

CHE-WA Environmental Health Working Group
Minutes from the January 14, 2010 Meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2010 9:30-11:30

Speaker topic suggestion for next meeting:

- Sheela Sathyanarayana on phthalates
- Recent paper by National Children's Study – Erica will ask that group about a speaker
- Speakers on tribal, pesticide/farmworkers or Hanford

Find attendance list at end of notes.

I. Updates

Jeff Ketchel

- Is leaving Public Health Seattle & King County to become Administrator of Grant County Health District which includes the cities of Moses Lake and Ephrata. His last day with PHS&KC is February 12. We will all miss you Jeff! And best wishes in your new position!

Margo Young

- EPA Region 10 has a new administrator: Dennis J. McLerran, formerly Executive Director of Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.
- Margo will e-mail the group about two upcoming grant opportunities:
 - Indoor Air – recipients in the past have worked on associations with asthma and clean air in schools.
 - Environmental Justice Small grants.
- Let Margo know if any members are planning activities relating to Earth Day and /or National Health Schools Day.
- EPA has proposed new national standards for ground level ozone. To comment visit the website <http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/actions.html#jan10s>
- EPA Director Lisa Jackson has just published her priorities; children's environmental health, tribal and environmental justice issues are among her top concerns.
- Margo will be gone on family leave March-May.
- Margo is working with the School and Children's Health Team to create a newsletter that will reach facilities managers of schools in EPA Region 10. It will go out 2-3 times a year.

Nicole Thomsen

- Very busy wrapping up her EPA grant in this first quarter, to reduce childhood lead poisoning. To get screening data she is working with Head Start and Early Head Start providers, along with Neighborhood House and others. She plans to screen via blood test 500-600 children this quarter.
- Nicole is looking at the feasibility of doing outreach at paint retail stores. It seems best to give retailers a menu of options, for example: setting up a display, offering training to staff, setting out brochures and more.

Tracy Bier

- Tracy is in transition and hopes to land elsewhere in EPA.
- The EPA CARE program (not Environmental Justice as Tracy had mentioned in the meeting) is seeking applications with awards ranging from \$75,000 - \$100,000, deadline is March 9, 2010 It is a cooperative agreement; slightly different than a grant. A requirement is evidence of broad-based partnership building among nonprofit and government groups. <http://www.epa.gov/care/> Point of contact at EPA about CARE hanft.sally@epa.gov There are web casts scheduled through February for interested potential applicants.
- EPA Region 10 is doing a cooperative effort (with WA DOH among others) testing families' well water in the Yakima Valley. The concern is nitrates in drinking water. There is little data and little regulation.

Caitlin Steiner

- Caitlin's last day is next week. Good luck with your next endeavor, Caitlin!
- Her replacement will get the Comprehensive Resources Guide for low-income families and senior citizens in Seattle on line in a more interactive way than its current form.
http://www.alaw.org/air_quality/more_info_and_referral/Comprehensive%20Resources%20Guide.doc

Robin Kenepah

- The Childcare Health Program was "downsized" considerably and the team has gone through a recovery period.
- They are available for consultation in childcares: child development, mental health, nutrition, environment, etc. Their primary focus is on childcares, with infants.
- The current county budget situation has required them to go to a "fee for service" model, except in Seattle which provides childcares a subsidy.
- They also have a Child Psychologist and a Nutritionist available for consultation.

Erica Finsness

- Her group is working on producing several journal articles.
- They are also applying for a USDA grant with Steve Gilbert to craft a decision-making tool when farmers consider going organic.

Russ Clausen

- The Renovation, Repair & Painting Rule goes into effect 4/22/10.
- Russ will staff a booth on lead paint at the Seattle Home Show.

Dennis Weaver

- More is happening in the media regarding the Gates Foundation's involvement with genetically modified crops.

Miranda Taylor (via Dennis Weaver)

- Miranda is working to create a traveling RV selling organic food in the High Point area of West Seattle. She has been interviewed by KOMO about her idea, which includes job training for residents.

Jeanne Johnson

- ECOSS is in the process of finalizing their work plans. Jeanne may or may not be able to come to these meetings. We will miss you and your invaluable perspective, Jeanne!
- Jeanne wonders if anyone is working on declining bee population, which led Carol Carver to talk about three hives at her home.

Aimee Boulanger

- Aimee and Steve Gilbert will be organizing a meeting of the CHE-WA Steering Committee.

Gail Gensler

- Gail mentioned an event in San Francisco on Sunday, January 17th featuring Devra L. Davis, PhD, MPH, speaking on *Are Cell Phones Safe? How Teens Can Avoid Risk*.

Cynthia Shurtleff

- Cynthia reminded people of good resources to be found at the NW Pediatric Health Speciality Unit (PEHSU) website
<http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/resources.html>

II. Speaker

Anna Davis, field organizer for Washington Toxics Coalition informed the group about current legislative updates.

Because of budget concerns in this year's legislature, the Toxic Free Legacy Coalition, of which WTC is a member, are focusing their efforts on one children's environmental health bill this year: The Safe Baby Bottle Act. This bill was introduced last year and passed in the House but got stuck in the Senate. In 2010 the bill had its first hearing on Monday, January 11 and faced stiff opposition from industry representatives.

Since March 2009, seven US governments (city and state) have taken action to ban BPA, along with the governments of Canada and Japan. For more information visit the WTC page <http://www.watoxics.org/news-items/safe-baby-bottle-act-your-time-has-come>

III . Conference call with Comprehensive Health Education Foundation

Sue Anderson and Kathy Burgoyne from CHEF called to talk about the CDC grant they are pursuing. They propose to create a conference called *Washington's Public Housing: Healthy Communities - Healthy Homes Conference* in April 2011. The conference will make use of videoconferencing technology to enable key audiences throughout the State of Washington to participate at remote conference sites.

CHEF is partnering with Aileen Gagney of American Lung Association of Washington and would like a letter of support from the working group.

Margo will follow up with CHEF with our group's questions.

IV. Reports from sub-committees

1. *Possible* 2011 Forum – Gail – group has not met.
2. Working with childcares. Margo convened phone call with herself, Tracee M., Michelle G, Chris R. and Joanne Perodin of CEHN in Washington DC. CEHN are looking for partners. Carol Carver would like to be added to this group.
3. Information piece for health care provider waiting rooms. Julia has not convened this group.
4. Washington State Environmental Health Association WSEHA. Aimee has begun setting a meeting time.
5. Family Children's Environmental Health Fair – a small version. Julia has not convened this group.

III. Attendees (*indicates attended by phone)

Aimee Boulanger*	Environmental health consultant
Caitlyn Steiner	American Lung Association of Washington
Carol Carver*	Public Health nurse, semiretired. Health Coordinator, St. James family Center, Cathlamet, Washington
Christine Rosenquist*	Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network with offices in Tacoma
Cindy Callahan	Citizen (formerly of Seattle Public Utilities and DOE)
Cynthia Shurtleff	Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life
Erica Finsness	Children's Environmental Health Research Center - UW
Gail Gensler - facilitator	LHWMP
Jefferson Ketchel	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Julia Berg- note taker	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)
Margo Young	EPA-Region X, Children's Environmental Health and Environment Education
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Robin Kenepah	PHSKC Childcare health team
Russ Clausen	EPA-Region X, Lead Program
Tracy Bier	EPA-Region X, Drinking Water Unit