

Children's Environmental Health Working Group
CHE-WA
February 11, 2010

Note taker

Margo Young

Attendance

Julia Berg, Russ Clausen, Robin Kenepah, Aileen Gagney, Meredith Eddy, Steve Gilbert, Cindy Callahan, Dennis Weaver, Michael Bergman, Millie Piazza, Jeanne Johnson, Angela De La Hoz, Erica Finsness, Heather Trim, Lauren Jenks, Michelle Gaither, Tracy Bier, Lauren Jenks

Apologies to those who were trying to call in. There was something going on with the conference line that blocked access.

Action Alert

Support Medicine Takeback – Washington State Bill

Need help NOW urging passage of the medicine takeback bill. If you'd like to contact your legislature, send one of the following messages below – either with an ecological message or a poisoning message.

Ecological focus:

http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5430/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1630

poisoning focus:

http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5430/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1631

Report Outs

- 1) Dennis – Call to Conscience, Saturday, Feb. 27th, Pacific Lutheran campus, 5-7 pm, CYF CYL! Is the health component feature at this event. Article in New York Times Magazine “Is there an Ecological Unconscious?”
- 2) Michael Bergman – Working on marketing plan for Toxic Free Tips. Info line – 866-939-9991. Hours are 10am-4pm. Spanish translation available. The website is: www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/
- 3) Cindy Callahan – “Slow Death by Rubber Duck” – book signing last week. Recommends the book.
- 4) Erica Finsness – National Children's Study will be coming to April meeting for presentation.

- 5) Margo Young – EPA Indoor Air Quality RFP will come out in March. Check <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPAGE.NSF/webpage/Indoor+Air+Grants+Request+for+Proposals+in+EPA+Region+10> . This is last year's link, but this year's will be here soon.
- 6) Heather thinks it would be a great idea to put in an application from this working group to expand what the Partnership is doing on outdoor air and Puget Sound. Follow up needed.
- 7) Margo - Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health hearing, "Current Science on Public Exposures to Toxic Chemicals." Thursday, February 4, 2010 10:00 AM EST
Hearing is archived and testimony available in pdf
http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=8a722315-802a-23ad-4e9a-b8477139e63f
- 8) Margo - EPA is requesting comment on a petition filed last October by Earthjustice and Farmworker Justice on behalf of several environmental and farm worker community organizations. The petitioners ask EPA to evaluate children's exposure to pesticide drift and to adopt, on an interim basis, requirements for "no-spray" buffer zones near homes, schools, day-care centers, and parks. EPA will evaluate the petition and the comments received on it in determining what actions are necessary to protect the health of children who live, play, or attend school in areas where pesticides are sprayed. For further information and to submit comments, please see docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0825 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments will be accepted through March 5, 2010.
- 9) Steve G. - IPMopedia – hoping to include veggie gardens with expansion of site.
- 10) Aileen – 3 new ClearCorps members – 1 doing regular home assessments, one doing asthma outreach work (2 visits – handing out peak flow meter, dust mite pillow covers, green cleaning kit, commercial grade walk-off mat) and landlord-tenant outreach worker mediating between landlords and tenants. Also working with housing justice program with the King County Bar Assoc. to prevent evictions.
- 11) Jeanne J – Bee issue – is a world issue. Wanted to clarify that she might not have wanted to use the term "earth shattering". Part time – not sure how much she will be able to participate.
- 12) Angela – Tacoma-Smelter Plume – Got grant from ECY to do residential soil sampling. Will be sampling 120 properties in 2 years. Also working on mass media campaign to target minority populations (Hispanic and Korean) for outreach.
- 13) Robin – child care health program has limited staff. Program is very involved on a daily basis with environmental health issues. Address these issues continuously when doing on-site visits.
- 14) Russ – RRP Rule coming into affect on April 22, 2010.
- 15) Heather – 3 bills in legislature. Needs help on the Take-Back Bill for Pharmaceuticals. Margaret Shield is the lead person on this. Needs help NOW. Would be 1st in the country if passed. People for Puget Sound has automatic links to send an email to legislator. Issue of childhood poisoning. 1st Green Fest planning meeting last night – want to put more of a Seattle stamp on the Green

- Fest. Wants more diversity – young people, more color, more political parties, low-income. Might want to change music, work through the punk movement “Do it Yourself”. Could have food demonstrations, how to save energy, etc.. JUNE 4-5th.
- 16) Julia – Working with Child Profile – WA State – to increase children’s environmental health messages with letters to parents (20 or so throughout early life). WA State is the only state in nation that includes health info along with immunization info.
 - 17) Tracy B.– Going to Olympia next week with Children’s Alliance.
 - 18) Michelle – Got \$600 to look at the less toxic slate markers – want to know more about an alternative from Australia. Also PPRC has a grant from ECY to look at alternatives to industrial toxic chemicals using Green Screen, which is a matrix tool to analyze products. See <http://www.cleanproduction.org/Greenscreen.php>. Michelle also did a green cleaning demonstration for a Coolmom.org group. Might be good fit for Green Fest.
 - 19) Children’s Environmental Health Monthly Journal Club – next one is Feb. 16th on asthma intervention strategies.
 - 20) Lauren – have had lead poisoning info that goes to 12-month old in Child Profile. Also have Interagency Agreement to partner with CTED to get more intervention services to families with elevated blood lead levels. Washington Tracking Network helping to print Healthy Homes brochure.

Speaker

We welcomed a talk by one of our members, Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT.
Topic: *Fluoride in your drinking water: History, Science, and Policy*

Dr. Gilbert is the Director of the Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders (INND), in Seattle, WA and an Affiliate Associate Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington.

Folks had many questions for Steve, which he fielded with care, knowing when to say “I don’t know.” Thanks for both giving information on and helping create new questions about this sometimes controversial issue.