

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

Thursday, January 8, 2015

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: UW DEOHS, 4225 Roosevelt Ave N.E. Seattle, WA

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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
- Steve Gilbert, INND
- Carolyn Gleason, HRSA
- Marilyn Hair, CEEH UW Community Outreach Core
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Home Network / private consultant
- Anna Quach, American Lung Association
- Will Perry, Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen, Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Nicole Thomsen, , Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food Change Your Life!

**Attendees by phone:**

- Rad Cunningham, WA State Dept. of Health
- Holly Davies, WA State Dept. of Ecology
- Amina Kedir, Public Health – Seattle & King County intern
- Peter Murphy, US EPA Region 10
- Eric Saganic, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
- Gretchen Stewart, US EPA Region 10

Next meeting: Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will host the February meeting, EPA in March.

**Discussion of funding and future CHE-WA projects**

Gail: There were two primary funders for our 2013 forum: PPG grant from Ecology and KC LHWMP money. Over the last few weeks Nicole submitted a new PPG proposal, and INND agreed to be the fiscal sponsor. LHWMP money is available again.

Nicole re: the PPG grant

1. The PPG grant is a \$38K request over 2 years; relying on 2 different match funds, for a total project cost \$58K. Assumes we would charge registration fees for forums, etc.
2. The two main tasks in the new PPG proposal are
  - A forum, written broadly to allow flexibility. A related idea that Nicole is interested in would be a film festival with Q&A/talks.

- A children's environmental health teaching "roadshow" similar to the one that was done in 2011, but details open for the location, topic, and number of events. Goal is to reach 50 people with the roadshow (greater than our last one which reached 43 participants).
3. Also included: Funding for CHE members to do presentations at conferences, and \$15K for a project manager/planner since we are largely a volunteer group with limited capacity.

What about hospital community benefit dollars for funding? Specifically Verdant Health in Snohomish County. Nicole noted it may be difficult because our work has no direct clinical effect for them. Dennis suggested having a Snohomish focus to get the monies.

Conversation has started around NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides being our work group's fiscal sponsor (contact = Megan Dunn); however, they are based out of Oregon which may not be ideal.

Nicole: Another opportunity could be the EPA EE grants.

- It's a 2 year grant. 3 are given in each region.
- EPA EE grant follows federal fiscal year. Starts Oct 1.
- Could CHE use its remaining PPG funds (~ \$5K) to sub-contract with Rachel to write an EPA EE grant – flip ecology grant but expanded? (Steve will look into if this is a feasible use of funds.)
- 25% of awarded dollars need to be small community grants of \$5,000 – CHE had talked about wanting local community groups to be more active with our messaging. This would enable us to take our message out into the community and bolster it, while covering staff costs to run the admin. We could reach groups that don't have capacity to come to conferences, our meetings, etc.
- Peter advises we weigh the investment with the return.

Carolyn: Would like to emphasize reaching medical community. Office of Women's Health put out \$1K grants for local community groups to do education on subjects like tobacco. She's amazed at what people can do with relatively small amounts of money. Outreach to public health departments could be an idea to see if they are up for hosting something for medical and health communities.

Will: For KC, social equity filter is primary. He thinks the smaller groups are open to outreach/events and would be able to manage \$ for their communities on environmental health. Nicole and Tracee Mayfield and Sammi Troung are community based – lots of contacts.

Dennis: Votes for a Forum in 2015.

#### **Updates:**

- Nicole: been writing the grant
- Carolyn: was on vacation!
- Will: investigating childhood lead exposures. He's excited about developing an ESL curriculum around lead. Focused on lead based paint and cultural exposures including cosmetics
- Rachel: interested in project-based environmental health work in the coming year.
- Marilyn: The UW's next public health café: Duwamish cleanup topic February 3rd, with speakers from EPA speaker and Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition. Public policy topic- first time. See details at <http://depts.washington.edu/ceeh/community/public-health-cafe.html>

- Dennis: “Mango Tango” – funding thru sponsors to record it
- Sharon: Participating in Eco-healthy Childcare ® visits with Gail
- Anna: Partnering with DRCC – ALA has a Spanish interpreter and Vietnamese (Anna speaks Vietnamese). She recently did HEALs in a senior home and they want a group presentation on healthy homes.
- Gail: Continues reaching out to childcare providers with Eco-Healthy Childcare ®
- Steve: Finishing up our composting grant, has educational materials ready and is looking for places to put these materials – i.e. a display in an exhibit booth, etc. Focus on public health issues around composting. He’s framing a new talk about “walls”, began with his trip to Gaza. Has a talk on walls and how we can increase peace by getting rid of walls that form political, social, and physical boundaries.
- Gretchen: Wonderful new director of children’s health at HQ, Ruth Etzel. Gretchen is continuing with asthma healthy homes work and looking at Medicaid reimbursement with tribes and others. She’s off to Idaho working with childcare facilities, school districts, etc. on topics like healthy homes, air quality, and wood smoke. In March she will be in Alaska on these topics.
- Eric: Our next meeting will be at PSCAA. Near road air pollution is topic. He completed a grant for monitoring air toxics in Seattle’s International District around I-5. Reply coming in March 2015. They talked with Seattle Public School District (SPSD) about monitoring on their property. Troy White is his contact at SPSD.
- Holly: Legislative session starts on Monday. Governor Inslee has a toxics reduction package linked to the water quality rule linked to fish consumption. Package would give new authority to Ecology to ban chemicals in new products without going through legislature.
- Barbara Morrissey from DOH update via Gail: see Holly’s update
- Amina – She is a UW undergraduate majoring in environmental science. She is working with Public Health as an assistant for her practicum; this is her first CHE mtg.
- Rad: Working to update the state lead screening policy. Sending out invites for an expert panel for meetings to update the policy this year.

Presentation: Laurie Foster gave a presentation on her Healthy Nail Salons work. Posted to CHE website.