

**Children's Environmental Health Working Group  
CHE-WA  
April 8, 2010**

**Note taker: Nicole Thomsen**

Attendance: \* indicates by phone

Nancy Bernard*	WA Dept. of Health
Tom Burbacher (guest presenter)	University of WA
Cindy Callahan	Citizen (formerly of Seattle Public Utilities and DOE)
Carol Carver*	Public Health nurse, semiretired. Health Coordinator, St. James family Center, Cathlamet, Washington
Russ Clausen	EPA-Region X, Lead Program
Theresa Cooper	WA Dept. of Health
Meredith Eddy	American Lung Assoc. of WA
Erica Finsness	Children's Environmental Health Research Center - UW
Gail Gensler - facilitator	LHWMP
Steven Gilbert	INND
Jeanne Johnson	ECOSS
Jefferson Ketchel*	Grant County
Tracee Mayfield	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Martha Perla	UW
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life
Steve Whittaker	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)

**Changes to scheduled meeting times:**

- There will be NO meeting in July and August.
- The September meeting has been rescheduled from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The November meeting has been rescheduled from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming speakers**

- May - [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit](#) (Catherine Karr)
- June - [CHILD Profile](#) (Laura Hutchinson)

**Other topics of interest to the group:**

Another legislative update in the fall 2010, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Against Tobacco ([APICAT](#)), electronic waste ([Basal Action Network](#) -- Sarah Westerfelt), phthalates in hospitals/healthcare (Rich Grady and Sheela Satyanarayana)

Report outs:

- 1) Steve Gilbert gave an update on what's going on with CHE-WA. Our workgroup is the most active part of CHE-WA currently. The next meeting of CHE-WA will be May 26 at Antioch University in Seattle. The meeting topic will be "Cell Phones, Electromagnetic Fields and Human Health: The Latest Research." See [Meetings page](#) for more details. Steve also mentioned a neurotoxicology conference coming up in Oregon (June 6-June 10); one topic will be methylmercury. Also he recommends looking at [IPMopedia](#) which has new information on gardening.
- 2) Meredith Eddy – Participated in the Atlantic Street Center health fair. Also contacting food banks to recruit for HEALS's (home environmental assessments).
- 3) Cindy Callahan –Shared a personal story of meeting someone in Costco who turned out to be a researcher studying phthalates and their effect on the viability of transplant organs stored in plastic bags versus glass.
- 4) Tracee Mayfield –He and Gail Gensler and Julia Berg delivered the first of several trainings for child care operators called "Greening Your Childcare." This training will become the basis of a more general training for small businesses on how to green their business. Currently it is in English only. He is also giving technical advice to C-SHEL about air quality issues.
- 5) Jeanne Johnson – Check the ECOSS website for more information on "Green Jobs" effort. Participating in many outreach events including baby boosts, YMCA fairs, greening the Burien strawberry festival in June (anybody want to collaborate?). Thanks to Seattle Public Utilities and LHWMP for materials in multiple languages.
- 6) Erica Finsness – UW IRARC. Children's risk research has been placed on hold.
- 7) Russ Clausen - The new RRP lead training class audits going to affect April 22, 2010. See [www.epa.gov/getleadsafe](http://www.epa.gov/getleadsafe) for more information. In summer the Washington State Department of Commerce will manage the new lead rule. EPA is celebrating its 40th year.
- 8) Dennis Weaver - Keeley Clark, a middle school aged singer, is now singing about an organic food message through "It's Your Beat!" stage show for 12 to 18-year-old audience in Edmonds Washington. He asked if we would like her to sing her song for our workgroup. The group OK'd having her sing at our June meeting.
- 9) Theresa Cooper - Theresa works with the State Department of Health on topics related to maternal and child health and childcare health and safety. Her program is sunseting at the end of April 2010. Tracee will speak at her group. Anyone wanting to submit comments on the revised WAC's (Washington Administrative Codes) for home childcare licensing can submit comments on the [DEL](#) website.
- 10) Steve Whittaker - Steve works as a researcher for LHWMP. He is currently working on a needs assessment for the dry cleaning industry.
- 11) Jeff Ketchel - Jeff is now the administrator for Grant County Health Department. They are involved in recruitment this summer for the National Children's Study. They are also working with the Washington Department of Health project doing

- biomonitoring on 6 to 8-year-olds for the presence of pesticides and metals. (Denise LaFlamme is the lead on this grant).
- 12) Carol Carver-Lives and works in Wahkiakum County. Involved in an organic market garden there. Working with Theresa Cooper. Participating in a health and safety fair on May 1. Did a highly successful, eco-healthy childcare presentation for a group of childcare providers in Wahkiakum County which led to them making changes in the use of air freshener and vinyl in their childcare facilities.
  - 13) Nancy Bernard-See their new [listserv](#) for the dates of the fall 2010 workshops. LHWMP staff member, Dave Waddell, will speak at all of them on arch chemical hazards. Also, Nancy told us that as of April 8, the FDA has revised its consumer recommendations about using Triclosan. See <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm207833.htm>.
  - 14) Nicole Thomsen – Working on planning a lead-based paint education campaign focused on paint retailers and/or neighborhood associations. Continuing to do phone consultations with families having children with elevated BLL's.
  - 15) Martha Perla – A Master of Public Health UW student, she continues to volunteer at the Mexican Consulate teaching folks who are waiting for their paper work on a variety of environmental health (EH) topics. She works with Community Health Action Program. She is looking for contacts who may want to co-teach and also share EH information in Spanish.
  - 16) Gail Gensler – She and Julia Berg are working with CHILD Profile to insert children's environmental health messages into their statewide materials distributed to all parents of children 0 to 6. LHWMP has produced a new tabletop display for outreach events that focuses on reading labels. She and Julia will participate in many public outreach events starting with one for Head Start parents at the Denise Louie Center in April. Shared about the Product Stewardship Institute's [informational networking conference calls](#) in the spring of 2010. Mentioned upcoming CHE [partnership and working group calls](#).

We welcomed CHE-WA CEH working group member Tom Burbacher, UW professor, speaking about the National Children's Study and its activities in Seattle.

A few points:

1. Elaine Faustman is the Principal Investigator for the UW study. Patricia Butterfield is the lead in Grant County.
2. The study will track 100,000 children prenatal to age 20 at home and at the children's schools or daycare's-wherever they spend time. In addition there are Vanguard locations which are a pilot phase that precedes the main study.
3. The study will track many things including pesticides exposure and asthma.
4. The incentive to the participant is \$50 cash for each face-to-face visit and less for contacts by mail.

5. The study is not getting enough women recruited. They will try some new strategies to improve recruitment; Grant County will be one place to try the new strategies – from ~summer through fall of 2010.
6. King County neighborhoods have not yet been selected; 2012 is a guess for when they will come on. The Duwamish is one area. It is still unknown when Washington sites will join the study.
7. Every enrollment center will also have a "Resource Center" for enrollees to get information resources.
8. At the same time that the study is going on there may be topic-related, adjunct research proposals happening.