

MINUTES

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

March 12th, 2015 – 9:30-11

Meeting location: WA DOH offices, Kent Washington

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

- Vernon Andrew, US EPA Region 10
- Nancy Bernard, WA DOH
- Rad Cunningham, WA DOH
- Holly Davies, WA Ecology
- Carolyn Gleason, US HRSA Region 10
- Rhonda Kaetzel, Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Home Network / private consultant
- Elisabeth Long, WA DOH
- Nicole Thomsen, Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food Change Your Life!

Attendees by phone

- Angel Ip, ASPPH, US EPA Region 10
- Amy Leang, WA DOH
- Barbara Morrissey, WA DOH
- Peter Murchie, US EPA Region 10
- Anna Quach, American Lung Association

Next meeting: EPA Region 10 will host March meeting. This month's presentation will be Ruth Etzel, Director, EPA Office of Children's Health Protection. Presentation is unlikely to be shared via Adobe Connect, so it is recommended that you be there in person.

Discussion of funding and future CHE-WA projects

Nicole: 2013-2015 Ecology PPG grant

Approximately \$5K is left in the 2013-2015 Ecology PPG grant which ends in June. Rachel Koller presented a project proposal to work with the Seattle Public Schools around cleaning in the classroom that utilizes the remaining PPG funds. This proposal was approved by the CHE-WA CEH

MINUTES

membership as part of February's meeting. The CHE-WA approved proposal was sent onto Ecology for review and has received approval. Next steps are to complete and sign a grant amendment.

Nicole: 2015-2017 Ecology PPG grant

1. We received word that our grant proposal has been received. Total grant requests from across the state have exceeded the proposed funds allotted by the WA legislature. Grants will not be awarded until a budget is passed; however, work will be completed between now and then to identify awardees and draft contract language.
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.

Updates:

Holly Davies:

- The chemical action plan for PCB's is completed, recommendations include removing PCB's from ballasts and identify inadvertent industrial production of PCB's. Significant effort was put into a press release that did not get much attention.
- Gave a legislative update: HB 1174 regarding flame retardants has passed the house and is now heading to the senate.

Anna Quach: American Lung Association has begun the Master Home Environmentalist training and has a couple of slots still available.

Rachel Koller – Working with schools to introduce integrated pest management and safer cleaning methods. Possible collaboration with Nancy Bernard (DOH) on statewide school policy.

Rhonda Kaetzel – Working on creating a fisher map identifying alternative, accessible, fishing locations throughout the county in response to the Duwamish fishing advisories.

Elisabeth Long – Is the new lead and healthy homes epidemiologist at the Department of Health

Rad Cunningham – DOH and the Washington tracking network are building sets of indicators to track healthy communities, health disparity, and climate change.

Vernon Andrew - EPA lead program – Is educating / working with tribes to increase awareness of lead poisoning on tribal lands where RRP is not required.

Carolyn Gleason – working with HRSA on an adolescent health workgroup.

MINUTES

Dennis Weaver – Mango Tango is becoming a bar hit and educating people about the benefits of organic foods.

Nicole Thomsen – Is so awesome for helping me with this. Updates about healthy homes board of health work.

Barbara Morrissey – Participates in the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee which is a body of external researchers, academicians, health care providers, environmentalists, state and tribal government employees, and members of the public who advise EPA on regulations, research, and communications related to children's health. Two recent letters have been sent to EPA for consideration: Jan 8, 2015 advisory letter to EPA on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead (http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-01/documents/naaqs_for_lead_letter.pdf) and Dec 23, 2014 letter to EPA regarding draft updated advice with FDA on what pregnant women need to know regarding mercury in fish (http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-01/documents/chpac_final_fish_advisory_recommendations.pdf) (Letter) and (http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-01/documents/fish_advisory_letter_appendices.pdf) (Appendices)

Nancy Bernard – Nancy Bernard – Reported on a SB 6002 which would require schools to implement IPM and obtain IPM Star Certification. Megan Dunn, NCAP, promoted the bill with Senator Chase. The bill is not expected to progress this session, but Sen. Chase is convening a work group to address the issue. Nancy mentioned that a parent in the Lake Washington School District is working on King County Green Schools certification in green cleaning with information from Rachel Koller. Nancy has presented Rachel's information to various school nurse groups.

Peter Murchie – If CHE-WA wanted to join in with Grethcen's efforts with Catherine Karr around medical provider education. Also, does CHE-WA want to be involved with EPA's Asthma Summit taskforce work for the reimbursement of asthma home visits; mostly focused on tribal visits.

Amy Leang – Working on site assessments; interested in increasing participation

Angel Ip – An EPA fellow on children's health projects, also considering climate change and children's health. National Green Cleaning conference in July 30-31, 2015 run by the Healthy Schools Campaign in partnership with the UW, is coming to Seattle. Gretchen is working to get reduced registration fees for government and CHE folks.

Presentation:

Rad Cunningham presented on the health impacts of lead poisoning, state data, and the new lead risk map that identifies geographical risk for lead exposure using 11 risk factors.