

Meeting Notes –February 10, 2011 9:30-11:30

**Location: 130 Nickerson St. Suite 105
Children’s Environmental Health Working Group
Collaborative on Health and the Environment- WA (CHE-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: pre-conception to age 8.

This is a fragrance-free event.

Today’s speaker

Geoffrey Crofoot from the [Washington State Environmental Health Association](http://www.wa.gov/eha)

Ongoing reminder: Interested in receiving updates on the current WA legislative session?

Contact group member, Holly Davies, at hdav461@ECY.WA.GOV and she will send you regular updates.

Discussion Items

1. Meeting location update

Sharing the meeting facilitation was well-received by LHWMP.

- LHWMP will continue to do the following:
 - Maintain the member list and e-mail messages and documents provided by the other hosts.
 - Send out the agenda and meeting notes.
- Meeting hosts will need to do following:
 - Provide a room.
 - Provide an agenda, with directions, *ten days before* the meeting to Gensler/Berg so they can e-mail to membership.
 - Facilitate the meeting.
 - Take and edit notes .Send them to Gensler/Berg ten days in advance of the meeting.
 - Provide a speaker phone
 - Provide a conference bridge telephone number for up to eight people.
 - Secure a speaker on the topic of your choice as it relates to CEH.
- See 2011 calendar below.

February	LHWMP – Speaker = Crofoot	Gail Gensler/Julia Berg
March	Sierra Club	Cara Dolan
April	People for Puget Sound	Heather Trim
May	Public Health Seattle & King County	Nicole Thomsen
June	American Lung Association	Aileen Gagny (via Aimee Boulanger)
September	LHWMP	Gail Gensler/Julia Berg
October	EPA	Margo Young
November	WADOH (in Kent)	Lauren Jenks
December	LHWMP	Gail Gensler/Julia Berg

2. 2011 sub -group project updates

- Increase the capacity of medical providers about children's environmental health issues.
Gail Gensler, facilitator.
Nicole, Lauren, Kristi, Cynthia and Gail met to discuss this. Gail had already done two key informant interviews with Dr. Catherine Karr and Karen Bowman, RN. Several ideas came up; no final decision was made. Top ideas included working with nurses, working with Lauren on her visiting nurse outreach project, and possibly working with OB/GYN's, doing general CEH education outreach at conferences. *Next steps* -- the group will meet again to select a project focus.
- Work with [WSEHA](#).
Geoffrey Crofoot, President of WSEHA, is interested in providing a platform for providing CEH information/training to their members. *Next steps* -- Geoffrey will meet with a small group (Lauren Jenks, Jeanne Johnson, Nicole Thomsen, Gail Gensler, Cara Dolan) after today's meeting to figure out the details.
- Work with Idaho Healthy Housing Network.
This group has been focused on lead, although they are interested in healthy homes. They want to broaden their focus back to the topic of healthy housing and children's exposures. They have asked to somehow talk with us. *Next steps*--Several people agreed to talk with them on a conference call to see how our two organizations might interact. (Gail, Julia, Nicole, Lauren, Holly)
- Host a mini-symposium bringing together people already working on children's environmental health issues.
Margo Young, facilitator, not present. No update to share.
- Participate more/provide more CEH info in existing conferences.
No update to share. *Next steps* – send MY suggestions for conferences where we might participate. In the January meeting, people mentioned these conferences:
 - Salish Sea conference in Vancouver BC in October
 - [Healthy Schools Summit in May](#) at SeaTac. EPA (Juliann Barta) is working with Nancy Bernard to submit a proposal on children's environmental health in schools
 - NAHMMA
- Translate children's environmental health education into policy.
Cara Dolan and Holly Davies met and plan to continue talking. Steve Gilbert and KV (?) are also interested in talking about policy. Cara and Holly discussed the fact that there is a need for people to be able to function as independent scientific experts and/or policy experts. However, they recognized that agencies are restricted by their "neutral" role, and that academics' time is limited. She asked the working group members if they would make their expertise available on policy issues when possible. Steve Gilbert mentioned that the new dean of public health at the U.W., Howie Frumpkin, has stated that he wants the U.W. faculty to become more engaged in providing scientific expertise. *Next steps*--The group will meet again. The suggestion was made to contact Elise Miller at the national CHE-WA.

3. Member updates

- Steve Gilbert
He is working on a mercury-related document about adult mercury exposures. The goal is to inform physicians, and the message is, "Watch the fish you eat, and eat fish that are low in mercury". This will be presented to neurotoxic meetings in China in June, 2011. He reminded the group about the opening event for [Particles on the Wall](#) on February 13.
- Donna Miscolta
She manages the household hazardous waste teacher trainings for LHWMP. Many of the teachers are doing chemical-free gardens with their students as their follow-up projects to their trainings. She is considering

doing a half-day workshop on this topic. Steve Gilbert recommended the "backyard gardeners" section of [IPM –Opedia](#). Nicole Thomsen suggested talking with Mary Rabourn about the show, Yard Talk. Gail Gensler suggested she speak to Liesl Zappler. Julia Berg suggested she look at the Natural Yard Care curriculum.

