

CHE-WA Environmental Health Working Group
Minutes from the December 10, 2010 Meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, January 14, 2010 9:30-11:30

Speaker topic suggestion for next meeting: Update on legislative bills

Find attendance list at end of notes.

I. Updates

Tracee Mayfield

- Focuses on reducing toxic exposures in childcare settings; does childcare assessments, provides specific recommendations, and provides vouchers.
- In 2010 he will partner with all King County YMCA childcares.
- Has just started a list serve for childcares to share information. If interested, contact him at tracee.mayfield@kingcounty.gov.
- He mentioned an assessment of the Child Care industry that was completed to identify risk reduction opportunities and determine whether LHWMP services could assist the industry <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/publications/index.cfm#2149>

Dennis Weaver

- Dennis wrote an op-ed in the Puget Consumer's Coop December 2009 newsletter about the Gates Foundation's involvement with genetically modified crops
- Dennis and Miranda will participate in Thrive by Five's Columbia City Holiday Kids Fair this coming weekend with an organic foods message.

Miranda Taylor

- Miranda is working with refugee populations (at High Point). Contact her if interested.

Russ Clausen

- Had an info booth about the new lead paint renovation rules at the Trends Homeshow.

Tracy Bier

- Wants to increase her work on children's environmental health
- Starting a newsletter for Region 10 EPA states' facilities managers, with information to help them keep their schools clean so that students can function better

Cynthia Shurtleff

- WA chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is supporting the bill in the WA state legislature to regulate Bisphenol-A. Heard that Senator Kaiser will support it.
- WAAP is also supporting proper disposal of unused medicines.

Margo Young

- EPA administrator Lisa Jackson was in town this past week and said that children's environmental health is a priority for her administration.

Aimee Boulanger

- ICEH closed in 2009; it has become the Children's Environmental Health working group of CHE-WA's national organization. The organizations that remain that focused on children's environmental health are CEHN out of Washington DC (<http://www.cehn.org/>), CHE-WA's national organization (<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/>), and Healthy Child, Healthy World (<http://healthychild.org/>) out of Los Angeles.
- Elise Miller (formerly managing ICEH) is now working for the national CHE.
- Steve Gilbert, at INND in Seattle, will continue to host the CHE-WA activities and its web presence which includes an online bulletin that comes out every two weeks with updated information about children's environmental health. (<http://washington.chenw.org/>)
- Aimee Boulanger will continue to volunteer with CHE-WA.

Ilene Ruhoy wears two hats.

- As an EPA contract scientist, she works for the Research Triangle Park, where she researches the effects of the environment on children's mental health (for example access to green space, air, water, etc.).
- She is also the Director of the Institute for Environmental Medicine at Touro University. Her research there is on pharmaceuticals and their disposal in the environment. Her focus is on reducing drug exposures to children.

Carol Carver

- She is a retired public health nurse. She is also a small market gardener who works to get children to eat more leafy greens. She would like to volunteer her time.

Wendy Jones

- Works on state grants for school nurses, via Olympic Educational Service District 114
- She is a resource for the nurses, one of eight statewide.
- She's interested in asthma and getting information about asthma to school nurses.
- She's working on a project with one-to-one outcomes of children who have asthma.
- She will present at WAI.

Michael Bergman

- Toxic Free Tips Program: This program gets information to the general public to protect their families and pets from toxic exposures. They have a large website, hotline, and e-mail question and answer service. He welcomes information from other organizations that he can add to the program.

- Hazards on the Homefront teacher training: these teacher curriculum materials (for grades 6-12) about hazardous home products are now available statewide, and can be accessed through DOE's website and also King County's website. (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/hazardsonthehomefront/index.html>) He is also working on a similar project for grades 4-6.
- DOE survey: DOE, in 2007, did a statewide survey about hazardous household products and children's health. They'll repeat the survey in 2010. If interested, contact Michael.

