

Children's Environmental Health Working Group  
Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE-WA)  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, April 9, 2015  
9:30AM – 11:30AM PST  
Meeting location: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 Office,  
1200 Sixth Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

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*The mission of the Children's Environmental Health Working Group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment 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.*

### **Action Items from Meeting**

1. Rachel Koller will share the following documents with the group:
  - A. Final Classroom Cleaning Project document when complete
  - B. "How To" document on cleaning agents after this meeting
2. Marilyn Hair can provide digital files related to publicizing upcoming UW Public Health Café on May 12 in West Seattle. (See more on event below)
3. Gail Gensler will follow-up with Professor Karen Bowman on environmental health trainings for nurses, and Rachel Koller's project.
4. Peter Murchie will follow-up with Dr. Etzel, Director of EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) on questions and discussion from the group.
  - A. Barbara Morrissey serves on the EPA Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC), and there is an upcoming meeting in Washington, DC. She would like to bring up TSCA reform and new research/data related to Phthalates, which was presented to the Washington State legislature.
  - B. Nancy Bernard inquired about the state of the Tools for Schools program nationally, and expressed her interest in having that program supported.
  - C. There was also a good group discussion about one of the video products used by Tools for Schools that the State of Washington helped fund originally – The Virtual School Walkthrough: Identifying and Solving Common Indoor Air Quality Problems. A subgroup of the CHE-WA agreed to meet and look at ways of updating this tool, which is almost 10 years old. *OCHP and the EPA Indoor Environments Division (IED) may be interested in supporting this video update.*
5. Below are some upcoming local events on children's environmental health:
  - A. Tuesday, May 12, 7-8:30pm: Public Health Café at West Seattle Chaco Canyon Café (3770 SW Alaska, 2 blocks east of 38<sup>th</sup> in West Seattle), Dr. Catherine Karr discussion on "Childhood Asthma: Is it linked to the Environment?"
  - B. Recycling Fluorescent, CFL and HID Lights at No Charge: See <http://www.LightRecycleWA.org> or call 1-877-592-2972 (Ext. 354) for more information.
  - C. [Washington State Nurse Association Conference](#), April 22-24, Tulalip Resort Casino
  - D. [Washington Association of School Principals Conference](#), June 28-30, Spokane Convention Center
6. There were additional ideas discussed at the meeting for future follow-up:

- A. Holly Davies was interested in doing more work on children's environmental health issues that may not be as well known by the public.
- B. Gretchen Stewart is interesting in forming a Workgroup on Messaging.

**Attendees (in-person)**

Facilitators: Gail Gensler and Peter Murchie, Note-Taker: Angel Ip

- David Allnut, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Linda Anderson-Carnahan, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Nancy Bernard, Washington State Department of Health
- Susan Conbere, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Holly Davies, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Carolyn Gangmark, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Carolyn Gleason, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Region 10
- Aileen Gagney, American Lung Association
- Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)
- Marilyn Hair, University of Washington Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health (CEEH)
- Angel Ip, U.S. EPA Region 10 & Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
- Rachel Koller, Independent Consultant
- Elizabeth Long, Washington State Department of Health
- Brooke Madrone, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Barbara Morrissey, Washington State Department of Health
- Peter Murchie, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Gary Olson, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Linda Pauley, U.S. Department of Education, Region 10
- Anna Quach, American Lung Association
- Eric Saganic, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
- Gretchen Stewart, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food Change Your Life!
- Wenona Wilson, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Margo Young, U.S. EPA Region 10

**Attendees (Remote)**

- Dr. Ruth Etzel – Guest Speaker, U.S. EPA Headquarters, Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP)
- Alanna Conley, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Megan Dunn, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
- Kate Frevert, University of Washington Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health (CEEH)
- Michelle Gaither, Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)
- Karen Griego, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Region 10
- Michelle Ibarra, U.S. EPA Region 10
- Jerry Royster, HUD, Region 10 (Boise)
- Khesha Reed, U.S. EPA Headquarters, OCHP

**Agenda**

- 9:30 am           **Opening**
- Introductions, logistics, welcome back and welcome new folks
  - New agenda items
  - Next meeting – May 14 at the University of WA in Seattle
- 9:35 am           **Group discussion**
- Update on 2015 projects
- 9:45 am           **Member updates and announcements**
- 10:15 am          **BREAK /Networking**
- 10:30 am          **Presentation**
- 11:00             **Member updates and announcements, cont.**
- 11:30 am          **End**

**Opening - Introductions, logistics, welcome back and welcome new folks; New agenda items (9:30am)**

*Information on next month's meeting is below.*

- Thursday, May 14, 9:30am-11:30am
- University of Washington in Seattle
- Lorelei Walker is hosting the meeting. Stay tuned for an e-mail from Gail or [CHE-WA Meeting's website](#) on more details on May's guest speaker and other meeting information!

**Group discussion - Update on 2015 projects (9:35am)**

**Member updates and announcements (9:45am)**

**Rachel Koller – Classroom Cleaning Project**

- *Project Updates*
  - Rachel provided an update on her project addressing classroom cleaning for teachers.
  - Next steps are for Rachel to go to Rainier View Elementary in South Seattle. At Rainier View Elementary, Rachel will be working with their school nurse, conducting 10-minute follow-up surveys, and giving more presentations at the school.
  - To date, Rachel has worked with five elementary schools. Staff meeting time includes several nurses.
- *Discussion*
  - Nancy Bernard mentioned that Michelle Gaither has experience with schools in pollution prevention. Nancy mentioned that they are both interested in Rachel's work.
  - Nancy has a "Train the Trainer" presentation, and has given this presentation to all 70 Seattle nurses. Nancy has a flyer, and just needs to change the Seattle flyer to a generic

one that applies to more areas. Nancy has given a presentation to many school stakeholder groups including teachers.

