

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

Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 12, 2012 9:30-11:30

Next meeting: Thursday, May 10 Time: 9:30-11:30

Location: Health Resources and Services Administration Information Center, 2201 Sixth Ave, Seattle, WA 98121. Meeting will be on the 3rd floor, in the ACF suite, in the Rainier Room.

Speaker: Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT, from the Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders (INND), will discuss environmental health issues seen in a recent trip to Gaza.

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: Gail Gensler (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County -- LHWMP); Ada Otter (NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit); Sonia Hoglander (HomEvolution Consulting); Julia Singer (LHWMP); Holly Davies (WA State Department of Ecology); Steve Gilbert (INND), Dennis Weaver (Change Your Food, Change Your Life); Margo Young (US Environmental Protection Agency); Diana de Forest (US Department of Health & Human Services); Rachel Koller (Healthy Home Focus); Ian Sodak (Environmental Coalition of South Seattle -- ECOSS); Robin Lofstrom (Nitwit Lice Removal); Tracy Bier (WA Physicians for Social Responsibility); BJ Cummings (Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group -- DRCC/TAG); Elizabeth Loudon (ECOSS); Michelle Gaither (Pollution Prevention Resource Center -- PPRC); Nancy Bernard (WA State Department of Health – WA DOH); Steve (ECOSS). On phone: Judy Bardin (WA DOH), Lauren Jenks (WA DOH), Toni Nunes (WA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians)

Facilitator: Elizabeth Loudon **Note taker:** Robin Lofstrom

Announcements

CHE-WA (RK)

We are compiling a list of our working group members' strengths and available resources; please complete when you receive the email; link with will be sent with notes, as well as in a separate email with a separate subject line); be as specific as you can; it may be that this list will illuminate where we have items to add.

ECOSS (EL)

Duwamish Alive is ramping up for an indoor air quality conference in association with the American Lung Association

PPRC (MG)

- Chemical assessment alternative tool is being designed which you can evaluate against a matrix

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- Experience with PEPS (Program for Early Parent Support) shows that the demand for green housecleaning tips and references is waning, as new mothers are becoming more savvy
- Fautleroy Church UCC: Kids Free Toxic Fair was a nice event.

LHWMP (GG)

- Providing trainings to childcares on the [EcoHealthy Childcare](#) Program
- Seeking mothers with young children for focus groups

LHWMP (JS)

- Regarding the Pesticide-Free Places project, the media campaign telling the public about the map is beginning just in time for Earth Day. The map is searchable by zip, city name, place name, or simply click and drag.
- CHE-WA's Children's Environmental Health Forum, held every other year, is coming up in 2013; a committee is needed to plan the event. If you know of any sources of funding, please let Julia know.
- The June speaker will be from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

NW PEHSU (AO)

- The next [Children's Environmental Health Webinar](#) will be held on April 17th at 3:30. These webinars will occur every other month on the 3rd Tuesdays in 2012 (3:30 -4:30 pm PDT). This month's topic is *Applying Markers of Stress in Environmental Health Studies*.
- A clinician fact sheet is being developed about air toxins, based on a model in Oregon.

HomEvolution Consulting (SH)

- Announcements included: Vitamin Life, air environmental blog; electromagnetic radiation

Department of Ecology (HD)

- Toxins in children's products bill died in legislative assembly
- Ramping up to do product testing. Part of the enforcement is that there are new reporting laws beginning August.
- Chemical Action Plan committee focus is on air pollution in the form of diesel and particulates. Public comments accepted in July.

INND (SG)

- Leaving for Gaza on Sunday.
- Toxipedia's [Milestones of Toxicology](#) poster is now available in Arabic, German, French, Italian, Russian, Chinese, and other languages as well.
- ["Download the Universe"](#) is a new website which gives readers a growing guide to the world of science e-books. How can we make that information more widely available?

Change Your Food, Change Your Life (DW)

- Good Food Truck update: Fundraising is beginning; social media intern needed. Hope to announce large donor soon.

US EPA (MY)

- EPA staff is looking for community service projects for Earth Month.

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- May is EPA Asthma Awareness month. See Asthma Community Network.org [asthma podcast](#).
- EPA's Children's Health Month is October 2012: perhaps the theme should be pre-natal exposures? Talk with Margo if you're interested.
- 2013 forum – Please volunteer to be on the committee; discussed whether it should be held someplace central, like Ellensburg. Committee volunteers who stepped up: Gail, Julia, Tracy, Holly, Steve, Diana, Dennis
- Aileen Gagney, American Lung Association- Master Home Environmentalist Program, will train EPA staff to become more familiar with healthy homes issues: two four-hour segments beginning in May.

US Dept Health & Human Services (DdF)

- Priorities are: supply providers with important access to community health resources (85 programs); focus will also be on tribes, access to behavioral health, linking up grantees, and infant mortality

Nitwit Lice Removal (RL)

- Concerned about overuse of pesticides, and how no-nits policies may contribute to this
- Topic of "lice" may be added to future agenda.

WA Physicians for Social Responsibility (TB)

- Forum is coming up at UW with student physicians, with the support of the Pew Foundation, related to antibiotics in agriculture
- Toxic Free Child Act identified as policy bill – it made it further than expected
- Hanford Clean-up: See their "Particles on the Wall" exhibit

On the Phone

- WA Comprehensive Cancer Care Plan: American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" is coming up
- WA Tracking Network has received a grant from CDC; a website with indicators of exposures and diseases, including particulate matter, and how often counties exceed Air Quality Index
- Health Homes Program: looking for editor
- Head Start: not utilizing the greatest testing for teachers
- WA Toxic Coalition: updating website; this is a long-term project

Speaker:

B.J. Cummings, Community Health Projects Manager for the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC) presented an overview of the Duwamish Valley Healthy Communities Project. This project aims to work with residents, businesses, workers, visitors, government agencies and non-profit organizations, to identify, prioritize and develop action plans to address threats to the community's health from exposures to soil, air and water pollution as well as lack of healthy food, green space and other amenities. *For more information on DRCC, visit www.duwamishcleanup.org.*