

CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group

Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2010

Discussion Items

How can we get more people here in January, 2011?

1. Divide our member list and make personal calls- leaving voice mail message of our own composing. A phone tree.
2. Send a different sort of e-mail – more attention getting. Allow for lots of opportunities for input before and after the meeting. Use Mary Rabourn's (King County communications staff) information on better e-mail writing
3. Announce that the meeting in January is particularly important: issues we address for 2011, a call to action, should our group expand and take on greater numbers of issues.
4. We could include a short survey– what do you think purpose of this group is, why aren't you here, what would get you here. JB, GG will work on survey.

Phone tree: Nicole, Julia Gail, Dennis volunteered to make calls. GG will get member list and contacts to those who will call.

Updates

Dennis Weaver– November 24 he co-hosted along with June Stoyer, the host, a live, interactive Internet talk-radio show *The Organic View Radio Show*. The segment [Gobble till you Wobble](#) included songs and a charity auction of organic food items. It was so well received that Dennis will co-host a monthly segment on the show.

Dennis for Miranda Taylor – The *Good Food Truck* is looking for grants and/or corporate sponsors. People like the idea of a mobile grocery store in a truck traveling through underserved areas.

Kristy Ivicsek– PEHSU (Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit) created a fact sheet (currently being vetted) for medical providers detailing what to do if child has blood lead level of less than 10 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$). She was asked to write a paper for an NGO that works to clean up heavily polluted areas in developing countries, the topic being lead.

Michelle Gaither – PPRC (Pollution Prevention Resource Center) work: She got a voucher via LHWMP (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County) to purchase low odor, re-usable, white board markers, for a pilot at Gatewood Elementary in West Seattle. Teachers loved them and Michelle got another grant and now 8 classrooms, out of 19, are using these markers. The [report](#) is on the [PPRC website](#). Gensler suggested putting it on state indoor air quality list. PPRC is also working on BPA in receipts trying to find alternatives to BPA that are actually safer to use. Other work: Michelle speaks at local PEPS groups on how to minimize toxic exposures to kids.

Barbara Ross – Thanks for filling in for Russ! Barbara works with Lauren at WADOH on the ethnic remedies project.

Meredith Eddy – ALAW is revamping brochures, making them more informative. GG wonders if their Resource Guide is on-line. Meredith will get back to us with that answer. This is her last month with us as her time as an Ameri-corps volunteer is over. Bon Voyage to the east coast, graduate school and beyond!

Donna Miscolta– She placed PPRC report on reusable low odor white board pens in the 2010 fall [Class Act](#), a recycling newsletter for teachers. She is now working on revising [Hazards on the Homefront](#), a teacher's guide. Her staff offers household hazardous waste information to parenting classes at Overlake and Evergreen hospitals, as well as presentations for English Language Learners.

Nicole Thomsen – Finishing up projects: a final report for her EPA grant and healthy housing policy work.

Lauren Jenks – She is working on grant with EPA's Barbara Ross to investigate ethnic remedies in Hispanic populations. She is also working on healthy housing policy.

Holly Davies – Ecology – Works with rulemaking for the [Children's Safe Products Act](#).

Gail Gensler – The Forum Follow-up group met and came up with two ideas 1. Create something TBD to increase capacity of medical providers who work with caregivers so they know more about CEH issues. More project than conference oriented. 2. Bring together those who are already working on CEH around state of WA but who may not know each other. NT added that it could be a mini traveling symposium, with a base of information provided by CHE WA (i.e. National Children's study, Healthy Housing) augmented with local issues.

Jeanne Johnson – ECOSS (Environmental Coalition of South Seattle)– She is working on Duwamish river cleanup alternatives. Meetings are currently being held for public comment, open until December 23, 2010.

Julia Berg– She is happy to report that she has a practicum student starting in January to help identify Pesticide Free public spaces in King County.

Presentation

We welcomed a presentation by Carole Miller, VP of Education for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest.

She gave us a copy of her PowerPoint. A few interesting facts:

PPGN is interested in environmental toxins as they relate to reproductive health.

PPGN is one of 80 affiliates in US, and the second largest with 31 health centers. Their advocacy branch is second only to unions, in terms of numbers of people and impact (calls, numbers of people in network)

They have a policy statement about supporting healthy environments. They are concerned that people have a right to choose to be pregnant and are concerned about falling fertility levels.

They have a pilot Environmental Risk Assessment form, which includes questions about pesticide exposure etc. Not yet implemented, even in their own clinics. Not sure how they will do it – maybe prioritize certain communities.

They have created handouts on environmental toxins. They are in the waiting rooms of five of the 80 US affiliate PP's. They are written at a 6th grade reading level and clients are encouraged to take them home. Carole would be happy to pass on feedback about the content of these [handouts](#) to the national office. Contact her via her e-mail carole.miller@ppgnw.org or call at 206-328-6807.

PP has online training for their own providers on toxins and how to interact with patients.

PPGN has an education program for young parents called *Protecting Kids from Toxics*. They include teaching through playing games. For example, one game shows how to take a simple step to reduce exposure to toxins in can linings by switching from canned soup to soup in a glass jar.

Another grant had them working with adolescents, to train the peer educators, they then wove in environmental toxins into their safer sex talks. Also a focus on safer cosmetics.

They have 15 community educators working environmental toxins into their talks. They have 130 teens doing peer education.

They see 100,000 women each year in their health centers in our region. Many are low income, but they take all kinds of insurance so increasing numbers are those with health care.

Who is sponsoring the Toxic free Kids Act? Toxic Free Kids Act [factsheet](#).

Attendance (* indicates by phone)

Julia Berg (note taker)	LHWMP
Holly Davies*	Ecology
Meredith Eddy	American Lung Association of the Pacific Northwest
Michelle Gaither	PPRC
Gail Gensler – (facilitator)	LHWMP
Kristy Ivicsek	PEHSU/Children’s Hospital
Lauren Jenks*	WA Dept. of Health
Jeanne Johnson	ECOSS
Carole Miller (speaker)	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest
Donna Miscolta	King County Solid Waste
Barbara Ross	EPA-Region X, Lead Program
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life