

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

**Meeting Notes**

Thursday, November 13th

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: UW PEHSU, 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
- Carolyn Gleason, HRSA
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- Marilyn Hair, UW Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health
- Dennis Weaver, Change your Food, Change your Life
- Rad Cunningham, WA Dept of Health
- Nancy Bernard, WA DOH
- Anna Quach, American Lung Association
- Nancy Beaudet, UW PEHSU
- Eric Saganic, Puget Sound Clean Air

**Attendees by phone**

- Lorelei Walker, PhD student, UW Institute of Public Health Genetics
- Gretchen Stewart, EPA
- Nicole Thomsen, Public Health, Seattle & King County
- Holly Davies, Dept of Ecology
- Judy Bardin, WA Dept of Health

**Next meeting:** December 11, 2014 @ UW Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE

**Topic:** Engaging Epigenetics. Presenter: Lorelei Walker

**Updates from group members**

**Gail Gensler**

1. Gail continues offering workshops to child care providers in King County to teach how to reduce toxic exposures in childcare settings. The program offers a free site visit and support to purchase up to \$500 (match) in supplies. Gail is looking for childcares to participate - if you know any in King County, please let her know.

2. Announcement: Advance showing of PBS program, *The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation*. Dow Constantine, Host. Thurs, Nov 20. 6:00-8:30 at IKEA Performing Arts Center, Renton High School

#### **Eric Saganic**

1. Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is working on a new strategic plan, moving to reorganize from doing source control to work more on mitigation and asking the community what they want, with an EJ focus.
2. More work with clinicians to provide information about near-road air pollution, esp. prenatal and infant exposures. Developing factsheet and training with education credit. They are looking for forums where they can present this information.
3. Air pollution reduction activities: In Tacoma, working to change out uncertified woodstoves. Change-out funds are available from Ecology, based on income. Pierce County is a non-attainment area for air quality. Old uncertified stoves will be banned beginning 9/15.
4. Working in Duwamish Valley with Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, American Lung Assn, and Public Health Seattle & King County to reduce exposures, plant trees as mitigation, and monitor air quality before & after.
5. PSCAA's new website focuses on outreach and communication:  
<http://www.pscleanair.org/Pages/default.aspx>

#### **Rachel Koller**

1. Rachel commended Nancy Bernard for the school EH workshop Nancy led in Redmond.
2. Cleaning for Health, Green Cleaning in Adams Public School (Seattle School District) - Rachel continues working on green cleaning at her daughter's school.

#### **Rad Cunningham**

1. Rad has a new role at WA DOH, as healthy community & environment epidemiologist. He still has responsibility for lead until someone new is hired.
2. Train traffic in Hoquiam - a chemical storage facility and rail infrastructure is being built in Hoquiam, located near 2 schools. Governor Inslee commissioned Ecology to study the health impacts of the increase in marine, oil and rail traffic, which include air quality and safety issues. DOH is partnering with Ecology.
3. Lead: An expert working group is being formed to reassess lead impact. Presently, WA gives clinicians discretion to screen for lead. DOH would like more substantial guidelines. Medicaid requires kids to be screened for lead exposures but this is not being done in WA. State has been warned about non-compliance.
4. Resource: Washington Tracking Network, in design phase, will include all EH data (air quality, lead, radon) to give a community EH profile

#### **Lorelei Walker**

1. *Health Equality Circle* is a medical professional student organization focused on advocacy in the community, as a way for medical professional students to engage with the community on health:  
[http://students.washington.edu/uwhhec/Health\\_Equity\\_Circle/Health\\_Equity\\_Circle.html](http://students.washington.edu/uwhhec/Health_Equity_Circle/Health_Equity_Circle.html).

