

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

**Meeting Notes**

Thursday, October 9, 2014

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: Public Health – Seattle & King County, Chinook Building, 401 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Seattle, WA 98104

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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**

- Rad Cunningham, WA Department of Health
- Megan Dunn, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
- Stephanie Farquhar, Public Health, Seattle & King County
- Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Carolyn Gleason, HRSA
- Barbara Morrissey, WA Department of Health
- Peter Murchie, Environmental Protection Agency – Region 10
- Will Perry, Public Health - Seattle & King County
- Anna Quach, American Lung Association
- Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen, Public Health - Seattle & King County (host)
- Nicole Thomsen, Public Health, Seattle & King County
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food, Change Your Life™
- Charles Wu, Public Health - Seattle & King County

**Attendees by phone**

- Aimee Boulanger, CHE-WA
- Marilyn Hair, UW Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- Heidi Sieglebaum, Calyx Sustainable Tourism
- Gretchen Stewart, Environmental Protection Agency – Region 10
- Lorelei Walker, PhD student, UW Institute of Public Health Genetics
- Tiffany Webb, Evergreen College intern working with Millie Piazza from Dept. of Ecology

**2015 Meeting Schedule:**

- January: LHWMP or EPA
- February: HRSA
- March: EPA or LHWMP
- April: DOH
- May: UW Institute of Public Health Genetics
- June: ALA
- September: PHSKC
- October: UW Center for Ecogenetics?

- November: EPA?
- December:?

**2015 Planning Meeting, what do we want to do in 2015?**

**To date, here are some of the activities the group has been involved with:**

1. Monthly meetings: Examples of speaker topics: wood smoke exposure, risk communication during disasters, asthma, EPA's data systems tools, the Hanford nuclear site and health exposures, organic food, nanoparticles, Public Health-Seattle & King County's community outreach projects, the WA Tracking Network and Healthy Homes.
2. Networking: For example, connecting two agencies that both have interests in children's environmental health, the EPA with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, and reviving the NW Kids Environmental Health listserv.
3. Educational Forums: Putting on 3 educational forums one in 2009, one in 2011 and one in 2013.
4. Trainings: For example, taught two children's environmental health trainings for WA State Environmental Health Association.
5. Various joint projects leveraging resources. Examples:
  - Created brochures
  - Shared funding and resources for the Cleaning for Health Project
  - Placed CEH articles in the AAP newsletter
  - Continue to share CEH information statewide through ChildProfile mailings
  - Continue to give Eco Healthy Childcare trainings

**Possible ideas for 2015:**

1. Possible topics:
  - Kids, toxins and politics
  - Environmental Health and Environmental Justice
  - Food and toxins Trainings: Train community health workers
  - Epigenetics
  - Endocrine disrupters
  - Green chemistry
  - Children's environmental health in practice – who's doing what?
  - Engage the medical community. Where are the doctors?
  - Obesity
2. A 2015 NW Children's Environmental Health Forum. ( We can apply for an Ecology grant.) Perhaps in a new location?

## CEH-WA Children's EH Working Group 05/08/14 Notes

3. A smaller forum type event where talents can be leveraged
4. Form more partnerships.
5. Create and deliver trainings
  - In-service trainings for entire groups or agencies.
  - EH trainings for clinicians/doctors. How to target doctors? (Lunch and Learn trainings at their clinics, offices or hospitals...like drug companies do? Online webinars? At Rounds?) Need to provide CEU's. We need a compelling message statement. Include Dr. Karr?
  - Educate doctors, doulas, WIC, birth education providers on early exposures to environmental toxins for expectant parents.
  - Videotape our trainings and even edit for sound bites. (EPA did this with its Yakima EH trainings for clinicians.)
  - Add children's EH information into emergency health planning protocols and conferences on this topic
  - Provide more CEH inservice trainings for our own organizations. Provide in-house staff trainings for key, large organizations.
6. Work more with AAP?
7. Seek grants:
  - Seek planning grants for social impacts, such as engaging the medical community through policy and action. Examples:
    - [Verdant Health Commission](#) has funds for projects located in South Snohomish County.
    - The [WA State Innovation Grants](#) have divided the state into 10 'communities of care' that convene to create new community health plans. There will be two pilot projects in 2015.
  - Get a mini-grant for the creation of a part-time CHE-WA staffing position for fundraising across the state.
8. Write and place CEH articles. Work with journalists to popularize CEH issues (for example, NBC's expose on crumb rubber playing fields). Hire a social media outfit to expand our reach (Megan says they did this in Snohomish County.)
9. Host a film festival.
10. Create a resource clearinghouse for CEH topics.

### Member Updates and Announcements

#### Rachel Koller

1. Rachel attended EPA's Asthma Summit for a selected group; she felt it was a good model to follow for a possible forum.
1. Rachel is researching funding for the *Cleaning for Health, Green Cleaning* training to give to the 60 nurses in the Seattle Public School District. She may be interested in using some CHE \$ for this.

