

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

Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 9, 2012 9:30-11:30

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.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2012 Time: 9:30- 11:30

- Host: EPA Region 10
- Location: Green Depot, Seattle FREE parking For directions:
http://www.greendepot.com/greendepot/dept.asp?dept_id=6000&dp_id=73
- March speaker: Gillian Mittelstaedt, Coordinator of Tribal Healthy Homes Northwest Tribal Healthy Homes Northwest. Gillian will provide an overview of children's health issues related to housing and indoor air quality in tribal communities and discuss her work to build capacity within the tribes to address these issues.

February Host: Nicole Thomsen, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program/Public Health – Seattle & King County (LHWMP/PHS&KC) **Location:** Public Health – Seattle & King County

Attendees: Judy Bardin (WA DOH), Nancy Bernard (WA DOH) Gail Gensler (LHWMP), Laura Hutchinson (PHS&KC), Lauren Jenks (WA DOH), Rachel Koller*, Toni Nunes (WA chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics), Barbara Ross (EPA-Region 10), Gretchen Stewart (EPA-Region 10), Nicole Thomsen (LHWMP/PHS&KC), Dennis Weaver (Change Your Food, Change Your Life) * = by phone

Facilitator: Nicole Thomsen, **Note taker:** Lauren Jenks/Gail Gensler

Part I: Member Report-outs:

1. Gail Gensler (LHWMP)
 - Gail and others from LHWMP are meeting tomorrow with staff from the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA). ReWA is a non-profit, multi-ethnic organization that promotes inclusion, independence, personal leadership, and strong communities by providing refugee and immigrant women and their families with culturally and linguistically appropriate services. ReWA is interested in learning what services are available to them from other agencies and organizations. If you are interested in working with ReWA, contact Svetlana Ivashchenko at svetlana@rewa.org.
 - The WA DOH Medical Home model is on hold. If and when they start another cohort, they may be interested in working with us. Our challenge is demonstrating that we have something of interest/concrete to offer doctors.
 - Gail mentioned CHE-Alaska's recent phone conference, *Science and Action to Protect Public Health: How Healthcare Professionals Are Changing Chemicals Policy*. The call featured the Los Angeles executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility Martha Arguello, who reported on making good connections with doctors via a promotora model. Contact Martha at marguello@psr-la.org.
 - Update for 2013 CHE-WA Forum funding—Letter of Intent got submitted, but application deadline has passed, and we are not sure if an application was submitted. Gail will follow up

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with Amy to see what happened with it. [Update: Unfortunately, we did not submit an application.]

2. Rachel Koller

Rachel announced a one day conference on March 30 as an opportunity for CHE WA to have a table. She had a positive experience tabling for CHE-WA at the January 27th conference, *Pediatric Nursing Update: Evidence-Based Practice in School and Ambulatory Care Settings*, held at Children's Hospital in Seattle. Rachel suggested that the organizer of this event, Marianne Gonterman, may be a good person to connect with regarding Healthy Housing and other children's EH topic. Contact Marianne at marianne.gonterman@seattlechildrens.org .

Part II:

Continued brainstorming on what we want for our 2012 priorities/agenda :

The group reviewed their list of brainstorm ideas from the January meeting (see below) and took some time to add new items. They added the following ideas:

- (TN) Develop a strategic focus on specific issues and audiences—decide what those issues might be and what we might do
- (GS) Identify 3-5 specific issues we will communicate about/focus on through our PR strategy
- (RK) Consider selecting legislative priorities
- Trainings: Do we have “market saturation”? (NT) Do we have a lot of trainings going on right now? (LJ) Not if we looked at a different population—home visitors, for example. (GS) Maybe we could do a train-the-trainer type training (DW) Maybe we could do webinars around our three topics we'll develop. (NB) Our 2012 Forum was really valuable—this seems like a thing that we could continue.
- Audiences: (LH) Maybe we can identify different audiences to focus on as well as topics. We can use the same topics, but adjust our messages for the different audiences. (JB) Include nurses, visiting nurses, public health nurses in health care provider education
- (GG) Proposed convening a group to make a decision on what we will do—interest around PR, training, provider education, forum, branding
- (DW) Would vote for continuing work on a giant forum, PR campaign, branding campaign, training

Summary of brainstorming from the January meeting (See January's notes for more detail)

- Host a 2013 Forum.
- Work with WA PSR as they develop their annual agenda.
- How will we spend our money?

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- How this group can support each other's work
- Revive/nurture small groups from 2012 Forum.
- Work with Session priorities?
- Have an on-going PR campaign where this group shares information on issues of concern for parents, schools, somewhere in the media.
- The value of this group continues to be networking and working on joint projects.
- Take WSEHA presentation to webinar and other conferences.

The group took a straw vote of what they felt would be their "top priority" topics for 2012. They agreed to take the list generated and ask the greater working group membership their opinions via an online survey, in order to broaden the response base. These topics were suggested. The group will discuss the results at the March meeting.

- Healthy Homes (7 votes)
- Air pollution and Health
- Indoor/outdoor air quality
- Pesticides
- Lead and the RRP rule
- Healthy schools
- Food
- Avoiding toxics in food , gmo
- Healthy foods in schools
- Lead
- Other toxics
- Label reading
- Seasonal toxic approach—pick topics that are of interest throughout the year
- Reaching out to medical providers—nurses, doctors, school nurses
- Families
- Prenatal
- daycare

Part III: Speaker: Sandra Smith, MPH, PhD spoke on *Health Literacy: Beyond Better Information*

Dr. Smith is director of the Center for Health Literacy Promotion and clinical instructor at the University of Washington School Of Public Health. She is author of the award-winning health education series *Beginnings Pregnancy Guide* and *Beginnings Parents Guide*; and co-author of the *Beginnings Guides Life Skills Development Curriculum*, and three medical text book chapters on health literacy.