Presentation Disclosure

No off label, experimental or investigational use of medications are discussed during this presentation.

I (we) have no interests of commercial services, products or support that requires disclosure.
CHE-WA: Tackling Toxic Exposures to Our Children Through Collaboration

WA State Public Health Association Conference
October 2016
An international collaborative...acts as a catalyst for civil discourse and collaborative initiatives among researchers, health professionals, health-affected groups and others concerned with social and environmental impacts on human health.
CHE-WA

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA Chapter

(Children’s Environmental Health Working Group)

http://washington.chenw.org/
Work collaboratively...

To eliminate toxic exposures to children...

In their most critical years: pre-conception to age 8.
2006: Idea from a CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute project

...create a stable Children’s Environmental Health (CEH) Program in King County, WA which will be the intersection of assessment, policy creation and assurance delivery for CEH planning and action....
• A comprehensive program did not happen.

• However, a 2007 needs assessment did. Results said: “Create a coalition.”

• Chose CHE-WA as our host organization
9 years...

How have we met our goals?

Created in 2007
Goal #1: Be inclusive of varied groups
Who collaborates? These frequent participants plus many others....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government Agencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations (ATSDR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)</td>
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<td>• Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County</td>
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<td>• Public Health – Seattle &amp; King County</td>
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<td>• US Environmental Protections Agency (EPA)</td>
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### Non-profit, business, other

| • American Lung Association |
| • Change Your Food - Change Your Life ™ |
| • Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders |
| • Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) |
| • Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center |
| • WA Poison Center |

### Interested citizens
- Cleaning for Health – environmental health consultant/parent
- Evergreen State College – professor
- Health Equity Circle – graduate student/parent
Goal #1: Network and share. (#1 benefit cited by members)

• Monthly meetings always include substantial networking time.

• Revived a regional children’s environmental health listserv
  chewa@lists.healthandenvironment.org
Goal #3: Identify **most important messages**.

Collaborate to get them out to the public.

Available in English, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese on the WA DOH website.
Goal #3: Provide education -- conferences

2009 conference
Over 300 people

... I think that your conference was one of the best- in terms of how it was developed, managed and results- that I have ever attended. Truly an effective team.

(From a U.S. Housing and Urban Development staff person.)
HUD Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids Pavilion
Ron Sims, then H.U.D.’s Deputy Secretary, opened the second day. His theme: *Your health should not depend on your zip code.*
2011 mini-conference
130 people
2013

- Sold out at 200 people
- 22% of attendees were nurses (CEU’s provided) Produced with multi-group cooperation
Some spinoffs

- “How to Do a Forum” handbook
- Presentation for UW nursing students
- Counties shared info on child care programs
- Outreach materials shared
Goal #3: Provide education -- training for others

Jointly with the Washington State Environmental Health Association

Inspectors practice identifying sources of lead

http://washington.chenw.org/CEHgroup.html#professionals
Goal #3: Provide education – Training for us

Ex. PEHSU

http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/
Ex. Children’s Safe Product Reporting Rule
Ex. Personal-care products and 3rd-party certification...
Over thirty presentations—
http://www.washington.chenw.org/CEHgroup.html

- Childhood lead poisoning
- Climate change in the Northwest
- Environmental Justice
- EPA data tools for community use
- Epigenetics
- Fluoridated water
- Healthy nail salons
- Marketing to moms
- Nanomaterials
- Near-road pollution impacts
- Tobacco
- And more....
Goal #4: Eliminate exposures by consumer education

For local community folks and health professionals, such as La Leche League members

A children’s environmental health exhibit
For conference attendees

Lead-safe education booth
For childcare providers:
Assisted in Eco-Healthy Childcare® trainings
Goal #5: Collaborate on research

Helped fund a member to do a small research project on least toxic whiteboard markers
What do members say about CHE-WA?
From a government employee member..... (WA Department of Health, lead prevention)

- extremely **useful** to me, given me the opportunity to see
  - how local programs are implemented
  - how I can **better serve** the local entities....[and]
  - **connect** with local health as well as other Federal and State agencies to partner to **maximize our efforts**.

- **great form for networking**-I have a name and number that I can connect with easily. The personal connections have been quite a bonus.

- **jazzes me up** since I am in a room with others who care as I do! 😊
From a non-profit member.....
(Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides)

- ...broadened my network
- ...got a new WA board member who helped strengthen our organization and improve our reputation.
- Strengthened our work in schools
- Found a speaker for a conference we hosted
- On a personal note, I work from home, so it's one of few adult human interactions I have, and it's nice to be surrounded by people who understand what you are fighting for!
From a private business owner
(Change Your Food- Change Your Life™)

“[Gave me] access to resource networking –
A LIVE LIBRARY!”
Concern: Overuse of disinfectants in school classroom routines

She asked:
How can we encourage safer alternatives for teachers who choose to clean in the classroom?
Answer: Collaboration. Leveraging CHE-WA resources

» Created *Cleaning for Health in the Classroom* outreach
  • Presentation
  • Teacher’s guide
  • Classroom cleaning kits
» Funding and expertise from CHE partners
» Utilizing nurse advocates
» Trained 65 Seattle School District nurses
» Outreach at 6 elementary schools
Model for Students

Cleaning for Health Lessons

• Teach how basic cleaning really works to remove dirt and most germs.

