

CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group Meeting
Meeting Notes
May 9th, 2013
Meeting location: Good Shepherd Center, Seattle

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: pre-conception to age

Attendee list

Host: Steve Gilbert, Institute for Neurotoxicology and Neurological Development
Host: Ana Rivero, WA Toxics Coalition
Aphrodyi Antoine, Health Resources and Services Administration- HRSA
Nancy Beaudet, UW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit - PEHSU
Aimee Boulanger, environmental health consultant
Rad Cunningham, WA State Dept of Public Health, lead prevention
Katie Frevert, Superfund Research Program at UW
Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County --LHWMP
Sonia Hoglander, HomEvolution, consultant on healthy home environments
Rachel Koller, environmental health consultant, Tribal Healthy Homes Northwest
Hamdi Mohamed, US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Will Perry, LHWMP
Fran Solomon, Environmental Science Professor, Evergreen Community College - Tacoma branch
Gretchen Stewart, Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA)
Nicole Thomsen: Public Health-Seattle & King County/and LHWMP
Krysta Thornton, American Lung Association
Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food - Change Your Life!TM
Margo Young, EPA

Upcoming Events

1. May 18: Evergreen Environmental Science Fair: free and open to the public
2. End of May: Margo Young's South Tacoma event on indoor environments
3. June 15: Lower Duwamish clean-up comments due

Action Items/Decisions

1. Send Dennis Weaver feedback on draft marketing brochure by June 12, 2013.
2. Send Gail ideas for possible articles (or topics) on CEH for AAP journal.
3. Rad will send list from WSEHA presentation.

Next Meeting

June 13 at WA Arboretum in Seattle. Dennis suggests arriving at 9:00 for donuts on the patio first at Graham Visitor Center.

Member Updates

1. Gretchen Stewart: getting ready to work with HUD on Healthy Homes program next week
2. Dennis Weaver: Shared draft of a marketing flyer for our working group that he had a colleague develop.
3. Fran Solomon: Focuses on environmental chemicals and endocrine disruptors. May 18th = fair on environmental projects/research with presentations by students, free and open to the public.
4. Margo Young: Training at end of May in South Tacoma; full day on IPM for housing, further on indoor environments; open to people serving South Tacoma area (first priority for attending)
5. Rad Cunningham: Launching healthy homes database, made presentation at WA State Environmental Health Association; will send over list
6. Katie Frevert: Superfund research Program at UW: public comment period on lower Duwamish waterway open until June 15
7. Nancy Beaudet: interest in Sheela Sathyanarayana's papers --especially on organic diet and reduction in phthalate levels and another on reproductive hazards recently published in journal, working with HRSA-funded conference in Seattle NW Primary Care Network – mostly for clinicians and other staff in primary care clinics – jointly funded with HRSA; working with EPA on TCE (was a DOT facility and small dry cleaner) contaminated water at Palermo site near Tumwater, to translate evidence to community there
8. Rachel Koller: being interviewed on TV about children's products database, interested in developing list of other parents willing to be interviewed about these issues by media outlets
9. Hamdi Mohamed: Healthy Homes event in Spokane upcoming; HUD is closing Spokane office at end of the fiscal year (September 30) due to reorganization
10. Krysta Thornton: American Lung Association is now able to offer outreach to Seattle-area families with a child with asthma: HEPA vacuums, high efficiency walk-off mat, pillow cases, bed cases, green cleaning kit (funding from city of Seattle)
11. Gail Gensler: Working with childcares to reduce toxic exposures to kids; King County region; has \$500 in voucher money for child cares to invest on methods of reducing exposures; focus this next year is Head Start to see if they can be of help there, several in King County already engaged. /On related note: next Friday at the CSHEL meeting in Renton there will be a discussion about the issue of recent bleach concentration change. /Interested in ideas for upcoming articles up to 500 words on children's environmental health for pediatrician readers in AAP journals – topics/authors welcomed.
12. Ana Rivero, doing contract work for WTC (toxic free kids programs)
13. Tom Buchanan, WPSR/speaker: Hanford CGS research, many people don't know that Hanford is also the only functioning nuclear power reactor in NW.

14. Steve Gilbert: *Toxipedia* will be published in Chinese in August.
15. Nicole Thomsen: Working on lead prevention programs with Rad. Doing traveling program w/DOH on lead prevention around the State; can read documents associated with case management or attend a meeting – just send Nicole an email and she will send you the information; goal is primary prevention, treat the house as a case rather than just each child; also get the home visitors to look for these issues not just their own current individual silos (like weatherization). Tacoma plume program now expanding again, hired new education coordinator, Denise Sharify, to staff this to help redeploy program.
16. Will Perry: lead prevention and healthy homes, focusing of late on environmental health website

CEH Forum Update

Date: December 5, 2013

Site: still being determined, preferably located in South King County, a place we can use our own caterer, affordable, suggestions welcomed

Sponsorship: We have a draft letter that can be used for outreach for sponsors; LHWMP, NAHMMA are both agreed as sponsors; amounts of all levels (\$20 or \$1000 both welcome) and also in-kind contributions welcomed, sponsorship letter outlines what a sponsor “gets” for giving at each level

Agenda: Agenda items welcomed, focus is on reproductive health outcomes (fertility, birth outcomes) for both men and women

Next Forum planning meeting is by phone on Thursday, May 23rd, from 9-10:30. Gail can provide call-in number to anyone wanting to join.

Of note

Steve Gilbert commented on crumbling foam falling apart from the broken chair (in which Aimee was sitting), and the related brominated flame retardants that persist in such foams and accumulate in our bodies. This is an interesting tangent on everyday products of concern to children and adult health!

Speakers/topics

1. Legislative Update: by Erika Schreder from WA Toxics Coalition

See more on the legislative update at the www.watoxics.org blog. Some points made about legislation related to reporting toxins in children’s products:

- Found more than 5000 products had been reported.
- Graco changed their chemicals away from currently banned list to alternative chemicals, but many of these are just/more toxic.
- Third key provision: Exemption allowing them to use banned chemicals if they show no safer alternative;
- WTC was working for incentive for companies to do research on alternatives analysis.

- Versions bouncing between State House and Senate.
- Good publicity coming in.
- Pressure on WalMart. WalMart was single company to oppose the bill; WalMart reported 450 incidences of toxic chemicals in their products as they reported required under State law.

2. Hanford Nuclear Reactor, by Dr. Tom Buchanan, WA Physicians for Social Responsibility

View Tom's Powerpoint presentation as an attachment with these notes. For more information on what you can do, there is information on the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility Hanford Task Force at www.wpsr.org.

Some points made:

- Describes types of radiation of nuclear reactors and that low-level radiation may be just, or more, unsafe than higher levels; the consistent persistent harm; women and children (especially girls) most at risk
- Fukushima population is beginning to exhibit health issues, like lumps on their thyroid, with a government response of "we'll just monitor this"; local population beginning to organize against nuclear industry for first time
- Describes the fragility of keeping/containing extreme heat associated with the reactors, the reason for locating along the water (used for cooling); water-based environment so naturally fragile and important
- Hanford's risks/challenges: *Seattle Times* piece on July 2, 2011: stating it costs more to maintain Columbia Generating Station than all 31 hydropower plants in the Columbia Basin combined. So why do it? Goes back to purpose/history of nuclear power: weapon-based.
- Exponential scale of US investment-- \$250billion in nuclear, compared to \$5 billion in renewables. The attachment to this is clearly about weapons. The risk, and the particular risk, of being a terrorist target is frightening.