

Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington (CHE-WA)
Children's Environmental Health Working Group - Meeting Notes
August 14, 2008 9:30-11:30
Location: King County Hazardous Waste - Canal

(Attendance list at end)

Accomplishments Report

Gail reported that in the most recent newsletter published by Within Reach, that organization thanked LHWMP for funding help in reprinting brochure entitled *Toxins in Breastmilk*.

Jeff mentioned the Childcare project, located in Public Health-Seattle and King County, is offering services to childcare programs as a result of a needs assessment conducted last year. Using the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's Voucher Incentive Program, we are able to offer matching funds of up to \$500 per childcare site to reduce toxins in childcares. Thai and Angela, working through the Tacoma Smelter Plume project, are advertising the VIP program to childcares during their visits. A visit from Public Health staff includes consulting, along with fund disbursement.

Another contact made as a result of the working group is that Jeff met Cynthia Callahan at our meetings and she was able to connect him with SPU staff working on a bio-fuels project, which relates to the chemical policy and industrial ecology part of Jeff's work.

Heather and Jeff will talk more about childcares located in the Duwamish. This could address the environmental justice goal of LHWMP.

Committee Reports

Conference Planning Committee. (Jeff)

Current members, as reported in the meeting: Gail Gensler, Julia Berg, Angela Delahoz, Cedar Bouta, Judith Lee standing in for Margo Young, Amy Boulanger, Aileen Gagney, Nancy Beaudet, Jeff Ketchel, Margaret Shield, Heather Trim, Tracee Mayfield, and a representative from the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics: Laurie Lippold, Cynthia Shurtleff or Leena Der Yuen.

- Institute for Children's Environmental Health is celebrating its ten year anniversary next fall and we may share some of the same speakers who would be coming into town for that event.
- Group is now involved in choosing Thursday, Friday, Saturday dates in 2009: either September 24,25,26 or October 1, 2, 3.
- Heather and Margaret both suggest inviting folks beyond the current working group membership to be a part of conference planning, particularly on the Program Planning Sub-Committee.
- Michelle suggested that someone from the National Children's study be involved with the conference and she will e-mail Gail and Julia with a name.

Children's Health Month in October (Margaret)

- Children's Health month does not seem to be being celebrated this year, even though last year there was a Congressional Resolution honoring it.
- Russ mentioned that the third week in October is Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- October is Green Month – perhaps we can connect children's health with mainstream environmental movement.
- We can't piggy back on other events, since they are not happening.
- We can get information up on the CHE website about our group.

National Children's Study (Michelle)

- The effort is on community building and getting the word out while we wait for funding delay to be over.
- Two more sites may be adding in the northwest: Thurston and Grant counties.

Synthetic Turf (Jeff and Cynthia for Tracee)

- Working on developing a purchasing specification for field turf,
- Tracee is connected with the risk manager for Seattle Public Schools.
- Cynthia is one of the reviewers of the purchasing specs.

E-mail bulletins and listserves (Gail)

- Gail will no longer send them out because CHE-WA sends out twice monthly bulletins and **proposed that working group members sign up to receive the bulletin. Two ways to do that:**
 - Join CHE-WA officially via e-mail on their site <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html> and if you join you will receive two bulletins a month and 1-3 other messages.
 - Or, add your name only to the distribution list and get the bulletins only.
 - CHE-WA working group members may submit items directly to Nancy Snow at ICEH nsnow@iceh.org , who moderates the bi-monthly CHE-WA bulletins
 - Margaret mentioned the distribution list Above the Fold, which compiles environmental health news and comes out every day <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/subscribe.html>
- NW Kid's Environmental Health List is maintained by Dave Nightingale at DOE. This listserv has been around for about three years. Dave wondered if CHE-WA wanted to moderate the list, review the postings, post to the list and let others know of our working group and/or post our notes to the list. **The group decided that it made sense to announce our existence to the list and Gail and Julia will become reviewers. To join this listserv, write to** LISTSERV@LISTSERV.WA.GOV and, in the text of your message (not the subject line), write: SUBSCRIBE NW-KIDS-ENV-HEALTH

Shopper's Card (Gail, Margaret)

In 2006 LHWMP produced a shopper's card in an attempt to offer simplified information in a form that might be useful in a store if carried in wallet or purse. One side of the card talks about hazardous consumer products (such as cleaners, etc.), and the other side talks about produce (fresh food), listing under a red banner, "high pesticide risk: if you can, buy these organic" and listing under a green banner, "low pesticide risk: less need to buy organic." The basis for the produce side of the card was pesticide residue data collected by USDA yearly.

Recently LHWMP decided to revise the card and pulled it from circulation. This raised criticism from some, saying the program had caved to pressure from large agriculture. The newly revised card is available on our website <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/ShoppersCard.html> LHWMP welcomes comments and plans to revise the card further using 2007 data.

Next Meeting (Julia)

The group decided that since our October meeting falls on the 9th which happens to be a major Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, and since some members of our group celebrate that holiday, we will not meet in October. The conference committee, which normally meets after the whole group, will re-schedule a meeting for another day in October.

Guest presentation: *An update on the Children's Safe Products Act and Bisphenol-A* by Margaret Shield.

See handout of slides

Attendance list:

Angela Delahoz	Public Health-Seattle and King County
Cindy Callahan	Seattle Public Utilities
Christine Matter-Rinehart	Tacoma-Pierce County Health
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food-Change Your Life!
Gail Gensler	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Heather Trim	People for Puget Sound
Jeff Ketchel	Public Health-Seattle and King County
Julia Berg(facilitator)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Kristi Waddell	EPA-Region 10
Margaret Shield	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Michelle Sommargren	NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
Mille Piazza	Department of Ecology
Miranda Taylor	Change Your Food-Change Your Life!/Gesundheit Acupuncture
Russ Clausen	EPA-Region 10
Thai Nguyen	Public Health-Seattle and King County

Next Meeting

September 11, 9:30-11:30, King County, 130 Nickerson, Suite 105

Next Agenda Items

- Status of the matrix
- Web site status update