

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

Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 12th

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: EPA Region 10, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101

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

- Megan Dunn, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (speaker)
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food-Change Your Life®
- Toni Higgs, CHE-WA
- Nancy Bernard, WA Department of Health
- Rad Cunningham, WA Department of Health
- Nancy Beaudet, NW PEHSU
- Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Marilyn Hair, UW Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health
- Marissa Smith, UW Center for Child Health Research
- Allison Laing, UW Center for Child Health Research
- Erin McTigue (Mader), EPA R10
- Margo Young, EPA R10
- Gary Olson, EPA R10
- Derrick Terada, EPA R10
- Juliann Barta, EPA R10
- Tristen Gardner, EPA R10
- Diana Phelan, EPA R10
- Steve Gilbert, Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
- Will Perry, Public Health-Seattle & King County
- Frances Solomon, Evergreen State College
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Homes Network

Attendees by phone

- Holly Davies, WA State Dept of Ecology
- Ann Butler, WA Department of Health
- Holly Thompson Duffy, Indian Health Service Portland Area
- Celeste Davies, Indian Health Service Portland Area
- Michelle Gaither, Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center
- Aphrodyi Antoine, Health Resources and Services Administration

Next meeting: September 11, 2014 @ University of Washington, 4225 Roosevelt Way, Seattle, WA
Topic: Risk Communication. Speaker from King County Public Health.

Environmental Health Association Conference Follow-Up

Michelle Mullin (EPA R10), Steve Gilbert, Gretchen Stewart and Holly Davies attended the May conference of the WA State Environmental Health Association. The event was well-attended, booth was well-visited, and participation was worthwhile.

Updates from group members

- Toni Higgs is working with CHE-WA CEH to complete the forum planning manual. The latest draft manual has received lots of comments. The next forum will be in 2015 and the PPG grant application is due in January. The theme of the forum should be a topic on the Sept meeting agenda.
- Question from Michelle Gaither regarding plug-in Vapor rub products. The group suggested emailing the EPA IAQ Connector Listserv (https://lists.epa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=schools_iaq_connector) or contacting the American Lung Association.
- Holly Davies- currently working on the PCB Chemical Action Plan. Purpose- keeping PCBs out of the environment. Aug 6-Oct 6 will be the comment period.
- Gail Gensler- Staff changes at King County Haz Waste- Mary Rabourn moving. Current project- working with child care providers to reduce toxins in the environment.
- Fran Solomon- Did a course at the Evergreen State College on endocrine disruptors.
- Marilyn Hair- Teacher workshops on environmental health for Bellevue Health Teachers; act as mentors to Eastern WA teachers. Reminder about the Duwamish River Fest on August 22nd, topics- cleanup and health
- Rad Cunningham- Receiving input from group on ways to improve state policy on lead
- Will Perry- Providing outreach to case workers who work with immigrant and refugee families on mitigating lead exposure; Young Children's Team recently gave out grants to large non-profits, hope to give mini-grants in the future to target low income and immigrant communities
- Steve Gilbert- "A Small Dose of Toxicology" authored by Steve is being translated into multiple languages
- Derrick Terada- On February 20, the EPA released proposed changes to the existing Worker Protection Standard Rule (WPS) for farmworkers. The changes consider take-home pesticide exposures. The comment period has been extended to August 18, 2014. An email about the changes was sent to the listserv.
- Dennis Weaver - Did two presentations at the Evergreen College on making healthful changes in your life. Well-received events.
- Erin Mader- Working with tribal communities on Medicare reimbursement for healthy home assessments
- Rachel Koller- Working on mold remediation workshops for tribal communities, also outreach on teacher cleaning in classroom.
- Nancy Bernard- working with the Urban Pesticide Education Strategy Team (UPEST) on creating a document that provides guidelines for schools next to agricultural operations to reduce pesticide drift exposure. UPEST has different WA state agency representation: <http://schoolipm.wsu.edu/contact.html>
- King County event- Reducing Reproductive Risks in Artists on June 18th. RSVP to dave.waddell@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-3069.

- Margo Young has accepted a 4-month detail opportunity at EPA, which could extend to a longer period of time. She will let everyone know who the EPA Children's Health contact will be for CHE-WA soon.
- Margo Young- FDA and EPA issue updated draft advice for fish consumption; Advice encourages pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers to eat more fish that are lower in mercury

Monthly presentation

This month the presentation was from Megan Dunn, Healthy People and Communities Program Director for the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP). Megan provided information on NCAP's work to reduce pesticide use and to promote integrated pest management (IPM). Specific projects include working with Green Schools recognition program to include more school IPM standards, providing IPM outreach to childcare centers, promoting pesticide-free parks, and creating bed bug outreach tools. View the full presentation at <http://washington.chenw.org/CEHgroup.html> .

Juliann Barta- UPEST has an online clearinghouse with school IPM information: <http://schoolipm.wsu.edu>. UPEST is working on adding information to their Web site on disinfectant use in schools. WSU and EPA are planning WA school IPM coalition events that will offer peer-to-peer mentoring. EPA R10 has an interagency agreement with IHS to provide pesticide safety and IPM outreach to tribal communities, including schools. EPA R10, in partnership with WSU, OSU, and IHS is working on a Northwest IPM weed handbook. EPA headquarters created a new Model IPM Guidance Policy for School Districts: <http://www.epa.gov/pepp/publications/ipm/Model-School-IPM-Policy.pdf>.

Nancy Bernard- working on putting together concrete guidance for school gardens.