

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

Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 8th
9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: WA Department of Health, Kent Office, Creekside Building 2, Suite 310, Kent 98032

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

- Nicole Thomsen, Public Health-Seattle & King County
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food-Change Your Life®
- Ann Butler, WA Department of Health
- Toni Higgs, CHE-WA
- Kris Larson, ATSDR
- Audrey Adams, Parent

Attendees by phone

- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- Nancy Bernard, WA DOH
- Shelia Markazi, University of Illinois Environmental Engineering Student
- Carolyn Gleason, HRSA
- Nancy Uding, Washington Toxics Coalition
- Nancy Beaudet, NW PEHSU
- Jennifer Howell, Triangle Associates
- Margaret Shields, LHWMP

Meeting

Next meeting: June 12, 2014 @ US Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Sixth Ave, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101

Topic: TBD

Update on CHE-WA's [NW CEH Forum](#) follow-up projects

1. Toni Higgs has been hired to work with CHE-WA CEH to complete our 'how-to-put-on-a-Forum' manual and to help prepare/organize our children's environmental health outreach presentations for particular audiences this year.
2. CHE-WA members are doing the following upcoming CEH-related presentations. The abstracts and presentations for these conferences will be made available on the CHE-WA website so that others can re-purpose them.

- a. Gail is presenting about Eco-Healthy Child Care[®] outreach at the [Infant & Early Child Care Conference](#) on May 8th in Tacoma.
- b. Nicole, Steve, Holly and Aileen will present CEH at the May conference of the WA State Environmental Health Association. Title: "Healthy Environments for the Next Generation -- Before, During, and After Pregnancy". They'll talk about lead and Healthy Homes and will showcase CHE-WA.
- c. No project proposal was submitted to the Joint Conference of the WA State Public Health Association in Yakima.

Updates from group members

Ann Butler

Been working on the WEBS project with DOH and will be giving the presentation later on this work.

Rachel Koller

1. Presenting to Seattle's Adams Elementary monthly staff meeting next week. Rachel is developing a classroom cleaning guide for the school. The guide continues with some simple examples of how to clean such as do not use disinfectant wipes, instead choose soap and water. Staff are not sure soap & water counts as "cleaning." 31 classrooms are at Adams Elementary.
2. Attending the National Tribal Conference at the Swinomish Tribe.

Nancy Uding

1. Nancy is the Grants and Research Specialist for WA Toxics.
2. The flame retardant bill did not pass in this session, but did pass the house. Given the potential shake-up in this year's election next year's success is unknown, but it will be the top priority for next session.

Shelia Markazi

To connect with Rachel Koller.

Nancy Bernard

1. Presenting two sessions at the Washington State Environmental Health Conference. One about mold and the other on school siting.
2. A school portable health & safety recommendations manual is in the works. Greener options are available. Dave Blake is authoring it.

Carolyn Gleason

1. CHE-WA hosting a CEH WIC webinar is still a work in progress.

Nicole Thomsen

1. Attended and presented on the Northwest Environmental Health Conference in Portland sponsored by the Oregon Environmental Council.
2. Work flow is still very much in flux.

Nancy Beaudet

1. Research Matters conference was held last month to great success. Planning for next years has already begun. Ideas include changing the target audience to health care providers and hosting the conference at Seattle Children's Hospital. This would also mean the conference being held on a weeknight or Saturday morning. A decision on this direction will be made next month.
2. The annual national Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit meeting is being held in Chicago this year.

Dennis Weaver

1. Per suggestion from Fran Solomon, Dennis participated in the Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus Fair on April 22 & 23 with 2 shows per day to acclaimed success. Their participation was such a success that they have been invited to participate in the Spring Fair on May 17th and host a Good Food Tour for 12 people scheduled for May 31st.

Audrey Adams

Provided background on her connection to environmental health and fluoride via her son.

Kris Larson

1. Retiring in two months. Mike Kinzer will be taking her place.
2. The ATSDR's regional director position is now open on usa.gov for applications.
3. Before retirement she will be 1) finishing up the "Your Child's Environmental Health" brochure and its translation into Spanish and 2) leaving a CD of all her presentations that are still relevant for Mike Kinzer or Karen Larson.

Toni Higgs

Getting grounded in our work and glad to be here.

Monthly presentation

This month the presentation was from Ann Butler an education and outreach specialist with WA DOH working on the Washington Environmental Biomonitoring Survey (WEBS) projects. Ann provided a brief overview of each of the four surveys; Statewide General Population Study, High Arsenic Area Study: South Whidbey Island, The Pyrethroid Exposure Survey and Testing Study, Survey of Low-Income Subsidized Housing in King County (LIST) Survey. WA DOH is currently applying for continued funding. View the [presentation slides](#).