

Children's Environmental Health Working Group
CHE-WA
March 11, 2010

Note taker

Julia Berg

Attendance

Julia Berg, Meredith Eddy, Cindy Callahan, Dennis Weaver, Jeanne Johnson, Erica Finsness, Lauren Jenks, Karen Bowman, Cherie Eichholz, Martha Perla, Tracee Mayfield, Gail Gensler

By phone:

Laura Hutchinson

Report Outs

- 1) Julia Berg – Mentioned attending a showing of *A Chemical Reaction: The Story of a True Green Revolution* <http://www.safelawns.org/chemical-reaction/> and the desire to connect lawn care issues to CEH.
- 2) Dennis Weaver – Had an organic food booth at a recent celebration of Black History month at Pacific Lutheran University. Has also found a middle school aged singer and may add her to his team of performers who sing about an organic food message.
- 3) Miranda Taylor, via Dennis – Attempting to purchase two trucks which would travel and bring organic food to the greater White Center area. Miranda is connecting with Seattle & King County Public Health in the Corner Store Nutrition Project, and will re-connect with Jeanne Johnson of ECOSS>
- 4) Erica Finsness – Reminded us of the monthly CEH Journal Club held at UW, presenting current CEH research in a Q&A format.
- 5) Jeanne Johnson – ECOSS is in the planning stages of a “Green Jobs” effort that would involve knocking on doors of those typically under represented in that segment. She has several “Baby Boosts” events upcoming.
- 6) Meredith Eddy – ALAW continues with asthma and landlord/tenant relations, with Aileen recently testifying in court. Meredith is recruiting homes that would like a HEAL, and looking for community health fairs.
- 7) Nicole Thomsen – She screened 400 + children for lead exposure, via a blood test. She is working with Head Start and Early Head Start programs. They are finding 8-9% of children with 3.3 mg/dl or higher. She is also talking with Seattle Department of Planning and Development to include lead issues when they discuss permitting and demolition.
- 8) Cindy Callahan – Parenting!

- 9) Karen Bowman – She works for Washington State Nurses Association and is on the WA Physicians for Social Responsibility Board, and teaches occupational health at the University of Washington. She spent a lot of time lobbying for the recently passed Safe Baby Bottle Act. This act will ban BPA in sippy cups, baby bottles, other food holding containers for babies and sports water bottles, starting in 2011. She has a mini grant for Health Care without Harm to teach nurses in Spokane to incorporate the “I Prepare” EH assessment in their intakes. Her goal is to connect nurses with environmental health issues and other EH-related organizations. (She has presented to the following groups: Health Care without Harm, National Federation of Nurses, Washington State Nurses Association...)
- 10) Cherie Eichholz – Just finished a grant to “green” Children’s Hospital including policies, cleaning, food and transportation.
- 11) Tracee Mayfield – Working on blood lead investigations and working to create a workshop for childcare owners called “Greening Your Childcare.”
- 12) Martha Perla – A UW student, she is a volunteer at the Mexican Consulate teaching folks who are waiting for their paper work on a variety of EH topics She works with Community Health Action Program_. She is looking for contacts who may want to co-teach and also EH information in Spanish. BONUS: Martha and Nicole connected at the 2009 Forum!
- 13) Gail Gensler – She is doing lots of small out reach events and wants to find a way where our group can post all our individual doings. She writes articles to be published in various local venues, including King County Health Matters. She looks forward to working with King County Disabilities Offices and maybe training their outreach workers who are working with ESL speakers.
- 14) Lauren Jenks – Welcome back! She is mostly working on lead poisoning issues and handling serious budget cuts, which took away her ability to help local jurisdictions who are investigating high blood lead levels. She asked all of us who run into peeling paint issues in our work to tell Lauren about it.
- 15) Laura Hutchinson – She recently connected with Nicole and they (and Lauren) figured out a way to continue to insert WADOH lead information piece in the CHILD Profile mailings. She is in the process of developing CEH messages that will go in the newsletters mailed out to all children 0-6 in WA State.

Speakers

We welcomed CHE-WA CEH working group members Cherie Eichholz, Executive Director of Washington Physician’s for Social Responsibility, and Karen Bowman, WAPSR Board member.

Cherie spoke about PSR and its roots as an advocacy organization formed around nuclear issues. Begun in the 1960’s, PSR has 40,000 members nationwide and about 5000 here in Washington State. She reminds us that we have the unique and uncomfortable position of having both Hanford (the largest nuclear depository in the western hemisphere) and Bangor Submarine Base (holds ¼ of the U.S. arsenal) in our state. WAPSR is unveiling the new Washington Nuclear Museum and Educational Center (WANMEC) site.

<http://toxipedia.org/display/wanmec/Welcome> Key components of WANMEC include

being able to map the connections between Hanford and the world, an interactive timeline and a place for people to tell their Hanford stories.

“Particles on the Wall,” is an interdisciplinary display that debuted in a Seattle coffee house will travel across Eastern Washington.

Karen is a clinical faculty member in the Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing Program at the University of Washington and spoke about the Pediatric Environmental Toolkit <http://www.psr.org/resources/pediatric-toolkit.html> developed by PSR. (Trainers = Karen, Cherie, and Steve Gilbert) It is a combination of easy-to-use reference guides for health providers and user friendly health education materials on preventing exposures to toxic chemicals and other substances that affect infant and child health. She has been a local Toolkit workshop trainer since 2004 and has found that physicians and nurses in general just don't know about EH issues, and don't think there's a problem with children's environmental health.

She talked about the barriers providers face in attending such a workshop – their schedules are set far in advance and many companies are not as willing as they used to be to pay for staff to attend educational training. About 50 people came to the last training last year in Tacoma.

Nicole also tries to reach healthcare providers and has found one avenue to be attending nurses' luncheon meetings and plan on speaking very briefly – 20 minutes.