

Children's Environmental Health Working Group

Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE-WA)

Thursday, May 11, 2017 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Environmental Protection Agency Region 10, 1200 6<sup>th</sup> Ave (Park Place Building), Denali Conference Room, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Seattle WA 98101

Host/Host group: Gretchen Stewart, EPA

Speakers/Presentation: Mark MacIntyre, Spokesman and Senior Public Information Officer, US EPA Region 10

Topic: Manufacturing Memorable Messages - Now more than ever, we need to communicate and elevate the significance of the environmental health impacts to our nation's children. Educating our partners, managers, and other agencies is a significant and critical component of our success. This requires clear, factual and timely children's health outreach. The presentation will help the audience move health information into high gear, whether outreach or internal communication. Learn how to challenge your messaging capabilities, gain new insights/strategies about your audience and engagement and get help communicating a unified message to tell children's health stories.

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CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group: 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:**

Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Sharon Cohen	Public Health Seattle & King County
Stephanie Edlund	Public Health Seattle & King County - <i>Notetaker</i>
Bryan Fiedorczyk	EPA
Katie Frevert	UW Superfund Research Program
Marilyn Hair	UW Edge Center - <i>Notetaker</i>
Angel Ip	EPA
Rhonda Kaetzel	ATSDR
Mehrdad Khatibi	EPA
Amy Leang	WA DOH
Andrea Lindsay	EPA
Elisabeth Long	WA DOH
Araceli Mendez	WA DOH
Laura Peter	WA DOH intern
Jeff Philip	EPA
Denise Sharify	Public Health Seattle & King County
Fran Solomon	The Evergreen State College - Tacoma Campus
Gretchen Stewart	EPA
Shirlee Tan	Public Health Seattle & King County
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life

**Attendees by phone:**

Sandra Brozusky	
Alison Burke	
Sandrine Deglin	Alaska State Department of Health
Julie Fox	WA DOH
Nancy Hepp	CHE
Mahri Louinger	EPA - Anchorage

Cheryl Stoke	EPA
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health Seattle & King County
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## **Opening**

Gretchen Stewart called the meeting to order and facilitated the agenda.

Next meeting will be June 8, 2017, 9:30-11:30am at the UW EDGE Center, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100, Seattle 98195

## **Group Discussion**

The group discussed the organization and leadership of CHE-WA, both the history and going forward. Since Gail Gensler retired last December there has been a leadership team of 4 (Arthur Wendel, Nicole Thomsen, Marilyn Hair and Stephanie Edlund). Nicole has a new job and suggests CHE-WA do some succession planning, to make the organization sustainable. During the upcoming July-August meeting hiatus, Nicole suggested the leadership team meet to figure out a more sustainable model. LHWMP provided operational support when Gail was the coordinator and something similar is needed again. CHE-WA has no dedicated staff. The present leadership team is tasked to move the organization forward with a sustainable structure to meet the needs of the membership, which first and foremost is to hold regular meetings.

### History and suggestions:

- CHE began as CHE-NW and broke into state groups, WA, OR and AK (per Nancy Hepp)
- Gretchen and Nicole have discussed how to do more effective communication
- Could grant funding be found for a directorship to manage the work?
- Could an EH organization take on supporting the administrative role?
- Could CHE-WA become more regional than King County?
- FYI: There is not a CHE-WA Board
- The Children's EH Working Group has been the only active sub-group in the Washington Chapter (CHE-WA)
- Last year the Children's EH Working group became the CHE-WA chapter. CHE-WA now has a broader focus than children's EH
- Fiscal sponsor has been Steve Gilbert of INND, the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
- Members prioritized these goals earlier this year: (1) regular meetings, (2) EH Forum. The challenges are money and staff/organizer time

## **Member Updates**

1. Nancy Bernard (WA DOH)
  - Nancy works on school environmental health and safety, and is responsible for site inspection
  - She led a workshop at the WA EH Conference in March in Wenatchee for school partners at local health jurisdictions
  - Back to School Guide, a new resource from the Spokane Regional Health District, lists safer cleaning products for parents to send to school at beginning of the year
2. Sharon Cohen (PHS&KC)
  - Sharon is transitioning to take over lead investigations (Will Perry is retiring), and Nicole's work

