

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington (CHE-WA)**  
**Children's Environmental Health Working Group - Meeting Notes**  
**November 13, 2008 9:30-11:30**  
**Location: Canal Place, 130 Nickerson Ave.**

(Attendance list at very end)

**Accomplishments and updates**

Margo—At the Region 8 state Environmental Health meeting, she was able to provide breast feeding resources.

Gail— Through Catharine Karr, LHWMP learned of a medical resident from UW who was looking for a project involving children's environmental health issues. We've arranged for her to work with KC Public health.

Dennis—He is in the process of inviting Dr. Michael Skinner, whose specialty is trans-generational toxicology, to the Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum and Fair.

**Committee Reports**

**Conference Planning (Margo)**

- Great progress on planning
- Looking for help
- Subcommittees have been formed
  - Budget--Amy
  - Programs--Margaret
  - Sponsorship--Heather
  - Logistics--Jeff
  - Vendors and exhibits—Julia
  
- The dates for the conference are Oct. 1,2 and 3, 2009
  - Thursday emerging science
  - Friday, Policy
  - Saturday, public fair - practical tools and questions answered

Speakers are being invited. The level of names is top class-national class (invitees)

- Devra Davis
- Bruce Lanphear
- Ted Schettler
- Michael Skinner

Sponsorship letters are going out. If you know anyone, let Margo know. Various levels of sponsorships are available.

Grants have been applied for:

- Ecology

Grants will be applied for:

- Nat'l Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences
- EPA Conference support
- ATSDR/CDC Grant

Sign up if you want to get involved with the conference!  
Level of activities should be skyrocketing.

#### **National Children's Study (Lisa)**

- Grant County—now
- Thurston County & Marion County (Oregon)—will start in a year
- Recruitment delayed until 2010
- Vanguard centers are being used as pilots—data from Vanguard centers will be used to modify future centers
- Have to wait for data from Vanguard centers

#### **Turf (Tracy)**

- San Francisco just did a beautiful job of applying the precautionary principle to synthetic turf— investigated health and financial issues, involved the public, considered the alternatives
- San Francisco will continue installing artificial turf, but will also try alternative fields
- CDC has recommended testing-- if turf is frayed, kids under six shouldn't use it.
- King County is stalled for the moment. The public info person has to go over policy, but a flu endemic is holding up his review.

#### **Updates from members on current CEH projects**

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative has developed a policy consensus statement on environmental agents associated with neurodevelopmental disabilities. See <http://www.iceh.org/pdfs/LDDI/MentalHealthFactSheet.pdf> —Steve

A prepublication version of EPA's *Our Coloring Book*, designed for children to educate them about lead hazards around the home, was handed out by Russ.

#### **NW PEHSU (Nancy)**

- Exploring development of a sister PEHSU in SE Asia
- Working on a melamine fact sheet... due to be ready by Jan. 1, 2009.
- Next meeting is Tuesday Dec. 18. Health educators from Alaska, Oregon, and Washington

#### **Lead conversation (Lauren)**

- Working with Head Start to give them Pb information

- Working with health care providers to screen kids for Pb (WDOH as ten portable blood lead analyzers they are loaning to Head Start programs. The goal is to see if Head Start kids are at higher risk. So far the data are not showing that.)
- DOH does not recommend to parents that they have their kids tested for lead. Nor do they recommend that parents not test for lead. This is a change from their earlier “don’t screen” message.
- The expert panel told them to do more work to get data on risk factors. Until then the recommendation is that providers use their clinical judgment. It’s OK for providers to use a risk factor questionnaire.
- Trustworthy data are hard to come by. It’s hard to get enough data to find causal trends.
- New directions would be to do more primary prevention and messaging, and to intervene with children whose BLL’s are 5-9 (vs. 10).
- National level of kids whose BLL’s are over 10 is one percent; Washington is at .4%, CA and OR are at .5% Perhaps more data on Washington kids can be obtained by doing a sentinel site survey.
- Hoping to get funding to study Pb-based home remedies used in Mexican-American households and homes of Hindi-speaking Southeast Asians.

#### **Healthy kids fair in Tacoma/Pierce (Julia)**

- 250 parents
- 73 blood lead tests
- Lead testing in toys and other consumer products
- Gave away lots of prizes
- We can learn from them. This looks a lot like what we’re planning for our third conference day.
- They have funding to do it again
- Blood level data did get reported and will be on the website

#### **Seattle City Council commissioned a study - Health and safety of Rental Housing (Jeff)**

- A full report to be issued in July.
- Possibly will lead to a licensing or inspection program
- Pasco has such a program.
- Jeff was interviewed for the study and told them lots about lead.
- This is potentially a huge step forward for healthy housing in our region.
- The Health Department is also pursuing a contract with CDC for a Seattle/King County lead elimination plan. It may happen, but the money’s not in the bank yet. Maybe early next year.

#### **Take apart parties (Jeff)**

- Starting to get inquiries
- Guidance will be coming from LHWMP.

**Guest presentation: *Lead in King County* by Nicole Thompson**

See handout of slides, attached.

**Ideas for speaker topics for future CHE-WA working group meetings:**

Precautionary Principle—Tracy

Data—Lauren

Precautionary Assessment (a different approach to risk assessment)—Steve

**Matrix**

Margo will give Gail a link that can go into the minutes.

Attendance list:

Aileen Gagney	ALAW
Cindy Callahan	Seattle Public Utilities
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food-Change Your Life!
Elisabeth Long	Dept. of Health
Gail Gensler	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Henry Draper (note taker)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Jeanne Johnson	ECOSS
Jefferson Ketchel	PH-SKC
Julia Berg(facilitator)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Lauren Jenks	WA State Department of Health
Lisa Younglove	UW National Children's Study
Margo Young	EPA
Millie Piazza	DOE
Michelle Gaither	Pollution Prevention Resource Center
Nancy Beaudet	UW PEHSU
Nicole Thompson	PH-SKC
Russ Clausen	EPA
Steve Gilbert	Institute for Neurotoxicity and Neurological Disorders
Tracee Mayfield	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County