- Lauren Jenks
She is working on a project putting blood lead level data from the Community Health Assessment tool into a more accessible format. She is also submitting a proposal for the EPA children's environmental health grant money. Their project will train nurses who are already doing home visits to better understand environmental health issues. As part of the training, they will give the nurses names of resource people to turn to. Steve Gilbert wondered if the project could be able to report on landlord violations.
- Cara Dolan
She is working on the health impacts of power sources. She is seeking experts to join two panels focused on coal pollution and its related issues (February 23 in Olympia and February 24 in Seattle). She mentioned that there is currently a bill in the House to phase out the burning of coal in the state of Washington by 2015.
- Jeanne Johnson – ECOSS . She is working with the Asian Pacific Island Coalition against Tobacco to decrease second hand smoke exposure. She is updating several pieces of community-created, culturally relevant education materials; updates include tying tobacco exposure with children's environmental health exposures. Cara Dolan mentioned there are now some bills in the Washington Legislature to repeal some smoke-free areas. Nancy Bernard mentioned the efforts of tobacco companies to fight a ban against flavored tobacco.
- Mary Van Cleve
She works on child advocacy issues, with a specialty in working with at-risk children. She has recently moved to Washington. She is a CHE-national member, and former chair of the DC Coalition on Environmental Justice which focused on lead poisoning issues. She wants to join her child advocacy knowledge to her extensive experience working on legislative/rulemaking work. She is available for legal input for those working on grant applications.
- Nicole Thomsen
She is also submitting a proposal for the EPA children's environmental health grant money. Her project will work with ECOSS in a "promotoria" model. They will host in-home parties focused on several environmental health exposure topics. The topics will include lead, a community-selected toxic, and possibly dust. They will start with the Latino community in the Georgetown/Park area of Seattle. If the grant money does not come through, she will still do this project on a smaller scale.
- Renee Bouvion
She mentioned two websites to be aware of: girlshealth.gov which has a section on environmental health for girls, and [The Environment and Women's Health](#).
- Holly Davies
She is working on a comprehensive plan for PAH's in Washington state. She mentioned that Representative Frockt has proposed a ban on coal tar sealants (see <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1721&year=2011#0>) because people are finding high levels (thousands of mg/kg) of PAH's in parking lot [coal tar sealants](#), and the PAH's are becoming airborne. See USGS website <http://tx.usgs.gov/coring/allthingssealcoat.html> for more information.
- Nancy Bernard
She mentioned a debate that is happening now about relaxing the requirements for carbon monoxide alarms in residential areas. The WA State Department of Health wants as many of these detectors as possible. She states that the big problem is from people who bring cook stoves into their homes. Carbon monoxide poisoning is not reportable in Washington; as a result there is less data to refer to about it. Nancy is the DOH representative on the State Council about this topic. Nicole Thomsen mentioned that the City of Seattle is developing a rental licensing inspection program developing preconditions for rental, and they have not been worrying about carbon monoxide monitoring since they had assumed that it was well covered. She says that there is a lot of information about carbon monoxide-related deaths in King County, and she will talk with Nancy Bernard about this.
- Julia Berg
She is continuing to work on a Pesticide-free Public Spaces program with the assistance of a graduate student. On a related note, she mentioned that the Coalition of Organic Landscapers is reviewing the idea of

a residential, ornamental lawn chemical ban and will be bringing Paul Tukey to talk about this to a conference in June.

- Gail Gensler
She is developing a demographic profile of King County mothers of young children. She is also working on a multi-agency project to revise and print the publication, *Protect Kids from Toxics*. She also reported that in the spring she will be teaching Eco-Healthy Childcare trainings to childcare operators in King County.

4. Speaker presentation: Geoffrey Crofoot, Washington State Environmental Health Association

- [WSEHA](#)'s mission is to get current education about environmental health to those who need it, especially to workers. They are the professional organization for those who do environmental health work at the local level (for example, sanitary and core public health regulators); however, they'd like to expand that reach.
- They offer the following: an online newsletter, a website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, a member network (200), meeting spaces for educational trainings, and a strong ability to organize and promote educational material.
- They are always seeking new content and partners with whom to put on educational trainings.
- In the past they have done annual, joint conferences with the Washington State Public Health Association, but no longer. They now do local and regional trainings that cost less and are more topic-focused.
- They have several sites around the state where they can easily and cheaply host trainings: at the Snohomish Health District, in central Washington, Spokane, and Tumwater.
- They do not take positions on bills; mostly they are an information source for their members.
- He would like to see their members' work interface more with children's environmental health, and he would like to see trainings offered through WSEHA on the topic of children's environmental health.
- He would like to see the definition and work scope of sanitarians expand. Traditionally these workers make sure the food supply is clean, and that water and garbage are handled correctly. He would like to see "newer" sanitarians focusing also on reuse of materials and on chemical exposure issues.

Attendance (* indicates by phone)

Julia Berg (facilitator)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program In King County (LHWMP)
Nancy Bernard	Washington State Department of Health
Renee Bouvion*	US Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health-Region 10
Geoffrey Crofoot (speaker)	Washington State Environmental Health Association
Holly Davies*	Ecology
Cara Dolan	Coal Free Washington
Gail Gensler – (note taker)	LHWMP
Steve Gilbert	Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
Lauren Jenks	Washington State Department of Health
Donna Miscolta	LHWMP
Chelsea Morse (for Ilene Ruhoy)	Institute for Environmental Medicine
Jeanne Johnson	ECOSS
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Mary Van Cleve	Attorney in private practice