

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

Thursday, December 11, 2014

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: UW DEOHS, 4225 Roosevelt Ave N.E. Seattle, WA

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:

- Katie Frevert, CEEH Superfund Program
- Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Liz Guzy, CEEH UW Community Outreach and Ethics Core
- Marilyn Hair, CEEH UW Community Outreach Core
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Home Network / private consultant
- Anna Quach, American Lung Association
- Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen, Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Nicole Thompson, , Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Lorelei Walker, UW SPH IPHG HEC

Attendees by phone:

- Judy Bardin, WA State Dept. of Health
- Megan Dunn, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
- Will Perry, Public Health – Seattle & King County

Updates

- Sharon: Working on Ecofriendly Childcare training on Vashon.
- Anna: Master Home Environmentalist website under construction, scope for Healthy Home Assessments is King County / Seattle focused.
- Gail: Working with childcare providers. Program is getting known and getting more requests. Looking to increase number of site visits with home providers. Site visits are under 50 a year. People reach is in the 100's. Gail will look to present to CHE-WA on this work in the spring. Gail is hosting next month on chemical exposures in nail salons and related implications for children.
- Marilyn: CEEH Supplement project on Native Environmental Health Project. Product going to press and is a children's book about Environmental Health – an educational book for kids that is culturally appropriate. In S'Klallam and English. Distributing to expecting and new mothers program on the reservation. Book includes area for families to write in family stories. Book was informed by mothers is being distributed to new clients and for use within families. Center has a core that focused on environmental justice and translation of research. Book focuses on healthy ways to engage the environment and traditional foods. See blog summery on Ecogenetix.org.

This is the next step building on a digital story and comic book released over the last few years. The digital story is also on the website.

- Katie: Grant on superfund research program:
 - Working with Silver Valley Resource Center, invested in lead and children's health working with Steve Gilbert.
 - Duwamish Valley Youth Core is a new group with funding as part of Duwamish River cleanup coalition. They are hoping to continue another round of teams focused on environmental justice issues. This includes touring labs and sampling site.
 - NIEHS has been a large funder of community engaged projects.
- Nicole: Prepping for King County session. Subcommittee looking at creating minimum guidelines for existing structures based off new APA national standard.
 - Recommendations and guidance for healthy housing for all housing through Board of Health for all of King Co. Scope will not include code as there are multiple code programs. Board of health wants to augment recommendations for policy changes in house at local jurisdiction level. Waiting to see what the subcommittee decides.
 - CHE-WA working group offered a letter of support should it be helpful.
 - Ideas are welcome. Funding mechanism is also a discussion.
 - Stakeholders can include local jurisdictions, rental property owners, elder community (means to maintain house allowing people to age in place), property management groups, industry (builders) though interested in existing housing stock, and rental housing association.
 - Recommendations and guidance is a new platform over the last few years as a response to things they don't have rule making authority for (or do not want authority) but was to make an impact.
- Will: Environmental Health individual cases childhood lead exposure. He focuses on refugee populations. Looking for partners and refugee resettlement agencies and other supports for refugee families. King County Refugee Forum in Renton City Hall once a month. Presentation regarding lead prevention. Received a good response. Wants to now speak with 5 refugee resettlement agencies to support case workers in identifying possible exposures especially when supporting families looking for housing. Kent looks like the center of refugee housing. Good results to date. Now contacted by individual organizing ESL for refugee families. Will has volunteered to create a curriculum and teach a class for lead prevention in ESL education. Would be used around the state. Curriculum will attempt to convey education at a 3rd grade educational level. Primary goal of class is to teach English. The curriculum will also provide background information on health and lead exposures.
 - Offered to give presentation to this working group.
 - Gail has connections who have conducted similar trainings.
- Judy: Study on 2012 wildfires and analyzing health data. Working in collaboration with local health departments.
- Megan: Working locally with Karen on IPM program in public schools. Working with parents to implement plan. Send draft letter to superintendent of Seattle Schools as the plan is currently not being followed. Ask for letter of support from CHE-WA.
 - Also working with schools in OR where IPM is required.

- Looking for partners on Health Kids Day in April 2015. Good venue for conversations on healthy exposures.
- Rachel Koller:
 - Money left over from PPG grant from forum in 2013. Working with daughter's elementary school nurse on healthy cleaning practices. Rachel invited to present in meeting to 65 school nurses in Feb. Looking for funding to buy sample cleaning kits to hand to the nurses. Got funding from LHWMP for teachers.
 - Proposing to use \$500 of remaining \$6000 to purchase kits to use at the meeting.
 - Gave a presentation last May to teachers. Spoke with teachers last month and received feedback they have stopped using Clorox disinfecting wipes and not request them for the next school year. Instead they are using unscented baby wipes and paper towels.
 - This 10 min overview shifted behaviors.
 - Currently, there is 1 nurse per 1,000 students. 95 schools, 65 nurses, 51,000 students. Nurses are split between schools. Though they aren't always in the school, people respect messaging from school nurses.
 - Mobility makes it even more important to having their own kits.
 - Asked nurses to reach out to their own teachers.
 - Not focusing on custodial but on classroom cleaning that teachers typically engage in. Classroom supplies are usually provided by parents.
 - Piloted successfully in one school.
 - Willing to speak more on working with practicum students to outline intervention pilot and write it up for publication.
 - Gail feedback: people are more willing to change behavior if they see how the change works and see what they need to do differently.
 - Ask to group to use funds. Amend request by group to increase grant to support more trainings. Could expand to include graduate students and message to include substitutes for permanent and dry erase markers. Then develop proposal for larger scope.
 - Group ok'd \$500 unanimously for the healthy kits.
- Gail: Children's environmental health forum update. There is still no clear update. A smaller core group who worked on this in the past met to discuss what is of interest, time, and funds for within the volunteer group. There does not appear to be a strong capacity for a forum currently. Largest question is funding. Leftover funds could be applied. Could apply for another round of the grant from Ecology. Timing – grant has to be submitted by Jan 4th. Grant could be flipped but is written to be do a forum. Forum would occur within 2 years money is received. 2015-2016. Cost was used for food and organization and travel / honorarium for speakers. Burden is on volunteers within this group. PPG grants have been available every year but also could be on the chopping block. Other source of funds (ex. CDC) and have been rejected. Local funding most successful.
 - Would really like to get a centralized CHE-WA person to absorb growing capacity. Grow efficiently and low budget.
 - Could look at a fundraiser who focuses on this. Then could one-off projects and support other community groups.
 - Megan is interested in turning around grant and hiring a person for heavy lifting.

- Nicole is attempting to get ahold of community funds (hospitals) in King Co. How to leverage community and regional benefits since CEH-WA is regional and state. Look at a holistic approach to leverage funds collectively.
 - Megan has not been able to figure that out but the group is talking about community impact. Interested in creating a plan about early exposures and children's exposures. This might open grant funding around collective impact around a section of environmental impact.
 - Two choices: Write the grant or flip the grant and submit. If we flip the grant and get it we can give it back if the conference doesn't go. Nicole wrote the grant last time, it isn't that hard to flip it given as long as it is the same requirements / format as before.
 - Would need update on successes
 - Harder challenges on working with Steve as it may have impacted his ability to get funds.
 - Nicole would like to review grant application. If it is just an update, she will flip it otherwise, she does not have capacity. Gail will contact Steve, Nicole will review grant. If Steve and Nicole ok, CHE-WA will put in an application for PPC grant for WA State for 2015-2016 grant for a forum.
 - Megan – nonprofit. If Steve can't be the signer, Megan might be able to. Will talk soon.