• Why fragrance-free matters:
  – cleaning products can impact the air we breathe
  – clean doesn’t have a “lemon fresh” smell

• Importance of handwashing with plain soap and water.
Positive Feedback

From teachers and nurses:

“We have now made our school a fragrance-free environment due to the information we received that day.”

“We were given training AND MOST IMPORTANTLY supplies to make the change happen.”

“It would be wonderful to see these cleaning changes made in all SPS!”
Other Results

• The Seattle School District endorsed the *Cleaning for Health* guidelines; distributed to all principals.

• Seattle School District risk managers attended a CHE-WA meeting.

• WA Dept. of Health placed the *Cleaning for Health* guidelines on its website.

http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/ClassroomCleaning
Continued Momentum

• CHE is a link – connecting other parents with these resources

• CHE colleagues-PTA leaders
  – WA State PTA Resolution proposal: *Mitigating Environmental Hazards and Contaminants in Schools*

• Hear Rachel’s story: [http://tinyurl.com/z2fd4rs](http://tinyurl.com/z2fd4rs)
Rachel Koller

Environmental Health Consultant
Community Advocate
CHE-WA Member
SWOT Analysis:
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Strength: One organization has provided dedicated staff time...
Strength: We are not political. This allows government agencies to participate.

Members may work on any policy issues they choose.
- Crumb rubber playfields
- Aircraft noise pollution
- Electromagnetic radiation exposure
Strength: We have a 501©3 status through a fiscal relationship with a WA-based nonprofit group.

- Allows us to accept philanthropic contributions/grants from agencies/foundations/individuals and offer tax deductibility.

- Most Forum funding came from grants.
Strength: CHE-WA, our parent organization, hosts and maintains a website for us.

http://www.chewa.org/CEHgroup.html
Strength: Networking and making connections

Connections... get dialogue moving... and build trust.
Opportunity: Members continue to say that networking and participating adds value to their work.

Helped connect two huge organizations with joint interests in children’s environmental health

EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest)  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration
Strength: Participants are willing to share time, $$, decision making.
Strength: Members steer the direction...how often to meet, whether to have speakers, what topics to focus on.
Weakness/Threat: One organization has provided dedicated staff time...
Weakness/Threat:
Not self-sustaining... no stable funding, rely on volunteer work, harder for people to get time away from their jobs

Possible solutions:

- Grant money to hire a part-time facilitator
- Increase virtual access to meetings
- Regroup in a new format
Opportunities: Abound

- Grow statewide; leverage resources across Health Districts
- Train key community leaders
- Help share ACOG’s opinion paper on Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents

(http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Exposure-to-Toxic-Environmental-Agents)
Opportunities

• Create teaching kits for public use
• Host another Forum
• Host a Children’s Environmental Health Film Festival
• Film a TED-talk
• And more....too many to list
Another benefit is the connection to CHE-National
Lorelei Walker, PhD, MPH
Program and Administrative Manager
The Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Washington State Public Health Association
October 4, 2016 | Wenatchee, WA
The Collaborative on Health and the Environment – Washington

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Change Your Food · Change Your Life!

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Washington

Many Important Others
Our diverse, dynamic science-based learning community strengthens our collective capacity to translate the latest environmental health research into health-promoting programs, policies and practices.

**CHE’s Network**
- 5,000 Partners
- 50 States
- 87 Countries

**Discussion Topics**
- 18 Topics
  Asthma, autism....
- 6 Partnerships
  CHE-WA, CHE-AK...
Engage with Peers on Latest Science – Topic Based

- **18 topical ScienceServs** on newest science
- Latest scientific **presentations**. Downloaded over 310,000 times
- A comprehensive **news feed**
- **Calendar** of Events
- Social media posts
- Upcoming **highly interconnected and interactive web site**
Advancing the Science – CHE’s Work

• Major partner in creating 1st major academic program on reproductive health and the environment (UCSF)
• Award-winning eBook on multiple contributors (CEUs offer by CDC)
• Participated in President’s Cancer Panel on links between toxic exposures and cancer
• 60+ publications; many more in development
• Facilitate scientific consensus statements (TENDR)
• Next Generation Project
Next steps

Transition to a new administrative structure.

Hopefully continue to:

• meet regularly
• support each other’s organizations’ work
• grow the organization, bringing in more diverse groups
• educate ourselves about children’s environmental health
Join us?
Contact information

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Gail Gensler
gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-1654

CHE-WA
http://washington.chenw.org/CEHgroup.html