshop on Saturday, UW.
- Five legislators (Joe Fitzgibbon, Steve from Olympia, Steve Litzow and Sharon Nelson were on a panel. There was a nice dialogue via Q&A from audience. That is what we missed at our Forum.

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There was a mechanism to help people formulate questions: Two women with microphones both screened and helped re-word questions.

- One of the priorities this year is to simply hold the fort.
- The panel in Olympia is January 25.

Nicole Thomsen (PH S&KC)

- January 18 is the first meeting of the case management sub working group of CDC grant. Intent of sub group (70 invited) tasked with creating three separate protocols – lead, asthma and housing.
- We should be using housing as indicator of action and not wait for negative health outcomes. Probably monthly meetings.
- Hope to answer the question “now what do we do once a mold or lead issue has been identified?”
- The group has two chairs – Stella Chao (PH S&KC) for housing and Catherine Karr (PEHSU) medical/environmental.

Nancy Bernard (WADOH)

- *Clean, Green and Healthy Schools* is a new initiative from EPA managed by Alanna Conley in the Portland office. Alanna wants to connect with WA State efforts.
- It is part of the Energy and Independent Security Act.
- An RFP is coming out and will focus on school guidelines.

Tracy Bier (WAPSR)

- WAPSR seems to have succeeded in getting a grant from Ecology re-instated, which allows public input on keeping the Hanford cleanup transparent.
- Olympia doctors requested to meet and start outpost of WAPSR in Olympia.
- TB is hopeful to spread WA PSR around the state.
- Heavily working on Toxic Free Kids amendment. WA PSR will work directly with companies and meet with their buyers to help get safer products on the shelf.
- WAPSR is doing a strategic plan, looking at how to attract people under 35, such as medical students. Nuclear power is not high on the list for young docs. New areas could be obesity, asthma in kids. Tracy asks for our suggestions of issues. GS has ideas. Let Tracy know by mid-February. Our working group will discuss this at our February meeting.

Gail Gensler (LHWMP)

- She is reaching out to childcare providers both in-home and centers with a way to be certified as an [Eco-Healthy Childcare](#). RK has been invaluable.
- GG is teaching two workshops at the [From Crib to Classroom Conference](#) on Saturday, February 4.
- GG wants help on gathering info on moms and young children, beyond demographic information. Where do you turn for information? Who do you trust? What would you like help with? MY suggests CHILD Profile.

Michelle Gaither (PPRC)

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- Thursday January 12 the Vance building at third and union is having an open house from 5:30-7:30. PPRC and other environmental non-profits.
She has ideas on reaching into the PTA

Toni Nunes (WACAAP)

- Their legislative liaisons are working on toxics issues in collaboration with other organizations.
- TN wants to know who to connect with? HD or TB.

2012 Agenda Brainstorm

- We confirmed we want to meet monthly.
 - We will have ten meetings a year. Eight will have speakers and two are reserved for business.
 - The host decides format of meeting.
 - We need variety of hosts. You don't have to provide food.
 - TB volunteered to host.

Brainstorm:

- **2013 Forum**
 - Write letter of intent– LJ
 - Others interested in working on Forum: MY, AB, NT, JS , HC, GG, SG
 - Topics could be epigenetics, boots on the ground examples, research abstracts
- **Working offer joint feedback to WA PSR** as they develop their annual agenda
- How will we spend our money? Spend it on grant writers?
 - Pay for a member to go to a conference and spread our message.
- How this group can support each other's work
- **Revive/nurture small groups from Forum.** GS reported out from survey. She did not see any great movement of small groups wanting to move forward. GS thinks people might be interested in easily connecting.
 - Draw on small groups so they could help us as we work on our jobs. I.e. childcare.
Maybe ask if there was anyone who wanted to co-chair. Or facilitators could energize.
- What is our role with Session priorities? Some group members are not allowed to lobby. Some members could.
Sub-groups could lobby, as has happened in the past. As long as any info doesn't go out saying "all of CHE" believes this.
- **Have an on-going PR campaign where this group pontificates** on issues of concern for parents, schools, somewhere in the media. Such as a monthly column in Seattle Times. Take a strong voice. Some folks can't be a part of that, depending on how it was presented.
 - The Forum(s) allowed a method for getting information out publicly.
 - Writing for public. Seattle's Child. Parent Map. RK was asked to do on-going Q&A in Seattle's Child. They seem to be interested in environmental health.
 - GS has been asked to write a column for Seattle Awakenings.
 - There is a column in Seattle Times – Tom Watson.
 - HD could help RK write something, and not have her name on it.

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- Ghost writers: GG, RK, MY, HD, NT, AB, NT. This could be a press sub-group. Maybe RK could lead. HD has monthly article schedule from Ecology. Also GG has articles for her agency's newsletters.
- Each article could have links at the bottom, to appropriate agencies
- Maybe start small. Be clear about goals – why? Raise visibility of CHE-WA CEH? Support legislative priorities?
- Group should get together in Feb (identify proposed goals of articles), not have a speaker in March.
- NT will have space in Feb agenda in case they have updates, or explain their existence.
- The value of this group continues to be networking. And working on joint projects.
- Take WSEHA presentation to webinar, other conferences,
 - Could it be serialized?
 - Copy EPA Region 8's approach, application of CEH.
 - Get our needs met through UW webinar
 - Maybe tie this to Forum 2013 and people get credit for an extra half day attendance.

Brainstorm 2012 continued:

For our February meeting, NT suggested that we take the time we normally use to report out and continue with business/planning 2012. We continue with the ideas we generated and prioritize.