Children’s Environmental Health Working Group

Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE‐WA)

Thursday, March 9, 2017 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Washington Poison Center, 155 NE 100th St #100, Seattle 98125

Host/Host group: **Erica Liebelt, Washington Poison Center**

Speakers/Presentation: **Erica Liebelt, Medical and Executive Director, Washington Poison Center**

Topic: *The Washington Poison Center in 2017-Expanding Our Public Health Mission for Children.* Dr. Liebelt will discuss the mission of the WAPC and its services, specifically the WAPC’s role in harm reduction for marijuana edibles, prevention and public awareness of e-cigarette toxicities, lead poisoning, opioid exposures and secure take-back of medications, with the hope to spark discussion and opportunities for collaboration including data sharing and analysis, program growth, and research.

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CHE-WA Children’s Environmental Health Working Group: 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.

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| **Attendees in-person**: |  |
| Stephanie Edlund | Public Health - Seattle & King County |
| Marilyn Hair | UW Edge Center (notetaker) |
| Rhonda Kaetzel | Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry |
| Erica Liebelt | WA Poison Center (host) |
| Elisabeth Long | WA State Department of Health |
| Fran Solomon | The Evergreen State College - Tacoma |
| Shirlee Tan | Public Health - Seattle & King County |
| Arthur Wendel | Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations |
| Jennifer Wilson | WA Poison Center intern, UW Pharmacy student |
|  | attended the presentation |
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| **Attendees by phone:** |  |
| Nancy Beaudet | UW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit |
| Nancy Bernard | WA State Department of Health |
| Brian Fiedorczyk | EPA |
| Maia Thomas | Recent UW graduate |
| Lorelei Walker | CHE National |

**Opening**

Arthur Wendel welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order, and facilitated the agenda.

Next meeting will be April 13, 2017 at King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP), 130 Nickerson St #100, Seattle 98109.

**Group Discussion**

1. Nancy Beaudet (PEHSU)

* Catherine Karr presented on Lead: diagnosis, treatment and prevention at Seattle Children’s annual all-day conference for pediatricians. She also led a workshop at the conference on pediatric EH topics including air pollution and pesticides. 90 pediatricians attended
* Sheila Sathyanarayana will speak at the national Obesity Medicine Association meeting on April 21st in Seattle. Her topic is endocrine disruptor chemicals as a barrier to weight loss and obesity
* PEHSU funding is a 5-year grant that’s renewed annually. Funding is secure through April 2018, less secure through 2019 and even less through 2020.

1. Nancy Bernard (WA-DOH)

* Nancy is working on the 65th annual WA State Environmental Health Association Education Conference to be held May 1-3 in Wenatchee. Patrick Brysee, Director of ASTDR is the keynote speaker. Rhonda Kaetzel (ASTDR) and Arthur Wendel (ASTDR) are presenters, as is PHSKC
* Nancy will lead a day-long workshop on school inspections for local health jurisdictions
* She is scheduling dates for fall school EH safety workshops around the state. The workshop is for school staff including nurses, custodial staff, and administrators, and for local health jurisdiction staff

3. Stephanie Edlund (PHSKC)

* The Tacoma Smelter Plume Project that Stephanie works on has been re-named King County Dirt Alert to communicate that the arsenic plume from the Asarco smelter extends beyond Tacoma
* Stephanie has worked for 2 years on education and risk communication about lead and arsenic, staffing outreach tables at community events and conferences. Her contract ends in June
* The project is funded by Ecology with funds from the settlement from the Asarco smelter. Small grants are given to community groups, focusing on ethnic populations from South Seattle
* In next 2 years, the project will offer RFPs for community organizations or state agencies to reach populations in S. King County at risk for exposure to smelter toxins

4. Brian Fiedorczyk (EPA)

* EPA Children’s Environmental Health staff (Brian, and Gretchen Stewart) and their EPA colleagues across the country are working on a national strategy to address children’s exposure to lead
* Region 10 priorities include networking with partners around Children’s EH issues

5. Marilyn Hair (EDGE Center)

* The EDGE Center is offering a 1-day ATHENA Teacher Workshop on environmental health to Seattle School District Health Teachers on March 23
* Rhonda Kaetzel (ATSDR) shared ATSDR’s Mercury curriculum for middle school students. Rhonda will try to visit the ATHENA workshop
* EDGE Center has supplemental funding this year, partnering with University of Arizona, to develop a packet of materials to guide researchers to work appropriately with tribal communities and tribal members