2. As of January, Rachel will no longer be working for the Tribal Healthy Homes Network.

**Peter Murchie**

1. October is Children's Health Month.
2. EPA has partnered with Oregon State University and developed a curriculum for grades K-8 on EH issues. He can send this to us.
3. On October 22, Dr. Michael Skinner will be the speaker at EPA offices. This talk will also be available live as a webinar. The information will be posted later today on the CEH listserv.
4. EPA had a successful summit on tribal communities and asthma.
5. He is very interested in upstream environmental health actions (e.g. healthy home visits) that allow for reimbursement of funds from the Affordable Care Act. Suggests seeing what Multnomah County is doing and what Public Health – Seattle & King County is doing.

**Gretchen Stewart**

EPA has completed five clinician trainings on environmental health issues ( nitrates, asthma, pesticides...) in the Yakima Valley. They had top attendance.

**Rad Cunningham**

1. Rad is working on a lead poisoning prevention, childhood surveillance grant where the screening policy for kids' lead exposure is being revisited. DOH's risk map is being used to assist them. DOH is trying to improve how they target, screen and care for children that have elevated blood lead levels.
2. Working on a Health Impact Assessment project similar to what has been done for housing and transportation, but on a smaller scale.
3. Developing a set of Community Health Indicators project for easy data access for cities in WA State. (Megan Dunn said that she had done some similar work for her thesis. Check with her for more information.)

**Nicole Thomsen**

1. Nicole has been working on policies around healthy housing.
2. She will host a sub-committee with the King County Board of Health to determine minimum healthy housing standards for existing housing stock (2015).
3. She is tracking policies around property maintenance using a web tool known as Law Atlas.
4. She is involved with code enforcement questions.

**Will Perry**

1. Working with refugee children with elevated blood level levels that might have been exposed to lead in the countries they immigrated from. This is 55% of his caseload.
2. He has an intern that has done outreach to refugee resettlement agencies that need help with the English language and navigating the system.
3. Their Young Children's Team is providing 2-4 community based grants that will look at innovative ways to reduce residential chemical exposures in King County.

**Gail Gensler**

1. Gail continues to help childcare providers to use less toxic materials and lower exposures in their child care. She does site visits, provides funds for healthier purchases, and serves as a resource. Providers can apply to be endorsed as a National Eco-Healthy Child Care ®.
2. Gail is participating in a statewide disinfection, sanitizing and cleaning Working Group for the child care industry. The group is working on directions for mixing cleaning solutions, bleach dilution percentage, and bleach alternatives. Members of the working group include DOH (Lowest Jefferson and Nancy Bernard), Department of Early Learning, a nurse from Snohomish County, among others. WA DOH recommended an

official recommendation be developed. Standards are also needed for disinfecting water when water supply is compromised in an emergency. CDC recommends *1t. bleach/5 gal water*, but it's complex because bleach concentration ranges from 5-8%.

3. Gail helped create a manual on how to plan and put on a forum.
4. Her organization is working on a pharmaceuticals take-back policy in King County. They got a boost when Alameda County in CA recently upheld a vote that drug companies must set up a take-back program.

#### **Lorelei Walker**

1. Lorelei developed a short video, "[Epigenetics and the Environment](#)" that is now available on YouTube. She will put it on the CEH listserv later today.
2. Works with future clinicians in classes; hears they'd like more environmental health exposure information in their training.

#### **Carolyn Gleason**

1. The invitation-only Tribal Asthma Summit was Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, co-sponsored by EPA, HUD and HRSA.

#### **Marilyn Hair**

1. On October 7, the Public Health Café: *The Quantified Self, Sharing your Data for Environmental Health Research*, presented by Prof. Edmund Seto, only had a small number of people attending.
2. CEEH has produced a 10<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum; contact her for details.

#### **Dennis Weaver**

1. Has created a good food truck project that brings healthy food to the homes of families lacking accessibility to fresh, healthy foods. This project is ready to start; all it needs is someone or a small business to put it into action. Said that the Healthy King County Food and Fitness Initiative's Healthy Corner Store concept did not work.
2. He knows a way to do publicity to/contact all doctors in WA State

#### **Barbara Morrisey**

1. Barbara is doing policy work on chemicals in consumer products.
2. She is working with Holly Davies on PCB's and children's environmental health.
3. She is on EPA's Children's EH advisory committee working on the draft for advice to women on mercury in fish consumption.

#### **Megan Dunn**

1. Has worked with the Sierra Club
2. Worked on the neonicotinoid ban for Seattle public properties
3. Working on pesticides in schools and public places
4. Working on bed bug information in Everett and Snohomish County

**Next meeting:** November 13, 2014

**Location:** University of WA, hosted by UW PEHSU