

CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group Meeting

Meeting Notes

March 14th, 2013

Meeting location: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County

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

Attendee List (* = by phone)

Gail Gensler- host (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County --LHWMP)
Aphrodyi Antoine (Health Resources and Services Administration- HRSA), Nancy Beaudet* (UW PEHSU), Nancy Bernard* (WA Department of Health), Aimee Boulanger (Environmental consultant), Karen Burns* (Children's Environmental Health Network), Holly Davies* (WA Dept. of Ecology), Michelle Gaither (Pollution Prevention Resource Center), Carolyn Gleason (HRSA), Gary Gant (HRSA), Sonya Hoglander * (HomEvolution), but Rachel Koller (Healthy Home Focus), Kris Larson* (ATSDR), Hamdi Mohamed (Housing and Urban Development), Gretchen Stewart (EPA R-10), Nicole Thomsen* (PH-S&KC), Krysta Thornton (American Lung Association of the Great Northwest) Dennis Weaver (Change Your Food-Change Your Life®), Margo Young (EPA R-10) . Additional attendees for the speaker's presentation (all from LHWMP):
Alice Chapman, Ann Madhavan, Bill Priest, Trudy Rolla, Jon Shields

Actions:

- April 22: Kate Davies' book release party evening. CHE-WA can table. Aimee and Margo will be there. Bring CHE-WA material. Send content and materials to Margo if you want them put out on table.
- We've wanted postcard saying who we are, when we regularly meet, how to become involved. Dennis will get back to Margo on whether he can get these made.
- May 11: Event "Hip 253" (happiness in Pierce County event) event at which CHE-WA may be able to table. Check with Margo if interested.

Intros/Updates:

1. Update on the Forum Planning 2013

Gail Gensler- The planning committee is meeting. Challenge is funding. Any suggestions/help with funding most appreciated. And suggestions on venue also appreciated....for ~300.

2. Member Updates

1. Rachel Koller-Working with Gillian Mittelstadt to focus on quality housing for tribal communities/families
2. Krysta Thornton- 8 volunteers for Master Home Environmentalist Program which does free healthy home assessments for Seattle city residents
3. Gretchen Stewart- Back from doing tribal healthy homes road trip
4. Michelle Gaither- PPRC is in contention for green chemistry center to be operated out of WA State, still to decide. She also raised issue of new research on popular new cooking methods in plastic bags
5. Hamdi Mohammed- As result of sequester HUD lose 125,000 "vouchers" (support to local income Section 8 support to families) nationally; impacting public housing agencies, now not issuing any new ones as a result; discouraging!

6. Dennis Weaver-Returned from Organic Food Expo; now columnist for Specialty Retailing.com to write on these issues
7. Aimee Boulanger- Working on contract for nonprofit and government groups, also on collaboratives on environment/health issues; most work currently focused on mining, and in particular uranium mining (new and abandoned) health issues in indigenous communities.
8. Margo Young- Sequester is having major impacts on EPA, no one knowing what will happen next; most staff being furloughed 14 days. Gina McCarthy is Obama's nominee to head EPA, strong air backgr Gnd. Going to OR for environmental health conference today (along with Steve Gilbert, Ada Otter and some others). May 11 event "Hip 253" (happiness in Pierce County event) event at which CHE-WA may be able to table.
9. Gail Gensler- Working on Eco-healthy Child Care® program. She's doing visits to childcare centers; they are making good changes and some are aspiring to become endorsed as green child-care centers – very inspiring! Also, for in-home childcare providers there is a National Nanny Association – trying to get them info on this as well. Gail will speak at NW Nanny Assoc on 4/20 in Ballard to bring CEH info in.
10. Aphrodyi Antoine and Gary Gant - Both are public health analysts for HRSA.
11. Carolyn Gleason- Works on maternal and child health for HRSA. She's involved in an upcoming federal gathering for those who work on children's environmental health. Have met twice, far more folks attended than they expected: HUD, HHS, EPA, HRSA, subgroups like HeadStart and such. Took much of meeting for folks to introduce. Most interest was simply in understanding each other's programs and ways to better collaborate/communicate together (responding to public request that government agencies get in better sync!).
12. Karen Burns- Graduate intern at Children's Environmental Health Network in DC. University of MD is doing a pilot study on child health care centers, collecting air samples indoor air in childcare centers; wants to know if any centers want to participate in the study; study at this point is just in the DC area and just "baseline study" no interventions/response planned yet.
13. Nicole Thomsen - Working with CDC and WA State Dept of Health on reducing lead poisoning in housing
14. Nancy Beaudet- UW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit held *Research Matters* conference a couple weeks ago, will offer again next year; positive evaluations generally, interest in two meetings/year (although not in traveling down to Portland twice). PEHSU is interested in lead issues in children; they'll have a new lead screening fact sheet planned to be done end of April, also doing a fact sheet on carbon monoxide; Gail asks about updating plastics fact sheet to reflect new laws, Nancy says maybe in next 6 months.
15. Nancy Bernard- Focusing on wildfire smoke and impacts to communities; other school research on ambient air quality; mentions change to bleach concentrations which will affect what many standardized guidance sheets have said about the appropriate dilutions for different types of disinfecting.
16. Sonya Hoglander- Works on healthy homes EMF issues. Also working on genetic engineering (GE) labeling in WA State effort
17. Holly Davies- Ban on two specific flame retardants passed out of house last week; we'll see if it passes, has alternatives requirements; Gail adds that Anna Rivera of WA Toxics Coalition has been doing research on flame retardants in childcare centers' mats –Holly responds that many mats that don't necessarily have requirements to have flame retardants do have them because the foam stuffing has it, and is then the foam is disbursed to many uses.

**Feature Presentation: Margo Young, EPA
Snapshot of EPA Data Tools for Community Use**

Envirofacts (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/>)

- Has a list of facilities in relation to compliance with different laws that EPA oversees
- Can type in a zip code to search for an area's info
- Smallest or exempt facilities won't be included

ECHO/ Enforcement and Compliance History Online <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/>

- Gives enforcement/compliance info

EnviroMapper, <http://www.epa.gov/emefdata/em4ef.home>

- Like Envirofacts but more a map-based way to view
- Can look by a region or facility, or by releases related to air, water, waste, land, toxics, radiation
- Can also look by program (like Superfund, Toxic Releases, Air emissions, etc.)
- Can also look by activity (mining, agriculture, etc.)

Toxics Release Inventory, <http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/>

- Certain size industry releasing certain types of chemicals measured

My Right-to-Know Act, <http://www.myrtk.epa.gov/info/>

- You can type in your own address, or just zip
- Gives a good summary for what types of exposures are happening in your area
- Mostly facility data (EnviroMapper would have more air emissions type info, including monitoring stations info)
- Can even click on a particular facility to find out their specific info, releases, compliance info

Environmental Justice, EJ View, <http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/entry.html>

- Gives you demographic, health, facility data
- Office of research and development at EPA is developing a new tool which will allow us to pull up and use the data we want, and link to where my community health center, you can overlay data together, currently in beta testing phase
- Census-level data

Region 10 EPA also has a Children's Environmental Health website -- always appreciating feedback/suggestions. Have healthy home, childcare centers, schools, and info for healthcare providers