

Children's Environmental Health Working Group  
Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA Chapter

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, October 13, 2011 9:30 – 11:30 AM

King County Hazardous Waste Management Program – 130 Nickerson St, #105, Seattle, WA 98109

Our **mission** is to work collaboratively with diverse group to eliminate children's harmful environmental exposure in the Puget Sound region and beyond during their most critical developmental years: pre-conception to age 8.

Attendees:

- Nancy Bernard: WA Department of Health
- Tracy Bier: WA Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Vickie Carper: Student, UW Environmental Health
- Holly Davies: WA Department of Ecology
- Gail Gensler: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
- Steve Gilbert: Institute for Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
- Lauren Jenks\*: WA Department of Health
- Rachel Koller: HealthyHomeFocus.com
- Annie Merritt: WA Department of Health
- Toni Nunes: WA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Barbara Ross: EPA, Region X
- Julia Singer: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
- Gretchen Stewart: EPA, Region X
- Nicole Thomsen\*\*: Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Dennis Weaver: Change Your Food Change Your Life
- Charles Wu: Public Health – Seattle & King County

\* Host

\*\* Note Taker

**FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Date	Location	Host
November 2011	WA DOH - Kent	Margo Young – EPA
December	American Lung Association	Aileen Gagney – ALA
January 2012	EPA – Downtown Seattle	Gretchen Stewart - EPA
February	LHWMP	Gail Gensler/Julia Singer – LHWMP
March	Public Health – Seattle & King County	Nicole Thomsen - PHSKC
April	LHWMP	Elizabeth Loudon – ECOSS
May	WA DOH – Kent Office	Steve Gilbert - INND
June	LHWMP	Gail Gensler/Julia Singer – LHWMP
July & August	No Meetings	
September	Ecology NW Regional Office – Bellevue	Holly Davies – Ecology
October	EPA	Margo Young – EPA
November	WA DOH – Kent Office	Lauren Jenks – WA DOH
December	Public Health – Seattle & King County	Toni Nunes - WCAAP

**SUB-GROUP REPORT OUTS**

- Medical Provider Outreach: A small working group (Margo Young, Gail Gensler, Nicole Thomsen, Lauren Jenks, Aimee Boulanger, Ada Otter, and Toni Nunes) has talked several times with Pat Justis, WA Department of Health Medical Home Program, about partnering to include children's environmental health messages. The Medical Home Program has just completed working with a cohort group of physicians and will not begin work with a new cohort until spring 2012. Given this gap in time we were encouraged to partner with WA DOH and the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics on their Great MINDs (Medical Homes Include Developmental Screenings) grant. This grant works to enhance the Medical Home model through providing continuing education and outreach to providers that will enhance their ability to provide children with a medical home and implement family/professional partnerships.
- UW Children's Environmental Health Community Research Symposium: Margo Young, EPA, is working with the UW on the creation of this symposium tentatively scheduled for February 2012. The Children's Environmental Health working group has offered to assist in this process.
- Collaborative on Health and the Environment WA Chapter Forum: On November 29<sup>th</sup>, the Children's Environmental Health Working Group, spearheaded by Margo Young, is hosting a forum to hear from regional leaders and learn about the exciting work happening in Washington to protect children from harmful environmental exposures. It is hoped that 125 people will be in attendance.

Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

Women's University Club of Seattle (1105 Sixth Avenue, Seattle)

8:30 – noon

At times during the forum, organizations working on children's environmental health issues will be highlighted. Ideally, a photo of each selected organization will be shown along with a brief narration. Margo Young and Gretchen Stewart (EPA), Gail Gensler (LHWMP) and Rachel Koller are heading this effort up and asked for assistance in brainstorming organizations to approach. Tracy Bier from the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility volunteered to assist with brainstorming and possibly more. Ideas include...

CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group

Staples: Rodger McFred

Nike: John Frazier

Building Materials Council

Built Green

Seattle Housing Authority and the Breathe Easy Homes

Gates Foundation

Children's Alliance

Bastyr

Got Green

*Note: This Forum is in addition to the regular Children's Environmental Health Working Group meeting in November.*

## UPDATES

### Gail Gensler:

- EcoHealthy Childcare trainings are underway. The first one was held recently in South King County. Eleven child care providers attended with one already calling for additional information and services. The next training is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Kent.
- Special focus is also taking place with East African owned child cares via a contract with Horn of Africa Services to develop two curriculums focused on dust and air. Contact Tracee Mayfield for additional information ([tracee.mayfield@kingcounty.gov](mailto:tracee.mayfield@kingcounty.gov)).
- UW Children's Environmental Health Journal Club's next meeting is October 18<sup>th</sup> and will discuss organophosphates and implications for children.
- DEA is sponsoring a pharmaceutical take-back event on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 2:00 at various locations. <http://www.takebackyourmeds.org/dea-events>

### Dennis Weaver:

- Miranda Taylor is taking some time off from the Good Food Truck to focus on family.
- To back-fill for Miranda and continue the growth of the program persons with grant writing skills are needed.
- The program is requesting that applicable grant opportunities be forwarded to them.
- As a re-cap, the Good Food Truck brings organic foods to identified food deserts primarily in the South Seattle area.

