

Children's Environmental Health Working Group

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

Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Sixth Ave. Seattle, WA 98101

Host group: Gretchen Stewart, SEE Children's Health & Air Quality, Environmental Protection Agency

Speakers/Presentation: Rad Cunningham from the Washington State Department of Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Topic: Lead Poisoning Prevention Program will present the new targeted childhood blood lead screening guidelines and demonstrate an online lead exposure risk mapping tool.

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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.

<b>Attendees in-person:</b>	
Gail Gensler	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Emily Polstein	American Lung Association
Steve Gilbert	Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND)
Gretchen Stewart _SEE	Environmental Protection Agency – Children's Health and Air Quality
Mark MacIntyre	EPA – Public Affairs
Jeff Philips	EPA – Lead Outreach & Compliance
Kim Farnham	EPA – Lead Outreach & Compliance
Maria Tartaglia	EPA – Lead Outreach & Compliance
Vickie Carper - SEE	EPA – Lead Outreach & Compliance
Fran Solomon	Evergreen State College - Tacoma
Rad Cunningham	Washington State Department of Health
Andrea Lindsey	EPA – Community Involvement Coordinator

**Attendees by phone:**

Megan Dunn	Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
Lorelei Walker	Health Equity Circle and CHE-WA
Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Katie Frevert	UW Superfund Research Program, SRP
Wendy	? NEPA

**Opening**

Gail Gensler welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order, and facilitated the agenda. Mark MacIntyre of R10 Environmental Protection Agency welcomed the group to EPA and shared his appreciation for our ongoing partnerships.

Next meeting will be May 12, 2016, hosted by the WA State Department of Health in Kent.

### **Group Discussion**

1. Gail Gensler (Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County) opened a discussion about a new approach to chairing the monthly meetings and suggested a possible joint leadership role(s).
2. Katie Frevert (UW Superfund Research Program, SRP) partners with many agencies including ATSDR/EPA. She is currently working on reducing exposure to fish contaminants through fishing, and is working in the Duwamish area.
3. Fran Solomon(Evergreen) is working as a research contractor with Washington Toxics Coalition on tire crumb rubber. Details will follow in the coming months. She mentioned that today's EPA webinar on crumb rubber will be taped and should be accessible in several weeks. Steven Gilbert provided some updates on crumb rubber from his website [Factsoncrumbrubber.org](http://Factsoncrumbrubber.org)
4. Gretchen Stewart (EPA) reported she is working with PEHSU on a clinician's office poster providing details and well testing instructions for groundwater nitrates. She also serves on the Yakima Groundwater Education and Outreach Committee (GWMA) and has submitted a one-year marketing proposal for community wide outreach which is currently in the approval process.
5. Rad Cunningham (DOH) is currently working on Health Impact Assessment Healthy Communities, school sitings and intra-city design process re: air pollution.
5. Megan Dunn (NCAP) is working with schools to reduce pesticide exposures to schools; she has a grant for schools on reducing pesticide exposure, and welcomes assistance in the development and proofing.
6. Lorelei Walker (in new role as CHE-WA point person) is currently working on the redesign of the CHE website. *Toxipedia* will be integrated into the new web design.
7. Steve Gilbert announced that *Particles on the Wall* is now on display at Mobius Gallery at Cascadia College, Bothell, WA from April 14 - May 5, Time 5pm - 8pm. Also, watch for new *Toxipedia* information on food coloring, fluoride and composting. Each can be found at [factsonfoodcolors.org](http://factsonfoodcolors.org) , [factsonfluoride.org](http://factsonfluoride.org), and [factsoncomposting.org](http://factsoncomposting.org). Steve also updated the group on our PPG grant request for a Forum....the PPG grants were defunded, so we couldn't have gotten money anyway.
9. Vickie Carper shared a story of how her son got sick from carpet off-gassing.
10. Jeff Philips (EPA) discussed a new video he is currently being completed with partners on asthma in tribal communities. Note that Gillian Mittelstaedt and Erin McTigue are also involved in this.
11. Emily Polstein (American Lung Association) works with the Master Home Environmentalist program. ALA made 250 home visits in 2015. Excellent attendance.... class now in session with the MHE program.
12. Nancy Bernard (Washington State DOH) attended and spoke at a conference on schools at WSU and discussed topics such as HVAC, IAQ and the significance to public health. On the topic of drinking water she stated that source water is not the problem locally. Generally it is the plumbing that is the issue. Even if

you've replaced all the plumbing, there can still be a problem because of the service line to the home, and the brass fittings in the fixtures. Best to check the DOH website for the most current information.

### **Presentation**

Rad Cunningham, Environmental Epidemiologist at the WA State Department of Health, spoke about the State's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and new targeted childhood blood lead screening guidelines, and demonstrated an online lead exposure risk mapping tool. His team developed the map he demonstrated.

NOTE: There was no PowerPoint from this meeting. The speaker worked from the following key websites referring to the WA Tracking Network and blood lead level screening:

- <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL>
- <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/334-394.pdf>
- <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/334-383.pdf>
- <http://www.vox.com/a/lead-exposure-risk-map>

Some notes from the presentation:

1. The risk factors map is not based on actual blood lead level data; it is based on two risk factors. Age of housing is the best indication of potential residential lead hazards. The map is meant for health providers, parents, caregivers, or young families looking to purchase. It covers all of Washington, and is available to the public.
2. Other risk factors include the following; however, these were too difficult to get sufficient data to map
  - actual blood lead level reports
  - proximity to old gas stations, airports, and the ASARCO smelter
  - 1940-1978 housing stock
  - tenant's occupation
3. There are no home test kits for drinking water; you must get a sample to a laboratory and follow certain procedures. See the Washington Department of Health website for details.
4. Water filters are useful; however, they must be regularly maintained and replaced to work properly.
5. In Washington, all Medicaid children will be tested for blood lead levels. This is the result of a lawsuit.
6. Nancy Bernard added that Washington pediatricians have not seen elevated blood lead levels; therefore they don't think the testing is worth doing.
7. Gretchen Stewart added that most pediatricians in Washington have been resistant to testing children without forceful intervention from parents.
8. Kim Farnham mentioned that EPA's headquarters has also been working on a map. There is a concern that the information could lead to people's property values dropping if they live in an area with high lead levels.