

**Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington (CHE-WA)  
 Children's Environmental Health Working Group - Meeting Notes  
 December 10, 2007, 12:00-1:30 pm  
 Antioch University Seattle**

**Participants**

Julia Berg (facilitator)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County	130 Nickerson St. #100 Seattle, WA 98109	206- 263- 3042	<a href="mailto:julia.berg@kingcounty.gov">julia.berg@kingcounty.gov</a>
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Cedar Bouta (by phone)	WA State Dept. of Ecology	P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504- 7600	360- 407- 6853	<a href="mailto:cebo461@ecy.wa.gov">cebo461@ecy.wa.gov</a>
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	King County			
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### **Introductions**

This was the first meeting of the new CHE-WA workgroup on children’s environmental health. Participants introduced themselves and highlight facts were shared about each person’s work.

### **Background**

Aimee Boulanger, coordinator for CHE-WA, briefly introduced the new working group. Work group facilitator, Julia Berg, described the background and evolution of the group as follows:

Julia Berg, Gail Gensler, and Henry Draper (three of the meeting participants) work for the interagency program called the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP). One of the goals of LHWMP is to reduce young children’s exposure to hazardous materials. A first step in this process was to assess the gaps and overlaps of local and regional groups working on behalf of young children’s environmental health.

As part of this assessment, Julia and Gail interviewed regional stakeholder groups (including many at the meeting). Many groups felt that a network focused on the environmental health of very young children would fill a

need. Those interviewed felt that the issues of highest interest were lead, poverty, pesticides, indoor air quality, and nutrition. They also felt that the top health concerns were asthma, obesity, birth defects and learning disabilities. The most named regional group to house such a network was CHE-WA. LHWMP approached CHE-WA with these findings; the result is this working group.

**Goals for this meeting**

- ✓ Bring stakeholders together
- ✓ Share the background of the group
- ✓ Share participants’ interests and current projects; connect people with similar interests – find synergies
- ✓ Share ideas on others to invite to the next meeting (to be done via email)

**Participants’ interests and current projects**

Name	Organization	Interests and current projects as of 12/10/07
Julia Berg (facilitator)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-facilitator for the CHE-WA workgroup on children’s environmental health.</li> <li>• Has many years experience teaching about household hazardous waste.</li> <li>• Currently working on ways to communicate environmental health concerns to the public. One project involves using microfiber cloths to eliminate the need for dust cleaners.</li> </ul>
Aimee Boulanger	Institute for Children’s Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program director for Institute for Children’s Environmental Health.</li> <li>• Strong background in health effects of environmental exposures.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Cedar Bouta (by phone)	WA State Dept. of Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates Ecology’s Hazardous Substance Information and Education Office</li> <li>• Currently working to get a household hazardous waste (HHW) and toxics reduction curriculum in schools statewide...focusing now on Kitsap, Lewis and Yakima counties.</li> <li>• Recently completed a statewide reducing toxic threats household survey and launched a new website</li> </ul>

		<p>(<a href="http://www.ecy.wa.gov/HSIEO">www.ecy.wa.gov/HSIEO</a>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New household campaign will focus on safer alternatives to household products; using a new branding: “Toxic Free Tips”.</li> <li>• In the future will work more with the Hispanic community (Benton and Grant county)</li> <li>• Has arranged for Steve Gilbert to do a staff training on</li> </ul>
Michael Davis	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-leads the Environmental Justice (EJ) Network in Action, a program that conducts community-based research and outreach on environmental and environmental health issues in immigrant and refugee communities throughout Seattle and King County (ex. White Center, International District). See <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Management/SPU_&amp;_the_Environment/Environmental_Justice/index.asp">http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Management/SPU_&amp;_the_Environment/Environmental_Justice/index.asp</a></li> <li>• Also interested in EJ issues internally in our organizations.</li> <li>• Works with 30 different language groups and does translations.</li> <li>• Interested in interactive education outreach, not just brochures, and in the tools we’re all using.</li> <li>• Interested in serving underserved populations. Passionate about engaging community members and supporting them to build their own capacity and lead their own projects. Beginning to work with public housing authorities, to help them do this re: HHW, recycling and other topics.</li> <li>• Former childcare provider.</li> </ul>
Henry Draper	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team member of LHWMP’s staff working on children’s environmental health issues.</li> <li>• Interested in what motivates people to take action.</li> </ul>
Gail Gensler	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-facilitator for the CHE-WA workgroup</li> </ul>

