

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

**Meeting Notes**

Thursday, September 11th

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: UW Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health (CEEH), 4225 Roosevelt Way NE

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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**

- Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Aimee Boulanger, CHE-WA
- Carolyn Gleason, HRSA
- Lorelei Walker, PhD student, UW Institute of Public Health Genetics
- Liz Guzy, CEEH
- Marilyn Hair, CEEH

**Attendees by phone**

- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- Gretchen Stewart, EPA
- Peter Marchiee, EPA
- Holly Davies, Ecology
- Nancy Bernard, WA DOH

**Next meeting:** October 9, 2014 @ Seattle - King County Public Health, 401 5<sup>th</sup> Ave #1300, Seattle

**Topic:** 2015 CHE-WA Forum - topic ideas

**Update on CHE-WA's [NW CEH Forum](#) follow-up projects**

1. 'How-to-put-on-a-Forum' manual is completed. It's online on Sharepoint. Ask Gail Gensler or Aimee Boulanger for access.
2. Outreach event: Nicole, Steve, Holly and Aileen presented CEH at the May conference of the WA State Environmental Health Association. Title: "Healthy Environments for the Next Generation -- Before, During, and After Pregnancy". In a 1-hour talk, they summarized the Forum, talked about Ecology's BPA regulations, ACOG - reducing exposures, BPA and BPA-substitutes, Green Chemistry & glass.
3. Table-top exhibit to go on the road - Gail to develop. Gail asked for volunteers to help develop. Potential resource is a UW School of Public Health Practicum student as a 120-hour volunteer. Gail will consider.
4. \$6,000 remains in the budget from the Forum, expiring in summer 2015, for small, focused events, presentations to other groups. If interested, contact Aimee.

## Updates from group members

### Rachel Koller

1. Rachel followed up with Megan Dunn, NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, CHE-WA speaker at the June meeting to collaborate on Seattle Public School's 2012 pesticide use policy. They are trying to find ways to better implement this great policy.
2. Cleaning for Health, Green Cleaning in Adams Public School (Seattle School District) - Rachel and the school nurse provided cleaning kits to teachers and taught them about cleaning (soap and water) vs. disinfection.
3. The Adams school nurse suggested taking Cleaning for Health to all Seattle District School nurses. CHE-WA resources from Forum (see above) are a potential resource to provide cleaning kits to district nurses.

### Peter Murchie

1. Peter is primary contact for WA region EPA.
2. EPA's big project is the gold mining proposal at Bristol Bay, Alaska, which would be the largest gold mine in the world. Margo Young is the busy team lead.
3. Staffing gaps with Margo reassigned; Peter is helping with CHE-WA and national children's health work group until Margo comes back. Elaine Conley is staff member focused on schools, ACA, and Tribal issues.
4. October is Children's Health Month at EPA. A program is planned for Seattle EPA staff; Dr. Michael Skinner is keynote. Peter will let us know if the event is open to others by webinar.

### Gail Gensler

1. Gail assists childcare providers to use less toxic materials and lower exposures in their child care. She does site visits, provides funds for healthier purchases, and serves as a resource. Providers can apply to be endorsed as a National Eco-Healthy Child Care ®. An East African family childcare is now endorsed.
2. Gail is participating in a statewide disinfection, sanitizing and cleaning Working Group. The group is working on directions for mixing cleaning solutions, bleach dilution percentage, and bleach alternatives. Members of the working group include DOH (Lowest Jefferson and Nancy Bernard), Department of Early Learning, and a nurse from Snohomish County, among others. WA DOH recommended an official recommendation be developed. Standards are also needed for disinfecting water when water supply is compromised in an emergency. CDC recommends *1t. bleach/5 gal water*, but it's complex because bleach concentration ranges from 5-8%.
3. What about developing a phone app for bleach dilution to ppm? Could host with Ready.gov

### Lorelei Walker

1. Lorelei is developing a short video, "Epigenetics and the Environment" with funding from UW Center for Ecogenetics & Environment Health. The video uses BPA, air pollution, and pesticides as examples.
2. PEPS (the Program for Early Parent Support of Snohomish Co) contacted Lorelei re: new parent training. She wonders if anyone is working with PEPs? Gail recommended Michelle Gaither of West Seattle; Rachel will connect with her.

**Holly Davies**

1. Ecology has proposed a Chemical Action Plan for PCBs. Public Comment period ends October 6; public meeting will be in Lacey.
2. UW Continuing Education is offering a Green Chemistry and Chemical Stewardship Certificate
3. New product testing database - Holly will send to NW-KIDS listserv.

**Nancy Bernard**

1. Webinars on School Environmental Health and Safety for school administrators and local health departments will be held Oct 15-Dec 9.
2. Nancy serves on the Disinfection Working Group described in Gail's update.

**Carolyn Gleason**

1. The invitation-only Tribal Asthma Summit is Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, co-sponsored by EPA, HUD and HRSA. Funds are available for tribal asthma in-home interventions. Gretchen Stewart is doing logistics. Carolyn will provide a table of CHE-WA information.

**Aimee Boulanger**

1. Aimee is working with [www.responsiblemining.net](http://www.responsiblemining.net) to find resources for socially responsible mines, especially regarding air and water quality. Proposal is open for public comment until Oct 22. Gold and silver mining companies are interested, but energy companies aren't.

**Marilyn Hair**

1. Coming event: Public Health Café: *The Quantified Self, Sharing your Data for Environmental Health Research*, presented by Prof. Edmund Seto, Tues, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30pm at West Seattle Chaco Canyon Café, 3770 SW Alaska.
2. CEEH held summer teacher workshops with Bellevue School District Health teachers to develop environmental health lessons for a 3-week EH curriculum to high school students. Bellevue teachers presented lessons to health teachers from central WA. Lessons included: UV exposure & sunscreen; Electronic Cigarettes; Sugars/Sweeteners; GMO Salmon.
3. A supplemental grant from NIEHS has supported a Native TEACH program working with 8 NW tribes to hold community conversations about environmental health issues. Outcomes include: Lower Elwha Klallam art show about salmon return following Elwha dam removals; Children's book for new moms in Port Gamble Sk'lallam Tribe.

**Monthly presentation**

As our meeting was on 9/11, this month's presentation was on Risk Communication Essentials for Public Health Professionals, given by Meredith Li-Vollmer, Risk Communications Specialist at Public Health-Seattle & King County. Meredith talked about Risk and perception of risk (Risk = Hazard + Outrage, or emotional response) and gave us some risk communication strategies. View the [presentation slides](#).