2. UW now offers a 1-credit Fall and Winter Quarter class, *Health Advocacy and Community Organizing* (See: <http://www.globalhealth.washington.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/courses/UCO N 624.pdf>). **Speakers from community organizations are needed** - if interested contact Lorelei at [loreleis@uw.edu](mailto:loreleis@uw.edu). Class members plan to recruit 100 students for lobby day in Olympia; email Lorelei if you have a health equity issue for students to take to Olympia.
3. Nancy Beaudet offered a related resource, the UW Center for Environmental Politics [http://depts.washington.edu/envirpol/?page\\_id=25](http://depts.washington.edu/envirpol/?page_id=25)

#### **Gretchen Stewart**

1. EPA is working in Yakima on nitrates in the groundwater and blue baby syndrome. EPA is partnering with UW PEHSU's Dr. Catherine Karr to train clinicians. They are making a video and will present, offering CME's and Q&A with Dr. Karr.
2. WA State Asthma Conference is tomorrow - Nov 14<sup>th</sup> - in Tumwater.
3. There is no longer an asthma program at WA DOH as DOH lost the CDC grant - from Nancy Bernard.

#### **Holly Davies**

1. Governor Inslee will introduce a bill to expand Ecology's authority to ban toxins in products without going to the legislature for every situation.

#### **Nicole Thomsen**

1. Public Health Seattle & King County is working with the King Co. Board of Health on healthy housing minimum standards.

#### **Judy Bardin**

1. Judy is evaluating health impacts on children from the 2012 season wildfires.
2. Wildfire data from 2014: 300,000 acres and 300 houses were burned; Okanogan County lost power and water. Air quality was bad just on some days.

#### **Nancy Bernard**

1. Nancy continues leading workshops at schools. Workshops cover cleaning and disinfection, indoor air quality, communicable diseases affecting schools, integrated pest management, and radon testing. Nancy's DOH website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/Workshop>

#### **Carolyn Gleason**

1. HRSA is doing planning for 2015. They plan CHE-WA training for providers.
2. Carolyn works with the state Maternal and Child Health groups.

#### **Marilyn Hair**

1. The CEEH is writing its competing grant renewal. A new name has been chosen, the EDGE Center, for Exposures, Diseases, Genetics & Environment.

### Anna Quach

1. Anna is an Americorps staffer at the American Lung Association.
2. ALA is working to extend home health assessments beyond Seattle into King County.
3. Radon testing - Anna will follow up to confirm that her & Nancy Bernard's contact *Mike* still offers free radon testing. Oregon American Lung Assn sells radon testing kits for \$15 for a short-term kit and \$30 for long-term, including lab analysis.

### Dennis Weaver

1. Uncle Matt's has created a new juice blend, being promoted with a jingle and dance contest, *The Mango Tango*. All are invited tomorrow, Fri Nov 14 to the House of Hong Restaurant at 8<sup>th</sup> and Jackson. Uncle Matt's will add a QR code to the label that links to the jingle.

### Nancy Beaudet

1. See above, Gretchen Stewart's EPS - PEHSU collaboration on nitrates in groundwater. PEHSU has a factsheet on nitrates for healthcare providers: <http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/factsheets>
2. PEHSU clinician Dr. Sheela Sathyanarayana has a 2012 paper in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, *Environmental exposures: how to counsel preconception and prenatal patients in the clinical setting*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22440197>. Sheela is being invited to present at grand rounds across the country.
3. PEHSU will not hold their *Research Matters* conference in 2015. Instead they are collaborating on *Current Topics & Best Practices in Occupational and Environmental Medicine in Agricultural Communities*, Feb 27-28, 2015 in Yakima. Here's the flyer: [https://gallery.mailchimp.com/6c708228a9c7bc582245b7485/files/occ\\_env\\_med\\_ag\\_10\\_1\\_14\\_G.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/6c708228a9c7bc582245b7485/files/occ_env_med_ag_10_1_14_G.pdf)
4. PEHSU is resubmitting their 5-year grant. PEHSUs are refocusing on education, webinars and trainings, and to expand beyond pediatrics to a developmental focus. UW-PEHSU is looking for an OB-GYN physician with expertise in environmental health.

## Monthly presentation

*The Sound of Freedom: Chronic Aircraft Noise Exposure and Children's Health* by Nancy Beaudet

Nancy presented PEHSU's collaboration with Whidbey Island residents to study the health effects of noise from military Growler jet touch-and-go training. High noise levels have demonstrated effects on children's learning, annoyance and motivation. The issue is highly politically charged; Island County and the Board of Health are not able to address it.