(notetaker)	Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County	<p>on children’s environmental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has many years experience teaching about household hazardous waste.</li> <li>• Currently working on issues related to environmental health in schools, including indoor air quality and pesticide-free produce. (NOTE: In early 2008, LWHMP will be hosting a workshop on hazardous chemicals in school art supplies. It will include ideas on safe handling practices and safer alternatives.) (AND...NOTE: Aimee Boulanger mentioned a <i>Priorities for a Healthy WA Farm to Schools</i> project in 2008.)</li> </ul>
Steven Gilbert	Institute for Neurotoxicity and Neurological Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrote “A Small Dose of Toxicology” published in 2004, which provides an introduction to the health effects of chemicals and is supported by the web site <a href="http://www.asmalldoseof.org">www.asmalldoseof.org</a></li> <li>• Wrote and maintains Toxipedia (<a href="http://toxipedia.org/conf/display/toxipedia/About+Toxipedia">http://toxipedia.org/conf/display/toxipedia/About+Toxipedia</a>), a free, online toxicology encyclopedia and resource center concerning the health effects of chemicals. This includes Healthy World Theater, a list of creative ways to reach out to the public on environmental health issues.</li> <li>• Working with WA Physician’s for Social Responsibility and Seattle’s Children’s Hospital to develop a farmers’ market at the hospital.</li> <li>• Put a scientific consensus statement about learning disabilities onto the ICEH website (<a href="http://www.iceh.org/pdfs/LDDI/LDDIS_tatement.pdf">http://www.iceh.org/pdfs/LDDI/LDDIS_tatement.pdf</a>).</li> </ul>
Robin Kenepah	Public Health-Seattle and King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of King County’s Childcare Health Program nurses. Provides consultation and technical assistance to any licensed childcare, including Head Start, on environmental health issues.</li> <li>• Interested in exposures to chemicals,</li> </ul>

		including lead and air fresheners.
Tracee Mayfield	Public Health-Seattle and King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on the precautionary principle.</li> <li>• Interested in having the working group membership be regional in order to generate the most financial resources and political power.</li> </ul>
Thai Nguyen	Public Health-Seattle and King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on lead and arsenic in soil and related outreach to schools and childcares.</li> <li>• Provides continuing education courses for childcare providers (through S.T.A.R.S. trainings) on related topics.</li> <li>• Interested in finding good speakers on lead, arsenic, and environmental justice for STARS trainings.</li> <li>• Interested in evaluations, and behavior change.</li> <li>• Works with the Children’s Health Team.</li> </ul>
Julie Parker	Public Health-Seattle and King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of King County’s Childcare Health Program nurses. Provides consultation and technical assistance to any licensed childcare, including Head Start, on environmental health issues.</li> <li>• Interested in chemicals, cleaners, disinfectants, and Bisphenol-A (because plastic baby bottles get heated in childcares).</li> </ul>
Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen	Public Health-Seattle and King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently working on a project to improve environmental health of nail salon workers, workers’ children, and pregnant clients.</li> <li>• Recently completed recommendations for LHWMP on how LHWMP can improve environmental health in King County childcares in 2008. Included a recommendation to have an Environmental Health specialist available to work with the County’s public health nurses.</li> <li>• In 2008 will be working on completing fact sheets for childcare providers on the following topics: safer art supplies, safer toys, alternative cleaners, storage of cleaners, pesticides, and indoor air quality.</li> </ul>
Margaret	Toxic Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested in education as it supports policy</li> </ul>

Shield	Legacy	<p>and market change (the focus of her work).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TFLC supports idea of elevating the visibility of children’s environmental health by putting on a conference.</li> <li>• Currently focusing heavily on children’s exposure to toxic chemicals. See the online toxic toys database at <a href="http://www.healthytoys.org/home.php">http://www.healthytoys.org/home.php</a> . In 2008, will promote a bill to ban lead, cadmium, phthalates in children’s products and assess, at the state level, chemicals of risk in children’s products... Update: the Children’s Safe Products Act has been introduced - see <a href="http://www.toxic-free-kids.org">http://www.toxic-free-kids.org</a></li> <li>• Working on comprehensive chemicals policy reform via a number of campaigns, see policy principles in our Safer Chemicals Platform at <a href="http://www.toxicfreelegacy.org/saferchemicals/">http://www.toxicfreelegacy.org/saferchemicals/</a></li> </ul>
Michelle Sommargren	NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed an online curriculum for pesticides and child health for primary health care providers. See <a href="http://depts.washington.edu/opchild/">http://depts.washington.edu/opchild/</a> .May do a second one with a tribal focus.</li> <li>• Interested in finding more ways to reach clinicians.</li> <li>• Wants to increase PEHSU’s reach to rural communities. For ex. working with the Yakima Valley Farm worker Clinic on asthma triggers.</li> <li>• Interested in plasticizers’ affects on early development.</li> </ul>
Lindsay Spencer	Tacoma-Pierce County Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her primary focus for 2008 will be on lead and elevated blood lead levels in children. Seeking resources on elevated blood lead levels.</li> <li>• Currently writing a plan for Pierce County on climate change and its connection to environmental health issues.</li> <li>• Interested in the following topics: indoor</li> </ul>

		<p>and outdoor air quality, anti-idling policies, plastics, pesticide reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested in issues affecting pre-schoolers.</li> </ul>
Margo Young	US Environmental Protection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator for Children’s Environmental Health for Region 10 states- AK, ID, OR &amp; WA. See <a href="http://epa.gov/r10earth/children.htm">http://epa.gov/r10earth/children.htm</a></li> <li>• Currently working on the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative.</li> <li>• Promotes EPA’s Healthy Schools program.</li> <li>• Interested in outreach to low income, people of color, and native Alaskan populations.</li> <li>• Helped organize the Tribal Nations Children’s Environmental Health Summit in Denver in 2007.</li> <li>• Working on a Smart Growth workgroup with health and environment agencies in Oregon and Idaho.</li> </ul>

**Conclusion**

After the group shared their current work and interests, the meeting ended. Due to time constraints, we did not have time to brainstorm names of others to invite to the next meeting.