### Gretchen Stewart:

- EPA Region X is sponsoring a two-day grant training workshop webinar November 1-2, 2:00-3:30 PM with Davis Zhen and Sally Hanft, EPA. The 2-day grants training workshop will cover tips, common pitfalls to avoid, and other information of interest. The course will cover federal and non-federal grant applications.

*The grants training will be done as a webinar and would be most effective in groups - we are looking for local groups on our list to offer to host the webinar at a room in your building, and we will send out a list of possible host-sites a couple of weeks before the training calls take place, so that you can find a local group to engage with.*

Call-in number: 1-866-299-3188, code 2065532119

Webinar (please register for both days by October 24th) -

Day 1: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/366590094>

Day 2: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/862535454>

### Steve Gilbert:

- Toxipedia (<http://www.toxipedia.org>) has been updated and revised to include a section on epigenetics.
- Please attend a welcome reception for Tracy Bier as the new Executive Director for the WA Physicians for Social Responsibility on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, at the home of Steve Gilbert. Contact Steve ([sgilbert@inn.org](mailto:sgilbert@inn.org)) for more details and directions.

### Barbara Ross:

- Barbara's work has recently expanded to include asbestos.
- Work with asbestos in schools is continuing. To learn more about the EPA's asbestos program go to <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos> or contact Regional Asbestos Coordinator, Maria Tartaglia ([tartaglia.maria@epa.gov](mailto:tartaglia.maria@epa.gov)). Several brochures and fact sheets were distributed.

Tracy Bier:

- New Executive Director of WA Physicians for Social Responsibility.
- WPSR will be sponsoring a new series *Critical to your Health: The Truth about Toxics*. This event is tentatively scheduled for January or February 2012. It will have many practical tips and be free for the public. Contact Tracy ([wspr@wspr.org](mailto:wspr@wspr.org)) for additional information.
- FoodMed, the nation's premier conference on sustainable foods & the health care sector, will hold its 2011 conference in Seattle, Washington on October 18-19. WPSR's Kathy Pryor is helping plan the conference and encourages anyone healthy food in healthcare to attend. (<http://www.psr.org/chapters/washington/alerts/foodmed-2011-registration-now.html>)
- Several nuclear disarmament events are being scheduled for spring 2012.

Toni Nunes:

- The Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is a new partner with the WA Department of Health on the Great MINDs grant that develops training modules related to developmental screening opportunities.
- WCAAP is looking into sponsoring a legislative effort to ban tanning salon usage for children 18 years or younger. This work is modeled after successful legislative efforts in California. Some interesting facts:
  - ☞ ~10% of children 14-17 year of age in WA use tanning beds
  - ☞ WA has the highest rate of skin cancer and related deaths nationwide

Charles Wu:

- First Children's Environmental Health Working Group meeting.
- Working on a Local Hazardous Waste Management Program policy emphasizing historically underserved populations.

Nicole Thomsen:

- Public Health – Seattle & King County in partnership with the WA Department of Health received grant funding from CDC to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing multiple hazards in homes and prevent diseases and injury from housing-related hazards. Efforts include development of a strategic plan to identify and create model housing practices and policies, piloting model practices with the City of Seattle, and implementation of a new surveillance data system.
- Presented to the KC Board of Health on September 15, 2011; *Healthy Homes: An Integrated Approach to Reducing Asthma, Injuries and Toxic Exposures*.

Rachel Koller:

- Presenting tonight to Cancer Life Line about [healthyhomefocus.org](http://healthyhomefocus.org).

Julia Singer:

- Completed a soft launch of Pesticide Free Public Spaces. This site is an interactive web page designed to inform the public about parks that are either pesticide free or pesticide reduced. Having a live site will make further recruitment of participating parks systems easier. (<http://www.lhwmp.org/home/pfparks/index.aspx>)
- Web pages focused on label reading for Buying Safer Art Supplies (<http://www.lhwmp.org/home/health/artsupplies.aspx>) and Buying Safer Toys (<http://www.lhwmp.org/home/health/safertoys.aspx>) were launched.

Holly Davies:

- Currently working on a chemical action plan for PAH's (a.k.a. wood smoke).
- The Children's Safe Product Act database of chemicals in toys has begun being populated. A report on the data is due out by August 2012. This information will also be available to the public; however, the format of this has not been determined.
- Spokane is in the process of adopting a ban on asbestos and asbestos containing products or at least the labeling of such items.

Vickie Carper:

- UW Environmental Health undergraduate student.
- Personal passion of toxic chemicals in carpeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Annie Merritt, WA DOH, presented on the *Washington Tracking Network: What is it? How to Use it? And What's Next*. Most importantly, The Washington Tracking Network is evaluating ways to improve the Washington Tracking Network website. To help with this effort, they are conducting a brief survey asking for your input. Please take a few minutes to complete the online survey. Please visit [www.wtn.doh.wa.gov](http://www.wtn.doh.wa.gov) to complete the survey and explore the data. A copy of the presentation is attached.

This was followed by a presentation by Nancy Bernard, WA DOH, on the Indoor Air Quality (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/iaq/default.HTM>) and School Environmental Health and Safety (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/School/default.htm>) programs at the state.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 – 11:30 AM  
Location WA DOH - Kent  
Hosted by: Margo Young, EPA

**REMINDER**

Join the NWKids Listerve today. The site, hosted by WA Ecology, provides a great place to receive more timely announcements and access to a variety of perspectives on all things children's environmental health. <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=NW-KIDS-ENV-HEALTH>