

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

Thursday, December 13, 2012

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: Public Health – Seattle & King County, 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: pre-conception to age 8.

### **Attendees**

In person: Toni Nunes (WA chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics - WCAAP), Jennifer Donahue (WCAAP), Julia Singer (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program - LHWMP), Dennis Weaver (Change Your Food-Change Your Life®), Alice Park (Community-Campus Partnerships for Health/Community Coalition for Environmental Justice), Amanda Horvath (Lettuce Link/Solid Ground), Gail Gensler (LHWMP), Hamdi Mohamed (Housing and Urban Development), Steven Gilbert (Institute for Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders), Krysta Thornton (American Lung Association), Will Perry (Public Health-Seattle & King County), Charles Wu (Public Health – Seattle & King County), Nicole Thomsen (Public Health-Seattle & King County), Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen (Public Health – Seattle & King County), Rad Cunningham (Washington State Department of Health), Sonia Hoglander (HomEvolution), Carolyn Gleason (Health Resource Services Administration), Margo Young (EPA R-10), Nancy Beaudet (Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit),

By phone: Holly Davies (WA Department of Ecology), Gretchen Stewart (EPA), Nancy Bernard (WA Department of Health)

**Next meeting:** January 10, 2013 9:30 AM -11:30 AM

**Host agency:** US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in Seattle

**Topic:** Overview of the November 2012 Commonwealth-sponsored Reproductive Environmental Health Training

**Speakers:** Margo Young (EPA) and Carolyn Gleason (HRSA)

### **2013 Children's Environmental Health Forum update (Gail Gensler)**

CHE-WA is hosting a forum in the fall of 2013 (date TBD – tentatively October) with a focus on reproductive environmental health. Margo Young, Gail Gensler and Carolyn Gleason will lead planning. In need of donations – in kind and cash welcome. If you would like to get involved or are able to connect with donors, please contact Margo Young at [young.margo@epa.gov](mailto:young.margo@epa.gov). Invitations to Forum planning work sessions will go out to CHE-WA listserv.

## Member updates

- Will Perry (PHS&KC) – Continues to do home assessments. Currently working on a case involving gun ranges and lead exposure. Long-recognized issue with potential issue for harm for children and women of childbearing age.
- Margo Young (EPA) – We've revamped our EPA children's website. EJ (environmental justice) small grants are open now through January 7, 2013; details online at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).
- Krysta Thornton (American Lung Assn.) – Healthy Home assessments are ongoing. Volunteer program starts in March 2013.
- Steve Gilbert (INND) – [Women in Peace](#) website launched. Also, a group in California is currently reworking the [PSR Toolkit](#) (Physicians for Social Responsibility)
- Charles Wu (PHS&KC) – Working with families in South King County to educate them on lead, arsenic in the soil in the area of the ASARCO Tacoma smelter plume. Tacoma smelter plume-related grants available for community groups to do education and outreach work on effects of lead & arsenic in the soil. Money is available now because an ASARCO settlement just happened.
- Nicole Thomsen (PHS&KC) – Working on a promotora-modeled education and outreach campaign on Beacon Hill focused on preventing exposures to lead and household chemicals. Right now aimed at Chinese-language community; hope to expand to English, Vietnamese and Somali or Amharic. Grant available for 1 year. Seeking community contacts.
- Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen (PHS&KC) – 2013 will be working with Gail on Eco-Healthy Childcare<sup>®</sup> project.
- Nancy Beaudet (PEHSU) – \*Hosting [Children's Environmental Health Research Matters](#) conference on February 26, 2013 at UW HUB. Opportunity for policymakers and academicians to share knowledge. Bruce Lanphear will be the keynote speaker. \*PEHSU received a question from a physician regarding arsenic levels in a garden due to CCA-treated wood (for example: how long does it continue to leach out? What leaches?). Nancy is looking for data to drive recommendation if anyone has a good resource. Suggestion to try CHE national website's database or contact Frank Peryea at WSU Extension. Also, Toni Nunes once worked on this and will share contacts.
- Hamdi Mohamed (HUD) – Will be hosting CHE-WA meeting in February. Speaker will be Karen West from HUD.
- Jennifer Donahue – WCAAP's Communications Coordinator
- Dennis Weaver (CYFCYL!<sup>®</sup>) – Attended Dr. Skinner's presentation on epigenetics; CHE-WA was well represented. Shared organic, wildcrafted tisanes for taste-testing – blend is in development.
- Alice Park (CCPH/CCEJ) - Just started working with Community-Campus Partnerships for Health on community-based environmental justice issues, including working on food justice in South Park with [Puget Sound Sage](#). Promotes partnerships between communities and academics. Can be reached at [cbprstudies@gmail.com](mailto:cbprstudies@gmail.com).
- Amanda Horvath (Lettuce Link/Solid Ground) – Currently wrapping up fruit tree harvest and will be ramping up for distributions in March.

- Julia Singer (LHWMP) – New responsibilities at work have Julia focusing on outdoor pesticide research, and will no longer be on LHWMP’s Young Children team. Won’t be on CHE-WA but hopes to sit in on meetings when time permits.
- Gail Gensler (LHWMP) – Continues work on Eco-Healthy Childcare® and trying to spread the word and do follow up work with child care providers. Also working to get the word on environmental health out to health care providers: thanks to PEHSU for providing articles for *WCAAP Developments* on [arsenic in rice foods](#) and [healthy home environments](#). Also provide articles for the King County newsletter which all should feel free to use and share.
- Carolyn Gleason (HRSA/MCH) – SIDS inventory of activities going on in Region 10. Secondhand smoke and maternal smoking are being discussed, but let Carolyn know if there are other factors to include.
- Rad Cunningham (DOH) – Building a Healthy Homes data tool. Will be asking for help with that in the New Year. Also noted that there is a gun range issue in Clark County, so may see some policy around that in the future.
- Nancy Bernard (DOH) – Working on indoor air quality programs – explaining that carbon monoxide alarm rules for apartments and condos kick in January 1. Has been in effect for new construction for a few years.
- Holly Davies (WA Dept. of Ecology) – \*Working on carbon Chemical Action Plan (CAP) for wood smoke, vehicles, and creosote-treated wood, which is still used for railroad ties. \*P.A.H. CAP is coming out at the end of December. \*Ecology is not running any toxics-related bills; says that WA Toxics Coalition will run one on TRIS-chlorinated flame retardants and children’s products.

**Speaker:**

Toni Nunes, MA, MPH, Executive Director of the WA Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (Also leads the Community Pediatric Foundation of WA which gives grant monies to pediatricians partnering with communities to improve children’s health.)

Topic: An overview of the national American Academy of Pediatrics and the [Washington Chapter](#), WCAAP

- WCAAP has 800 WA pediatricians as members; 15 pediatricians volunteer on the board.
- One of the top [strategic priorities](#) for the AAP in 2012-2013 is epigenetics.
- AAP has policy statements on organic food and on pesticide exposures.
- WCAAP advocates for children and families in Washington, and supports pediatricians in their practice and development.
- WCAAP welcomes opportunities to partner with community organizations on issues pertaining to child health and offers a chance for organizations to engage with pediatricians.
- Current WCAAP projects include Great MINDS, Healthy Active Living, and Building Bridges. Toni also shared information about the Community Pediatric Foundation of Washington, which has a goal to raise \$10 million in order to provide grants to pediatricians who are partnering with community groups. AAP is also interested in the issues of child care and early learning.