

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

Thursday, March 13, 2014

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, 130 Nickerson St., Seattle, WA 98109

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

- Audrey Adams, WA Action for Safe Water
- Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County --LHWMP
- Steve Gilbert, INND
- Nicole Thomsen, Public Health-Seattle & King County – PHS& KC
- Krysta Thornton, American Lung Association
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food-Change Your Life®
- Susannah Wegner, UW DEOHS
- Margo Young, EPA R-10

Attendees by phone

- Nancy Beaudet, UW PEHSU
- Ann Butler, WA Dept of Health
- Holly Davies, WA State Dept of Ecology
- Megann Dunn, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
- Carolyn Gleason, HRSA
- Marilyn Hair, UW DEOHS
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- Gretchen Stewart, EPA R-10
- Lorelei Walker, UW IPHG

Meetings

Next meeting: April 13, 2014 @ Public Health- Seattle & King County, Chinook Building, Room 126, 401 5th Ave Seattle, Wa. 98104 (*downtown Seattle*) ([map](#))

Topic: Electromagnetic fields

Future meeting topic ideas proposed: Built environment and obesity, pesticides, EPA's CEH-related resources.

Update on NW CEH Forum follow-up projects

1. Gail will build a traveling tabletop CEH display for check-out use by community groups.
2. Gretchen is creating a 'how-to' manual for putting on future Forums.
3. We plan to present CEH-related topics at more conferences:

- a. Nicole, Steve, Holly and Aileen Gagney will present CEH at the May conference of the WA State Environmental Health Association. Title: "Healthy Environments for the Next Generation -- Before, During, and After Pregnancy". They'll talk about lead and Healthy Homes and will showcase CHE-WA.
 - b. Steve and Nicole will submit a proposal to present at the Joint Conference of the WA State Public Health Association in Yakima.
 - c. Holly might submit an abstract to NAHMMA to talk.
 - d. In the future, consider presenting at [NW Primary Care Providers Conference](#). We (who?) tried once and were rejected.
4. Carolyn set up a conference call with WIC folks to discuss doing a CEH webinar for WIC staff.
 5. Gail met with Karen Bowman, UW nursing instructor, about getting more CEH info to nurses; Gail will teach in Karen's classes.
 6. Gail will keep the website updated and send periodic updates to the December 2013 Forum attendees.

One additional suggestion was made:

1. Find ways to get the new CEH textbook to key docs, nurses, medical professionals.
Suggestions: Jason Allen at Bastyr University, Karen Bowman at UW, Colleen Groll at Children's Hospital, all WA State AAP pediatricians, high school health teachers

Updates from group members

Audrey Adams

Parent of an autistic child; concerned about effects of fluoride on young children. Says babies get exposed to disproportionate amounts since they take in 7x fluid per kg/day more than adults. She mentioned a fluoride talk at Town Hall, 3/17, 7 PM.

Nancy Beaudet

1. PEHSU just hosted the *Research Matters* Conference.
2. RFP to continue 5-year funding for the PEHSU's just came out. Look for some major changes:
 - Expanding environmental health (EH) to include family medicine, not just pediatrics. However, their current experts are pediatricians.
 - Continuing language around OBGYN and prenatal.
 - Likely will add geriatric EH.

Ann Butler

Her project continues to measure levels of BPA, phthalates, and pesticides in low-income women in Seattle at Rainier Vista. They'll finish data analysis this summer.

Holly Davies

The bill about PCB's in new products went through both State houses; it directs state agencies to buy non-PCB products when possible.

Megann Dunn

She is one of NCAP's new directors. They want to expand into WA State. She's located in Everett. Their new work is on IPM and Schools. They're also looking at small children and low income populations.

Carolyn Gleason

She set up a conference call with WIC folks regarding doing a CEH webinar.

Marilyn Hair

1. Their next [Public Health Café](#) will be May 13, 7 PM -8:30 PM at Chaco Canyon restaurant in West Seattle. Topic = Nanotoxicology. Free, open to the public.
2. They're doing EH training for Bellevue teachers this summer. Currently developing lesson plans.

Rachel Koller

1. She is also the EH volunteer helper at Adams Elementary in Seattle where she is developing a classroom cleaning guide for the school.
2. A comment from their school nurse about how those outside our field may react to our 'jargon': Don't use the phrase "IAQ"; it's not a phrase folks know. Instead she suggests a phrase with the word 'safety' in it.

Dennis Weaver

Suggested looking at a site from Seventh Generation: <https://fighttoxins.com/>.

Monthly presentation

This month the group joined a webinar with two national leaders on Children's Environmental Health - Dr. Phil Landrigan and Dr. Ruth Etzel. They gave an overview of key CEH issues and discussed their new groundbreaking CEH textbook. See the slides and hear the presentation at [CHE Cafe call](#).

A few notes from the call:

1. WHO estimates that ~24% of disease could be prevented by modifying the environment.
2. There is a strong body of evidence linking toxic chemicals with diseases.
3. Developmental disabilities affect ~ one in six children. Autism = 1 in 88.
4. There are ~80K chemicals listed with EPA for commercial use, with 9-10K in daily use, and ~3K considered HPV chemicals ('high production volume').
5. There is no basic toxicity info on half of the HPV's.
6. Info on developmental toxicity is available for less than 20% of HPV chemicals.
7. Many HPV chemicals are detectable in adult blood, breast milk, and infant cord blood.

And from the Q&A after the call:

1. ERFs: The IARC has decided that low and extremely low electromagnetic frequencies are classified as possible human carcinogens.
2. Detoxifying: You can't detoxify a body from chronic exposure to toxins in your body. You can for acute lead and mercury high BLL's in children.
3. Training: One Oregon osteopath on the call said he plans to add CEH Q's to the Osteopathic training review board exam. Note: CEH is also called environmental pediatrics.

4. Dr. Etzel would like to see CHE added to medical training as a 'specialist' option. She knows of no effort on this in the US. There is no clear certification for this, nor a textbook until the one they just wrote.
5. Dr. Landrigan said they've surveyed US pediatricians and 85-90% of them say they see kids with disease caused by environmental exposure, yet only 10-15% say they feel comfortable dealing with these issues because they have no training.