6. Rhonda Kaetzel (ASTDR)

* ATSDR has been requested to investigate sites with perfluorocarbon exposures. They have investigated 8 sites in the region (Alaska, Oregon, Washington) and found perfluro- chemicals in nearly all of them, in contaminated water. Communication is difficiult because the chemicals are harmful but the science is not so advanced
* A legislator from PA is proposing $20M in federal funding for research studies on the effects of perfluro- exposure on human health
* ATSDR Director Patrick Breysee is the keynote speaker at the WA State Environmental Health Association Conference (see update by Nancy Bernard)
* ATSDR is conducting an air-monitor program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOS) in Yakima

7. Erica Liebelt (WA Poison Center)

* Erica is the new Executive and Medical Director of the WA Poison Center. She is a pediatrician by training, and has worked as a pediatric emergency medical doctor and as a medical toxicologist. She has worked with pediatric environmental health most of her career, mostly related to childhood lead
* The WPC is a 501c3 nonprofit. It’s one of 55 poison centers in the US. The WPC is staffed 24/7
* The mission of the WPC is to combat morbidity and mortality from toxic exposures in children.
* WPC is developing harm reduction programs for marijuana products, e-cigarettes and vaping
* Erica made today’s presentation. Slides will be posted with the April meeting invitation

8. Elisabeth Long (Wa Department of Health

Elisabeth’s work focuses on lead exposure

Elisabeth has been working to update the state lead exposure data. It is updated through the 3rd Q 2016 and will be posted by year on the WA Tracking Network

The Child Advisory Committee has proposed lowering the lead exposure limit to 3.0 μg/dL from 5.0 μg/dL. Present equipment can only measure to 3.3 μg/dL.

DOH has hired an intern to analyze the WA lead exposure map by census track and target outreach to clinical providers. They hope this will help educate providers and target screening of kids

HUD is putting out a RFP for a lead-based paint control grid for stakeholders. It pertains to building renovations across WA

A bill is before the WA legislature regarding the RRP rule. The bill proposes to increase license fees from $30/3 years to $30/year to hire more enforcement agents to monitor safe lead practice in buildings. A substitute recommendation has been proposed to raise the license fees to $16/year, enough to hire only one additional enforcement agent

DOH has responded to the Governor’s Directive on lead prevention (http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/300-018.pdf). DOH proposals include increasing lead screening rates in schools, and facilitating Medicaid reimbursement for case management following lead testing, which would also cover non-Medicaid kids. DOH also proposes testing old paint and soil in container gardens at in-home childcare centers

The public comment period for the Governor’s Directive on lead prevention is open

More on lead exposure and the Governor’s Directive on the Ecology website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/RTT/pbt/lead.html

9. Fran Solomon (TESC-Tacoma)

* Fran completed her class at the UWAOSHER Institute on Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals (EDCs)
* She will make several presentations and teach classes this spring on EDCs:
  + April 12 at the women’s prison in Gig Harbor
  + May 3 at Magnusen Park, Brigg Building
  + June 21 at Rainier Beach
  + Feb 22, 2018 at University House in Issaquah
  + Feb 28, 2018 at Cancer Lifeline

10. Shirlee Tan (PHSKC)

* Best Starts for Kids will provide funding for 2-3 positions for a new program at PHSKC on lead and other toxics
* Shirlee works with Nicole Thomsen. They are looking for partnerships to work on lead.

11. Maia Thomas (recent UW grad)

* Maia is doing research in Sequim on flame retardants, funded by Toxic Free Futures (formerly Washington Toxics Coalition). She is finishing data collection for air exposure to flame retardants in daycare settings
* Maia lives in Bellingham and could potentially expand CHE-WA’s reach there

12. Lorelei Walker (CHE-National)

* Elise Miller is finishing her tenure as CHE Executive Director. Karen Wang begins as Executive Director on April 1.
* CHE is hosting a Fireside Chat webinar series about Environment and Health in the Trump Administration, featuring leading national researchers in conversation with Michael Lerner, President of Commonweal. Scroll down to Partnership Calls on the CHE homepage, <https://www.healthandenvironment.org>. Direct links to the next 2 Fireside Chats:
* March 24 <https://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership_calls/94873>
* April 18 <https://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership_calls/94868>
* CHE is beginning to look at antibiotic resistance

13. Arthur Wendel (ATSDR)

* Tom Price, HHS Director has continued EPA grants to states for health. There are funds for safe-siting studies; the announcement of who is funded is coming in the next month

**Networking break**

**Presentation**Find the PPT presentation in the Meeting Presentations and Handouts section of the CHE-WA website,

WPC Executive Director Erica Liebelt presented *The Washington Poison Center in 2017-Expanding Our Public Health Mission for Children*