

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

**Date/Time:** Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

**Location:** UW EDGE Center - Interdisciplinary Center for Exposures, Diseases, Genomics and Environment, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100 (Conference Room #229), Seattle, WA 98105

**Presentation Topic:** *Occupational Lead Regulations - Implication for Children* Occupation lead exposure can affect children because lead is easily taken home on worker clothing or shoes, thereby contaminating the home. Children are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of lead because of their developing nervous systems and high calcium needs. To adequately protect workers and their families, occupational lead standards should be updated to prevent blood lead levels (BLLs) greater than 5µg/dl.

**Speaker:** Steven Gilbert, a longtime member of CHE-WA, is Director and Founder of the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND) and Affiliate Professor the UW School of Public Health Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

**Host:** This month's meeting is co-hosted by the UW EDGE Center and Superfund Research Program.

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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.

### In-Person Attendees

Name	Organization
Steven Gilbert ( <i>speaker</i> )	University of Washington
Katie Frevert ( <i>co-host</i> )	University of Washington
Stephanie Edlund ( <i>note taker</i> )	Public Health-Seattle & King County
Will Perry	Public Health-Seattle & King County
Sharon Cohen	Public Health-Seattle & King County
Erica Liebelt	WA Poison Center
Thomas Hollowed	University of Washington
Erika Kinno	Public Health-Seattle & King County
Elizabeth Friedman	University of Washington
Bryan Fiedorczyk	Environmental Protection Agency
Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Fran Solomon	Evergreen State College-Tacoma Campus
Arthur Wendel	Environmental Protection Agency
Rachel Shaffer	University of Washington
Jon Shields	King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Angel Ip	Environmental Protection Agency

### Attendees by Phone

Name	Organization
Lorelai Walker	Professional and Technical Employees Local 17 Union

Brittany Hinchcliffe	WA Department of Health
Rachel Koller	Independent Consultant
Nicole Thomson	Public Health-Seattle & King County, Lead & Toxics Program

### **Opening**

Arthur Wendell called the meeting to order and facilitated the agenda.

There will not be meetings held in July and August.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30am at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10, 1200 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor (Denali Conference Room), Seattle, WA 98101. The meeting will be hosted by Zero Waste WA.

### **Group Discussion**

The CHE-WA Admin Team (Arthur Wendel, Nicole Thomsen, Marilyn Hair, and Stephanie Edlund) is meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss how to move CHE-WA forward. The conversation will consider ideas from members from January's group brainstorm. The team learned that these monthly meetings are important for members (for networking, listening to presentations), and that there is an interest in coordinating forums or other opportunities; however, that is dependent on the interest and involvement of other CHE-WA members.

If anyone has ideas, questions, or concerns, please share them with us! [collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com](mailto:collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com). If you are not receiving emails from [collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com](mailto:collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com), please write to us and we'll add you to the contact list. Please also check your spam blocker and ensure emails from [collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com](mailto:collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com) are not blocked.

Nicole Thomsen had not yet joined the meeting by phone to share an update on the WA State Department of Ecology's Public Participation Grants (PPG). She had shared with the CHE-WA Admin Team that the Department hasn't determined the funding amount, thus there has not been any movement.

### **Member Updates**

- Katie Frevert (University of Washington)
  - At May's meeting, Katie mentioned hopes of UW Superfund Research Program's grant renewal to continue her work.
  - The program was awarded five more years of funding.
- Steven Gilbert (University of Washington)
  - Steven is today's presenter.
  - His book "*A Small Dose of Toxicology: The Health Effect of Common Chemicals*" was recently released in Arabic and Spanish.
- Nancy Bernard (WA State Department of Health)
  - Nancy works on school environmental health and safety, and is responsible for site inspection.

- She is scheduling 10 workshops around school site safety in November and December.
  - She recently adapted Spokane School District's school guide on students' back to school list, and will post it on DOH's website.
- Jon Shields (King County DNRP LHWMP)
    - John works for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks' Local Hazardous Waste Management Program.
    - He is currently working on a lead-focused project and is gathering ideas for an outreach campaign aimed at parents of children under four years old, to reduce exposure to lead.
    - He joined CHE-WA to meet and collaborate with people/programs with similar goals in reducing lead poisoning in children.
- Erica Libelt (WA Poison Center)
    - Erica is the Director of the WA Poison Center.
    - DOH received calls concerning the Meals on Wheels Program; meals made in correctional facilities were shipped to households, and there was concern about the amount of water and possible water contamination used to make meals. DOH called Erica to ensure consistent messaging in case people started calling WA Poison Center.
- Thomas Hallowed (University of Washington)
    - Thomas is a Medical Resident Student at the University of Washington Medical Center.
    - His background is in Environmental Health; his thesis was on household exposures and asthma.
    - He is currently working on a project focused on homes inhabited by families with kids with asthma, near farms in Eastern WA. He is studying exposures and seeing if in-home air purifiers help reduce medicinal intake and asthma-related respiratory problems.
- Elizabeth Freidman (University of Washington)
    - Elizabeth is an Environmental Health Fellow at the University of Washington.
    - This is a new position for her and she wants to know more about existing EH projects that are going on
    - Her interests are in citizen science, social and environmental justice, and environmental health impacts.
- Stephanie Edlund (Public Health-Seattle & King County)
    - Stephanie works for the King County Dirt Alert Program, outreach and education around arsenic and lead in the soil by the former Tacoma ASARCO smelter.
    - The 2015-2017 contract is coming to an end this month. The team is busy finalizing reports and ending grantee partnerships with three nonprofit groups.
    - She is looking forward to continuing work for 2017-2019 contract and working with new grantee partners.
    - Sharing on behalf of Gretchen Stewart (EPA)
      - There is a new "Pediatric Environmental Health Web Toolkit for Providers" (<http://peht.ucsf.edu/index.php>). The toolkit was developed by the PEHSU program and PSR, and endorsed by the AAP. The toolkit is freely available (and ad-free). Please help spread the word about this resource to any of your colleagues or networks that might be interested.
      - Three key sections cover the basics:

- Briefs of health **environmental hazards** found in the air, water, food and consumer products; includes sections on health effects, routes of exposure and prevention strategies.
  - **Key concepts** including the unique vulnerability of children, how the chemical, built and food environments influence health, and environmental justice.
  - **Anticipatory guidance** keyed to thirteen age groups from prenatal through teen years.
- Erika Kinno (Public Health Seattle-King County)
  - Erika recently started working as a PHSKC's Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's Policy Liaison.
  - Her background includes working for King County Council's environmental policy work; working directly with elected officials and community members.
  - She has been writing many commentary letters to state health agencies. One policy project she is working on is around occupational lead safety standards for adult workers.
- Will Perry (Public Health Seattle-King County)
  - Will works for the PHSKC Environmental Health Services Division. He does case management for families with children with high blood lead levels.
  - He is working with Jon Shields on a new lead-focused project around cleaning practices to protect children from lead-contaminated dust.
  - He is working with Sharon Cohen on a project focused on Afghanistan refugee families. Half of children coming to WA have elevated blood levels from sources back in their country.
  - He is retiring at the end of June.
- Sharon Cohen (Public Health Seattle-King County)
  - Sharon works for the PHSKC Environmental Health Services Division.
  - She will be transitioning to Will Perry's work on investigating cases of high blood lead levels in children.
- Bryan Fiedorczyk (Environmental Protection Agency)
  - Bryan is the regional children's environmental health coordinator; internal communication focused.
  - He has the opportunity to observe development in research and involvement in children's lead exposure reduction efforts.
- Arthur Wendell ((Environmental Protection Agency)
  - Arthur's work on safe sites for child cares is underway. Using data and resources to reduce harmful exposures to children in child cares, such as adjacent contamination from building structures, water contamination, etc.
  - Alaska, Oregon, and Idaho are following regulations with environmental health considerations, and are receiving funding.
  - ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) is developing more guidance in different languages on their website.
- Angel Ip (Environmental Protection Agency)
  - Angel is involved with efforts to protect health of tribal communities. She has done most of her work in Alaska, and is seeking to become more involved in WA.

- She is seeking connections with WA Public Health professionals who are currently working or have experience working with tribal health.
- Fran Solomon
  - Fran teaches environmental science at the Evergreen College, Tacoma campus.
  - She is giving three free lectures this month about endocrine disrupters in personal products. They are aimed for the general public and scientific community; with exception to June 28<sup>th</sup>, that is more for breast cancer patients, survivors, and patient staff.
    - June 21<sup>st</sup> in South Seattle
    - June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Issaquah
    - June 28<sup>th</sup> at Seattle Cancer Lifeline (endocrine disrupters and link to breast cancer)
- Lorelei Walker (PTE Local 17)
  - Lorelei previously worked for CHE National, now is working at Professional and Technical Employees (PTE) Local 17.
  - She sits on a couple of boards to offer perspective on how environmental factors are contributors to human health.
- Brittany Hinchcliffe (WA State Department of Health)
  - Brittany works around children and maternal health; interests include pre-natal care, infant mortality rates, health of African American communities, and tribal communities.
- Rachel Koller (Independent Consultant)
  - Rachel shared a concern about legislation piece around getting lead out of school infrastructures. She feels that funding could be used to alleviate strain on other burdens currently in the public school system.
- Nicole Thomsen (Public Health-Seattle & King County)
  - Nicole recently started a new position as Program Manager of PHSKC's Lead & Toxics Program; an initiative by Best Starts for Kids. She is leading a team of Environmental Health Planners to work with the communities in King County.

## **Networking Break**

### **Presentation**

Steven Gilbert gave a very interesting presentation titled "Occupational Lead Regulations - Implication for Children." The presentation is posted on the CHE-WA website.