- At LHWMP, Sharon is working on a social marketing campaign for lead prevention in the home
3. Sandrine Deglin (Alaska State DOH)
- Sandrine works with food, air and water
  - Alaska Dept of Public Health has a cooperative agreement with ATSDR
  - Public health associates from CDC are partnering with Alaska Dept of Public Health on childhood lead prevention. Alaska has a CDC grant running a childhood lead surveillance program in Alaska
  - Alaska Dept of Public Health is doing mercury surveillance in children and women of childbearing age, collecting hair samples that the state lab analyzes and follows up.
4. Stephanie Edlund (PHS&KC)
- Stephanie works with Denise at DOH on the DIRT Alert program, arsenic and lead in soil
  - Dirt Alert is busy with upcoming community events, weekend outreach, and presentations in Federal Way schools.
5. Bryan Fiedorczyk (EPA)
- Bryan is new as the Regional EPA Children's EH Coordinator
  - He will attend the EPA Children's Health meeting in Denver end of June
  - He is working with EPA peers nationally to develop a one-page flyer for tabling that highlights environmental children's health issues,
6. Julie Fox (WA DOH)
- It's wildfire season: Julie presented at the State EH Conference to local health jurisdictions about everyone's role in responding to smoke
  - DOH is planning to present a webinar on wildfire smoke, time TBD
7. Katie Frevert (UW SRP)
- SRP is on a no-cost extension; Katie hopes the grant will be renewed and she will come back full-time
  - Spoke about childhood blood levels
8. Marilyn Hair (UW EDGE Center)
- EDGE has been working with some Native researchers on traditional, sustainable foods
  - The Feeding 7 Generations Toolkit by native nutrition researchers for native youth was introduced at a training at Muckleshoot on May 12th
9. Rhonda Kaetzel (ASTDR)
- Arthur Wetzel sends regrets, he's at a public meeting on Whidbey Island this morning
  - School-siting guidance for daycare leaders has been formalized
  - ATSDR is developing a national exposure assessment toolkit with information about multiple concerns
  - ATSDR addresses emergencies, this week the Hanford tunnel collapse. They are also working on a mercury exposure in Oregon, silica investigation at a school in Spokane, and air exposures from concentrated feeding operations (CAFOS) in Yakima
  - ATSDR lost the WA Cooperative Agreement and 5 staff, a huge loss. ATSDR is trying to fill as many holes as possible
10. Mehrdad Khatibi (EPA)
- Mehrdad started at EPA in January and works in the Office of Tribal Air and Waste
  - He has previous experience working with tribes in the southwest on various environmental concerns
11. Amy Leang (WA DOH)
- Amy recently started working with Elizabeth on disease reporting system database conversion
12. Andrea Lindsay (EPA)
- Andrea is the Community Involvement Coordinator working on lead cleanup at a Superfund site in northern Idaho. Elevated blood lead levels have been found in local children
  - She's partnering with PEHSU on a Grand Rounds presentation in Silver Valley, ID

13. Elisabeth Long (WA DOH)

- DOH has analyzed the 2016 lead data. Screening rate for kids under age 6 has increased from 3% to 4.5%. Data is being matched with Medicaid lead testing. 72% of the high blood level findings match with Medicaid kids
- DOH is referring Medicaid kids who have elevated lead levels to clinicians for better case management
- DOH is doing a pilot in the Spokane Health District on refugee health in low income clinics, screening all kids for lead
- Elisabeth has a poster presentation at the Tulalip Tribal Health Summit on May 31, partnering with Maternal and Child Health Home Visiting Program
- **Lead testing kits are available from Elisabeth if anyone has a venue to test**

14. Araceli Mendez (WA DOH)

- Working with test results, cases of high blood lead levels in children

15. Laura Peter (WA DOH Intern)

- Laura is working on lead with Elisabeth Long
- She is updating state maps for lead exposure with WIC and clinic data. The project is ending.
- Letters will be sent to providers in at-risk lead areas to encourage blood level testing
- DOH is hoping to require Medicaid to screen pediatric patients for lead. Higher management DOH staff signed a letter asking WA to mandate screening of Medicaid children for lead blood levels

16. Denise Sheriff (PHS&KC)

- Denise works on Dirt Alert, the ASARCO Smelter Plume project with Stephanie
- Dirt Alert's next biennial contract starts this July and will involve working with Hispanic/Latino communities

17. Fran Solomon (TESC-Tacoma)

- Fran has been teaching courses on endocrine disruptor chemicals (EDCs) at TESC-Tacoma, British Columbia, the Gig Harbor Women's Prison

18. In June, she will be presenting lunchtime lectures about EDCs in personal care products for the UW OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute

19. Gretchen Stewart (EPA)

- Gretchen works with Brian Fiedorczyk on Children's EH issue.
- Her colleague Erin (on maternity leave) is working with the national asthma program
- Gretchen forwards emails on Children's EH and air quality to the CHE-WA listserve
- October is Children's Environmental Health month. Gretchen is a member of the national team for outreach. **CHE-WA members can share to Gretchen about work highlights Gretchen can include**

20. Cheryl Stoke (EPA)

- Cheryl works in the EA Public Affairs and Community Engagement Unit. She's involved in:
  - Environmental Justice (EJ) opportunities with OR and ID
  - EJ small grants
  - EJ collaborative problem-solving cooperative agreements
  - Air quality around school bus stops, web based tools
  - Citizen Science tools: EPA can loan air quality monitors to communities, with technical assistance training

21. Shirlee Tan (PHS&KC)

- Shirlee is an Environmental toxicology. She's starting a program on toxics and lead, still developing the toxics part

22. Nicole Thomsen (PH-S&KC)

- She has a new role as LHWMP's new project manager doing a social marketing campaign for lead, targeting parents of children 0-3 in King County. This is not necessarily a social media campaign although it may include social media
- She is continuing to work on the Healthy Housing guidelines and recommendations which will be presented to the Board of Health in November
- This past July, she presented about lead to the Board of Health. They approved a resolution to encourage health care providers to move toward screening all children at 12 months and 24 months, and to encourage Wa State L&I to update their occupational standards for lead
- Jean Kohl-Welles took the above resolution to the King County Council for unincorporated King County to consider

23. Dennis Weaver (CYFCYL)

- The Good Living CD has now been played online in 173 countries and all 50 states, spreading the organic good food message
- Created the #OsUp hashtag on Twitter
- Attended Expo West in Anaheim, CA, the largest organic food trade show

**Networking break**

**Presentation**

Mark MacIntyre, Spokesman and Senior Public Information Officer, US EPA Region 10, gave an entertaining presentation on Manufacturing Memorable Messages. The presentation is posted on the CHE-WA website.