

Children's Environmental Health Working Group

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

Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: UW Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100, Seattle

Host group: Marilyn Hair, Outreach Manager, Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health

Speakers/Presentation: Whitney Pennington and Jared O'Conner, Washington Poison Center (WAPC)

Topic: Washington Poison Center

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.

Attendees in-person:

Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Nancy Beaudet	UW PEHSU
Gail Gensler	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Marilyn Hair	UW Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health (CEEH)
Emily Polstein	American Lung Association
Suppora Sim	ECOSS
Arthur Wendel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations
Steve Gilbert	Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND)

Attendees by phone:

Megan Dunn	Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
Rhonda Kaetzel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Rachel Koller	Cleaning for Health
Michelle Gaither	Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)
Lorelei Walker	Health Equity Circle
Gretchen Stewart	EPA
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health – Seattle & King County

Opening

Gail Gensler welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order, and facilitated the agenda.

Next meeting will be April 14, 2016, hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Sixth Ave, Seattle.

Group Discussion

1. Lorelei Walker (Health Equity Circle) reported on the CHE-WA lead presentation at the Seattle Home Show on February 24th. CHE-WA partnered with the WA Dept of Commerce (DOC) and PEHSU Director Dr. Catherine Karr. Lorelei, Gretchen, Rachel, Nicole, and Marilyn from CHE-WA attended, as well as Dr. Karr and 3 staff from the Dept. of Commerce. Goody bags with information about lead and the CHE-WA flyer were given to attendees, including a lead test stick provided by the DOC. The venue was a roped-off presentation area at the edge of the exhibit area. Attendance at the Home Show this Wednesday afternoon was very low and 8 people came to the presentation. Gretchen videotaped it. The group gave kudos to Lorelei for her amazing organization and partner recruitment. Gail, Gretchen, Rhonda, Nicole, Lorelei and Elizabeth Long will brainstorm how best to leverage the presentation video.
2. Rachel Koller (Cleaning for Health) has been in touch (via Aileen Gagney, American Lung Assn) with a mother in WY whose 5th grader has Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). After advocating for her daughter in school year after year, this mother is trying to provide a document to her school district to develop policies that will protect children from chemical exposures from cleaning products. Rachel's message for safer cleaning products is reaching far. Gretchen Stewart added that lack of school resources makes it difficult to change cleaning protocols and educate staff. We at CHE-WA, Cleaning for Health, EPA, etc. will be more easily heard when we can be sympathetic to limited resources, & offer clear resources, show the easiest way to make changes, and even provide funding for new supplies. Smart messaging goes a long way.
3. Gretchen Stewart (EPA) reported their schools newsletter has gone out. PEHSU and ATSDR will be presenting a workshop for pediatricians in Region 10 about priority issues in children's environmental health. EPA Director Gina McCarthy spoke in Seattle on March 9th (yesterday) and gave good marching orders for Region 10.
4. Nicole Thomsen (Public Health – Seattle & King County) reported that the topic of lead is moving forward, driven by the lead emergency in Flint, Michigan. Locally, some water in schools is tested at DOH. Public Health – Seattle & King County will give a presentation on lead to the King County Board of Health and also present about healthy housing. Public Health – Seattle & King County anticipates developing a user's guide and offering technical assistance on healthy housing. They will ask the Board of Health to adopt recommendations for healthy housing as soon as May.

Nancy Bernard reminded the group that WAC 246-366A (water quality monitoring in schools) was passed but frozen because it wasn't funded. Steve Gilbert asked whether there are lead water feed/service pipes in Seattle. Nicole and Nancy said there are not lead service pipes in major cities or in unincorporated areas in King County. The solder in pipes, however, may be copper with lead. Nancy reported that lead pipes were uncommon after 1930 and not used at all after 1950. Solder had to be <2% lead after 1989 and since 2014 must be <0.2% lead. Since 2014, brass must contain <0.25% lead. Nicole reported she has not encountered a single high-lead reading from water in housing in her 12 years working on it.

5. Megan Dunn (NCAP) offered a correction to last month's minutes: House Bill #2392 is the bill addressing pesticide-related children's illnesses. Steve Gilbert has joined the NCAP Board, representing Washington. Megan presented about healthy homes to Thurston County and offered to develop a workshop for legislators on the implications of WAC 246-366A (water quality monitoring in schools) being frozen/ unfunded. CHE-WA can't do advocacy, but individual members can.
6. Michelle Gaither (PPRC) made a 30-minute presentation about green cleaning at the Tribal Green Summit at Snoqualmie Casino. Tribal Healthy Homes Network is a non-profit serving this high-asthma population. 13,000 Native American adults in Washington have asthma. Michelle noted the heavy tobacco smoke in the casino.
7. Rhonda Kaetzel and Arthur Wendel (ATSDR) noted their project in Portland working with art glass shops (these shops make sheets of stained glass) about metal emissions. These small businesses are a source that has fallen under the radar of the Clean Air Act and TSCA. They use heavy metals fired with sand to make colorful glass. The team found a daycare facility located near an art glass shop and a large rail yard.
8. Steve Gilbert will talk about lead on the radio with Diane Horn on March 26th. His *Toxipedia* book has been translated into German, Slovenian, Serbian and Amharic. ECHO, a new Children's EH study follow-up from the de-funded Children's Health Study, is looking for advisors. UW's Joel Kaufman is writing a grant proposal.
9. Katie Frevert (UW Superfund Research Program, SRP) was unable to attend but reported that their grant renewal proposes to offer Lighting Talks about *Environmental Exposures & How to Protect My Health*. SRP would like to offer these events through CHE-WA.
10. Suppora Sim represents ECOSS, The Environmental Coalition of South Seattle.
11. Emily Polstein (American Lung Association) works with the Master Home Environmentalist program. ALA made 250 home visits in 2015. The 8-week, 35 hour Master Home Environmentalist volunteer training is going on now, with an enrollment of 14.
12. Gail Gensler (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County) reminded us that her job is transitioning away from Children's EH. She led a teacher workshop that was filmed for their website, and she is updating the Infants and Young Children section of the website before she moves on. Gail also passed around their flyer, *Shopping for Less Hazardous Products for Children? Read the labels first*.

Networking break

Presentation

The Washington Poison Center's Whitney Pennington, Education and Communications Specialist, and Jared O'Conner, Health Education and Outreach Specialist, gave a lively, informative presentation about the Washington Poison Center. The WAPC offers many services CHE-WA members weren't aware of and also talked about marijuana and electronic cigarettes. The presentation will be posted on the CHE-WA website. Whitney asked if those who attended would kindly take the feedback survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wapcPHfeedback> (copy and paste into browser).