

Children’s Environmental Health Working Group

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

Thursday, October 13, 2016 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Public Health – Seattle & King County, 401 5th Ave, Rm 126, Seattle

Host group: Public Health – Seattle & King County, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County

Speakers/Presentation: Dr. Kyle Yasuda and Marcy Miller, *Best Starts for Kids*

Topic: *Best Starts for Kids* is an initiative to improve the health and well-being of King County by investing in prevention and early intervention for children, youth, families, and communities. It will be the most comprehensive approach to early childhood development in the nation, starting with prenatal support, sustaining the gain through teenage years, and investing in healthy, safe communities that reinforce progress. As part of this approach, lead and other toxics in the home environment have been identified for investments. Marcy Miller, Program Manager, and Dr. Kyle Yasuda, BSK Medical Director, will speak about what and who *Best Starts for Kids* aims to serve

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:

- Gail Gensler Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Nicole Thomsen Public Health - Seattle & King County [note taker]
- Arthur Wendel Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations
- Stephanie Edlund Public Health - Seattle & King County
- Jon Shields Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Debs Gardner Northwest Center for Public Health Practice
- Molly Ryan American Lung Association
- Carolyn Gleason U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration
- Will Perry Public Health - Seattle & King County
- Julie West Public Health - Seattle & King County
- Fran Solomon The Evergreen State College, Tacoma Campus

Attendees by phone:

- Barbara Rose Northwest Center for Public Health Practice
- Lorelei Walker CHE National

Opening

Nicole Thomsen welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order, and facilitated the agenda.

Next meeting will be November 10, 2016, at Public Health – Seattle & King County, Rm 126. Hosted by Megan Dunn with the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides.

Business

Updates

- Gail provided a synopsis of a presentation done by herself and Lorelei Walker at the Washington Public Health Association (WSPHA) at their annual conference in Wenatchee. The presentation was on the topic of the unique collaboration of this group and its successes. The presentation will be uploaded soon to the CHE-WA website.
- Gail was nominated for and received a WSPHA leadership award for children's environmental health, including her work on CHE-WA and the Children's Environmental Health Working Group.
- Nicole also presented at the conference in partnership with Laura Hitchcock, Public Health, on LawAtlas and Healthy Housing.

Management Change

As this group has been discussing for almost two years, Gail has "new" job duties and is no longer able to serve as the organizer for CHE-WA effective January 2016. Many ideas have been generated, but to date, there has been no ready person or persons who have stepped up and into fill this role.

Several ideas were re-hashed including a walkthrough of a formal proposal by Arthur Wendel. Some guiding principles were agreed upon:

- Gail's work can be shared amongst people.
- Agreeing to step-up is for a year's worth of commitment; then others should rotate into the mix.

After much discussion a proposed plan was developed:

- Nicole Thomsen and Arthur Wendel could co-lead efforts for 2017.
- Stephanie Edlund is able to allocate 2 hours/month for meeting-related needs.

To further explore this potential arrangement, the three volunteer members will double check things with supervisors and then meet to discuss further. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Member sharing

The "normal" member sharing did not take place so that a robust discussion about leadership transition could take place.

Networking break

Presentation

Find the PPT presentation in the Meeting Presentations and Handouts section of the [CHE-WA website](#).

A summary follows:

Marcy Miller and Dr. Kyle Yasuda gave an overview of the *Best Starts for Kids* levy, including its intent and identified investment areas. Four investment areas were highlighted --- Prenatal to 5, 6 to 25 years of age, Work Force Development and Communities of Opportunity. Within each investment area a high overview of potential work and financial allocations were provided.

Many questions were asked about guiding principles and evaluation metrics.