

Children's Environmental Health Working Group  
Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE-WA)  
Thursday, January 14, 2016 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM  
Location: ATSDR, 1200 6th Avenue, Suite 1910, Seattle  
Host group: ATSDR Region 10  
Speaker: Dr. Rhonda Kaetzel, ATSDR Region 10 director  
Topic: ATSDR Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA) and Children's Environmental Health

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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:**

Nancy Beaudet	UW PEHSU
Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health, School Environmental Health and Safety
Megan Dunn	NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Katie Frevert	UW Superfund Research Program
Carolyn Gleason	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration
Marilyn Hair	UW Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health (CEEH)
Rhonda Kaetzel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR)
Rachel Koller	Community K-8
Barbara Morrissey	WA State Department of Health
Will Perry	Public Health –Seattle & King County
Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen	Public Health – Seattle & King County
Fran Solomon	Evergreen State College - Tacoma
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life™
Amy	WA State Department of Health
Deborah	

## Opening

Rhonda welcomed attendees and called meeting to order. Emergency evacuation steps outlined to guest. Next meeting is February 11, 2016 at the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. The topic is *Art Hazards to Children and Adults*.

## Group Discussion

1. Update on Seattle Home Show at Safeco Field (Feb. 24 2:30-3:30pm).  
Goal is to educate public on lead exposures through modelling and interactive sessions. Will include a testimonial by Dr. Karr on lead exposures. Working group stations will provide audience with lead test kits once trained. Audience will learn how HVAC protection works. Currently recruiting volunteers for outreach. Looking for lead test kits (up to 100 swab type) and lead positive painted surface, funds to purchase supplies. Expect email to come out: Looking for volunteers and funding opportunities.
2. Reminder: Meeting host schedule for 2016  
  
January: Rhonda, ATSDR (Completed)  
  
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

## Members Update

1. Rachel Koller  
Gave Cleaning for Health presentation to K-8 children. Teacher liked presentation and wants to incorporate into his curriculum
2. Carolyn Gleason - (no updates)
3. Marilyn Hair  
No updates but searching for March meeting topics (Poison Center?)

4. Dennis Weaver  
CD's for sale blues, jazz, and pop. [www.changeyourfoodchangeyourlife.com](http://www.changeyourfoodchangeyourlife.com) Access code:66dy65tfwm
5. Will Perry  
Looking at lead exposure. Half of the cases are refugee kids. Wants health care providers to test more kids for lead exposure, especially ones at high risk. A recent court settlement should increase testing of children on Medicaid, if a test is requested by parents. The Washington State Department of Health has finalized two powerful tools to help identify high risk kids-
  - a. An interactive map of the State that makes it easy to identify high risk geographical areas
  - b. Robust recommendations to help physicians identify kids that should be tested
6. Question: How long does lead stay in a child? Answer: Half-life in blood is 1 month. Lead is also stored in bone; that bone-lead releases slowly over many years.
7. Deborah - No Updates
8. Fran Solomon  
Leading 1 day course on endocrine disruptors on Kenmore campus. Professional level geared towards environmental and healthcare professionals
9. Nancy Beaudet
  - Feb. 18, Dr. Sheila Sathyanarayana presenting at prenatal conference in Idaho on how to counsel women during pregnancy on environmental hazards. Workshop recruiting 1 public health professional for each state in Region 10 (date not specified).
  - Provide presentation in Silver Valley Idaho on lead --one of the largest Superfund sites for lead contaminated tailings spread widely. Area resistant to concerns about lead due to high tourism. Working with Andrea Lindsey to identify key contacts in area and public health to find best venue to present this information. Large project. Gretchen, 1-2 minute YouTube video why blood lead test is important.
  - Marijuana use and Second Hand Exposure .THC can be passed in high concentrations in second hand smoke. May affect pregnant mothers, kids reeking of marijuana. State indoor air quality professionals do not like marijuana use in Washington and Colorado. WA Poison Center takes a lot of calls about kids and marijuana. Working a lot with Colorado region to get responses on topic. Need legislature to do something about exposure to children. Unsanitary conditions in edible marijuana. Family lived next to commercial grower, very odorous production. Strong odors in families' yard -- pediatrician advised family to move to new location. Illegal growing marijuana called "skunk" smell is very offensive.
10. WA Dept. of Ecology  
Working a lot on flame retardants, 5 chemical bans in children's products. Working on automatically banning similar substitutes. Exposure area reports (where do you find flame retardants?) Ban all halogenated flame retardants? Possibly? Updating rule on bio-accumulated chemicals. Another bill out on artificial turf. Trying to turn conversation to safer alternatives as opposed to huge epidemiology studies. Alternatives need more research to be recommended. May introduce new chemicals to environment (run off?) Student tells parent about passing a vial of mercury around at school (Olympia High School) "there are teachers who love their mercury"... Illegal activity.
11. Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen  
Working on lead specifically pre 1970's homes. About 1 year of research; 4 people on her team