Chris Rosenquist

- Chris is the Supervisor of Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network with offices in Tacoma. She's also just started providing education training for childcare providers.
- She is very interested in children's environmental health and childcares. She has been using Oregon's Eco-Healthy Childcare platform, and giving out Oregon's information (<http://www.oeonline.org/our-work/kidshealth/ehcc/index.html>).

Teresa Cooper

- Works with maternal child health programs. Coordinates a program which also helps childcares become more eco-friendly.

Gail Gensler

- Grant money will soon become available for a school district to develop and implement a strategic plan to increase the amount of more healthful, regionally sourced, and more sustainably produced foods in school meals. Interested school districts must have already participated in the School Food Focus program. If interested, contact FOCUS staff member Myrna Anderson <<mailto:manderson@schoolfoodfocus.org>>

II. The following group projects were discussed, and people volunteered to attend a first meeting for each topic. A * by a person's name indicates they will call the first meeting.

1. **Childcare education work**

Work with CEHN, and perhaps find a local jurisdiction that is interested in being a pilot for CEHN's national program. Teresa indicated an interest about this from childcares in Pierce County. She also thought Snohomish County might be good place for a pilot. She urged involving DEL.

- Interested people: Margo *, Tracee, Chris R, Teresa, Michelle

2. **Food and childcares**

(Teresa would like to meet about this soon)

- Interested people: Teresa*, Michelle, Carol, Aimee

3. **Healthcare provider waiting rooms** - Providing them with information about children's environmental health

Nicole has tried this with the issue of lead. The two issues she has faced are 1) they don't want it at the desk, just in the lobby 2) they don't want to have to do the refill; they want someone else to restock the materials, and 3) they only want pieces that have first been vetted through the medical director or parent company. Ilene commented that this is difficult for doctors because THEY don't even know the information that would be included in the handouts. Aimee raised the issue of what agency sponsoring name should be placed on the information, and how that would affect how the information is received.

- Interested people: Julia *, Gail, Nicole, Aimee, Eileen, Cynthia, Margo, Miranda, Dennis, Cindy, Cynthia Shurtleff volunteered to talk to the AAP about this

4. **Washington State Environmental Health Association**

They've offered to gather their members as an audience for trainings if we provide trainings on children's environmental health topics. They see children's environmental health as an emerging field topic that they want to add to their regular trainings.

- Aimee*, Ilene, Margo Tracee M., Tracy B., Nicole (?), Cindy (?), Heather Trim (?). Notes: Tracee B's background is in social marketing; she has done lots of trainings. Teresa knows some of the WSEHA members.

5. **Putting on a small, family children's environmental health fair**

- Julia*, Gail, Michelle, Aimee, Dennis, Tracee M

6. **2011 Forum**

- Gail*, Julia, Margo, Aimee, Dennis, Ilene, Miranda, Tracee M., Cindy, Michael B., Chris, Wendy

III. Attendees (*indicates attended by phone)

Julia Berg-facilitator	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)
Michael Bergman*	Washington State Department of Ecology
Tracy Bier	EPA-Region X, Drinking Water Unit
Aimee Boulanger	Environmental health consultant
Cindy Callahan*	Citizen (formerly of Seattle Public Utilities and DOE)
Carol Carver*	Public Health nurse, semiretired. Health Coordinator, St. James family Center, Cathlamet, Washington
Russ Clausen	EPA-Region X, Lead Program
Susan Colton	Citizen

Teresa Cooper	WA State Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Health
Celeste Davis*	Division of Environmental Health Services (Oregon/Washington/Idaho Tribe Service)
Michelle Gaither*	Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource
Gail Gensler - note taker	LHWMP
Wendy Jones*	Olympic Educational Service District 114-School Nurse Corps
Jefferson Ketchel*	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Tracee Mayfield	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Chris Robichard*	
Christine Rosenquist*	Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network with offices in Tacoma
Ilene Ruhoy	EPA-contractor
Cynthia Shurtleff	Washington chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Miranda Taylor	Gesundheit Acupuncture and Herbs
Nicole Thomsen*	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life
Judy Ward*	Snohomish Health District
Margo Young	EPA-Region X, Children's Environmental Health and Environment Education