

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

Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2012, 9:30-11:30

Location: Ecology's NW Regional Office in Bellevue

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 8.

Attendees:

In person: Julia Singer (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program - LHWMP), Dennis Weaver (Change Your Food-Change Your Life®), Gail Gensler (LHWMP), Hamdi Mohamed (Housing and Urban Development), Holly Davies (WA Department of Ecology), Steve Gilbert (Institute for Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders), Tracy Bier (Physicians for Social Responsibility), Will Perry and Nicole Thomsen (Public Health-Seattle & King County), Ana Rivero (volunteer-Washington Toxics Coalition), Vickie Carper, Kris Larson (ATSDR, R-10), Rad Cunningham and Nancy Bernard (Washington State Department of Health), Katie Hess (United Indians of All Tribes Foundation), Mary Margaret Thomas (Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and Health Care Without Harm), Elizabeth Loudon (Environmental Coalition of South Seattle), Holly Davies (Ecology), Sonia Hoglander (HomEvolution)

By phone: Krysta Thornton (American Lung Association), Carolyn Gleason (Health Resource Services Administration), Toni Nunes (Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics), Margo Young (EPA R-10), Rachel Koller (children's environmental health consultant), Lowest Jefferson (WADOH), Nancy Beaudet (Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit)

Next meeting: December 13, 2012

Host: Toni Nunes, WA chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Location: Public Health- Seattle & King County

2013 Children's Environmental Health Forum update (Gail Gensler)

Reiterated that we are having a forum in 2013 and the focus is reproductive environmental health with a focus on preconception and prenatal. Have not called stakeholders brainstormed in last meeting. Hope to organize that for December.

The group discussed the Public Participation Grants (toxics prevention focus) available through Ecology. Decided: Steve would be fiscal sponsor; OK even if he is applying for his own PPG grant and Nicole would begin work on first draft of PPG grant, with assistance from Steve, Vicki, Aimee, Tracy and Ana. This group committed to creating a summary of the forum before Thanksgiving, so that others, such as Kris, could share it with potential funders, such as Centers for Disease Control.

To reach out to tribes, Lowest suggested Cheryl Lowe. Also, our member Katie Hess would be helpful.

Member updates

- Julia Singer (LHWMP) – Mentioned that Pesticide-Free Places is continuing to undergo a policy/definition review internally and preparing to discuss the value of incremental change with volunteer coalition. PFP got a mention in Sound Consumer, circulation 47,000.
- Nancy Bernard (WADOH) – WA has more IPM certified schools than any other state. She recommends [WSU's IPM](#) site.
- Kris Larson (ATSDR) – Saw 800 students in two days at City of Seattle's Salmon Homecoming.
- Will Perry (PHS&KC) – Continues blood lead investigations. Would like to incorporate pharmaceutical storage and disposal into healthy housing conventions.
- Rad Cunningham (WADOH) – Takes the place of Lauren Jenks. Welcome, Rad! Comes from community health work in Los Angeles.
- Steve Gilbert (INND) – *Particles on the Wall* is being shown at the [Museum of Culture and Environment](#), Central Washington University. He is screening [Mislead](#) (lead poisoning in the U.S.) at his home this weekend. His poster *Milestones in Toxicology* is in 10 languages, including his most recent addition, Turkish.
- Gail Gensler (LHWMP) – She is continuing her outreach efforts to childcares via Eco-Healthy Childcare® trainings.
- Tracy Bier (WAPSR) – Working on many small forums, including proposing the banning of coal shipments through the state of Washington and outreach to health care providers in Olympia. Started a taskforce on nuclear power plants remaining in WA State. Tracy would like student interns. Julia suggested UW Program on the Environment and Vicki suggested a student organization in UW's Environmental Health College.
- Dennis Weaver (CYFCYL!) – They now have a grant writer, Keeli Dinsi.
- Nicole Thomsen (PHS&KC) – Welcome back Nicole! Seattle now has its own rental housing inspection program, which may yet incorporate a checklist that Nicole worked on via her grant. Holly said that Ecology may be able to help with the funding gap for the above grant.
- Ana Rivera (WA Toxics) – told story of being able to help a caller from California, based on knowledge she learned in this group about the PEHSU.
- Mary Margaret Thomas (WAPSR and HCWH) - Suggested [CleanMed](#) is an amazing conference for learning about sustainable health care practices.
- Elizabeth Loudon (ECOSS) – Continue to provide outreach in languages other than English via Nail Salons (partnering with LHWMP) and MHE's Healthy Home Assessment (partnering with ALA).
- Sonia Hoglander (HE) – Just attending the [Building Biology Conference](#) in Washington DC. Working with a local group concerned about Wi-Fi in Seattle Schools.
- Toni Nunes – (WAPSR) – Announcing the AAP's recent article about the benefits of an organic diet for kids. Continuing with articles for providers in their quarterly newsletter, reaching 1000 pediatricians across WA State.
- Rachel Koller (parent, activist, consultant) – now on advisory board at Loyal Heights Community Center, addressing asbestos and other issues.
- Lowest Jefferson (WADOH) – she is on two sub committees serving their Community Transformation Grants. She is trying to add children's environmental health issues to the agenda.

Speaker

Holly Davies, Washington State Department of Ecology, presented information on Washington state

laws on toxic chemicals in products, including the first manufacturer reports on chemicals of high concern to children in children's products. It was fascinating and this bill represents one more strong voice of support for toxics overhaul at the national level.