12. Nancy Bernard

A new resource is available on my [School Environmental Health and Safety Web Resources](#) page under Biological Issues: [Classroom Cleaning - Tips for Teachers](#). At the bottom of the webpage is a link to the [Printer-friendly version of this webpage \(PDF\)](#). Thank you to all my partners who helped develop and review this resource – and your patience with the slow process of publication!

13. Rhonda Kaetzel

ATSDR Looking for PFC in water. Largest source from firefighting foams; trying to figure how to do study knowing what different sources are. Emergency preparedness work for entire region. Air exposures during chemical releases and how agencies work together (related to fires). Understanding everyone's roles -- firefighters, health agencies, etc. Spill response (disconnect?) Washington labor companies looking for instrument sharing (mercury readings)

14. Barbara Morrissey

Has a new web resource for reproductive health she will send out link on list serv. In how to counsel about environmental exposure to toxic chemicals. Working with Elizabeth on lead screening

15. Katie Frevert

Working with Duwamish River group, has new investigator working on arsenic in region. Starting to write grant submission for 5 year. Working with Amy to collaborate with JWAH Superfund research grant in Boston how to build partnerships.

16. Amy

Working with ATSDR; eager to learn more from presentation and meetings

17. Megan

House bill 2339 addressing agricultural pesticide drifts. School of kids affected in the past with emergency medical professionals called.

### **Rhonda Kaetzel Presentation ATSDR**

#### **ATSDR - Intro**

- What does ATSDR do who we are?
  - Federally public health agency to address health concerns at Superfund sites and the work that surrounds that
  - Several different bodies of work
  - Regional office focused on communities or research/writing toxic profiles, physician education, and funding
- How ATSDR responds
  - Responds to communities where people might be exposed to hazardous substances
  - How a site is or has been a problem
  - Recommend actions with partners (ecology, EPA, etc.)
- Additionally
  - Educates communities
  - Researches information
  - Work with tribes (229 tribes mostly in Alaska)
  - Maintains some disease registries
- How we get involved

- A site is proposed for the EPA superfund NPL list, local government request, a community or tribe petition
- Everyone is our partner
- Co-Ops in all 4 states
- What can community expect from ATSDR?
  - Gather community concerns and information about the site
  - Identify ways come in contact with chemicals
  - Issue a draft report for public comment
  - Communicate the final results
- Who does what?
  - ATSDR- what are the health concerns?
  - EPA- takes samples/clean up
  - State and Local Agencies- may take samples
- Evaluating Health Impacts
  - Public Health assessments
  - Exposure investigations
  - Health consultations
  - Health studies
    - Go out into community and take data on how much somebody was exposed and what their health effects are see if they are correlated (expensive process)
      - Bunker Hill
      - Tacoma Smelter
- Community involvement
  - Assess needs interest and concerns. Partner with local organizations
- Health Education
  - Provide education on a wide array of topics including
    - How exposed
    - How to avoid
    - Sensitive populations
  - Provide education for professionals
- ATSDR Accomplishments
  - Completed 148 investigations at 142 sites
  - Protected 639K people
- *Don't Mess with Mercury* campaign
  - Kid friendly messages developed in school curriculum
- Well-known chemicals that affect children
  - Mutagenic compounds
  - Metals
    - Lead
    - Mercury
  - Endocrine disruptors
  - Particulates
  - PCB's
  - Solvents
- Lead Arsenate in orchards
  - Cleaned up schools and parks to reduce exposure to dirt

- Observe child and day cares on orchard lands (former orchard lands)
  - Studies on juice/wines with arsenate
- Lower Duwamish Waterway
  - Risk to people mostly from PCB's
    - Fish consumption
    - DOH advisories
  - Inequalities
- Boeing Auburn Fabrication Site
  - Groundwater plume of TCE
  - Ecology still characterizing
  - DOH completed 4 health consults
    - Drinking water, Surface water, and vapor
  - Potential child exposures
    - Ditches and yards due to surface water runoff
    - Who are the children and how much are exposed
- Other sites particulate related
  - Yakima particulates from cattle feed lots
    - Working directly with Yakama tribe
  - Valley School Eastern WA
    - Next to sand quarry
    - Dust from grinding affecting area
  - Makah Tribe on sediments from dump and burning (discontinued)