- There are some upcoming conferences of possible interest to the group.
  - [Washington State Nurse Association Conference](#) (from Gretchen)
    - April 22-24, 2015 (Wednesday – Friday), Tulalip Resort Casino
  - [Washington Association of School Principals Conference](#) (from Nancy)
    - June 28-30, 2015 (Sunday to Tuesday), Spokane Convention Center
  - Gail mentioned that Professor Karen Bowman may be a helpful contact, as Karen teaches environmental health to nurses. Gail said that she would pass on information from this discussion and Rachel's work to Karen.
- Aileen inquired about purchasing agents because teachers are not required to clean.
  - Rachel replied that she would send a "How To" document on cleaning agents.
  - Nancy has worked with custodial colleagues on this topic, and mentioned water-based solutions.
  - Gail also works with alternatives, and is interested in converting how purchasing and maintenance is done.
  - Peter inquired about how to get parents to intervene.
- Gail mentioned that there is a grant request through Washington State Department of Ecology that Holly Davies is involved in, and is being finalized this month.

- **Action Items**

1. Rachel will send out the final document to the group when the document is ready.
2. Rachel will send a "How To" document on cleaning agents after this meeting.
3. Gail will follow-up with Karen Bowman regarding Continuing Education Credits for Nurses at relevant presentations by Nancy, and also updating her on Rachel's work.

#### **Gail Gensler — First Thousand Days**

- There will be a future CHE event related to the "First Thousand Days", most likely Wednesday, December 2. Gail said that we will be hearing more of the phrase "First Thousand Days". For more information on "First Thousand Days", see the following CHE website: [http://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership\\_calls/15832?res](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership_calls/15832?res)
- The CHE "First Thousand Days" refers to a new platform for initiatives and programs designed to reduce babies' and their mothers' exposures to neurotoxic chemicals in the first 1000 days of development, beginning at conception.
- There are some pilot cities, and Seattle has expressed interest. The Blue Green Alliance and other organizations are interested in increasing outcomes for early childhood and identifying related goals to this effort.
- Elise Miller, the National Director of CHE is involved in planning processes. Some upcoming questions to address:
  - When will the event roll out?
  - Who is leading this work?
- The CHE-WA "First Thousand Days" is not to be confused with the Gates Foundation, which also has an event named "First Thousand Days". The Gates Foundation "First Thousand Days" refers to an initiative launched by the U.S. and Irish Governments in 2010 to promote greater action and investment in maternal and young child nutrition, particularly during the 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday when good nutrition can have a life-changing impact on a child's ability to grow, learn and thrive.

### **Upcoming Local Events**

#### **Marilyn Hair –UW Public Health Café with Dr. Catherine Karr in W. Seattle, 5/12, 7:30pm**

- Marilyn let the group know about the next [UW Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health Public Health Café](#) in West Seattle's Chaco Canyon Café (3770 SW Alaska in West Seattle) by Dr. Catherine Karr on May 12 from 7-8:30pm.
- Dr. Catherine Karr will be presenting to the group on exposures to air pollution in Yakima. The talk is titled, "Childhood Asthma: Is it linked to the Environment"?
- Dr. Catherine Karr is a pediatrician, University of Washington Professor and Research Scientist, and Director of the Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit.
- **Action Item:** Marilyn has the following digital files related to the event, and will distribute to the group for publicizing the upcoming event:
  1. "Fast Facts about Childhood Asthma and the Environment" (Fact Sheet)
  2. Flyer for May 12 Public Health Café event

#### **Gail Gensler – Recycling Florescent, CFL and HID Lights at no charge.**

- Gail shared information on how to recycle florescent Light Tubes (straight or curved), Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL), and High Intensity Discharge Lights (HID) at no charge throughout Washington State. There are also flyers available to help distribute this information.
  - Visit <http://www.LightRecycleWA.org> to find a convenient Collection Site near you.
  - You can also dial (877) 592-2972 (Extension 354)

### **Other Topics/Questions**

- Talk with Gail for more information on:
  - Child care providers, how to reduce toxic exposures, and King County Head Starts.
- Gretchen asked if there was any work being done on the [Pesticide Free King County Parks](#).
  - The reply was that Julia was assigned to a different program, so the website and park program is in a "hold" position.

#### **Presentation – Guest Speaker Dr. Ruth Etzel (10:30am)**

*Please see attached PowerPoint presentation for more information, not covered in the notes below. More information on the EPA Office of Children's Health Protection: <http://www2.epa.gov/children>*

Dr. Ruth Etzel is the new Director of the EPA Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP). Dr. Etzel plans to share about some of OCHP's work and resources, and is interested in learning from CHE-WA on additional ideas for OCHP to address children's environmental health.

#### ***EPA Office of Children's Health Information and Resources***

- Some OCHP resources to address children's health include (click on hyperlink below):
  - [OCHP Student Curriculum](#)
  - [OCHP School Siting Guidelines](#)
  - [OCHP State School Environmental Health Guidelines](#)
  - [Childcare Resource Website](#) (Training and curriculum, checklists and tools, information for providers about specific environmental health issues in child-care settings)
- OCHP and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) fund [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units](#) (PEHSUs). PEHSUs are

academically based, typically at university medical centers, and are located across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Over the course of 4 years (2010–2013), the North American PEHSU network delivered nearly 1,500 presentations on topics from a general introduction to children's health and the environment to focused presentations on air pollution, asthma, lead poisoning, and mold. The programs reached nearly 210,000 participants.

- OCHP has plans to enter a collaborative agreement with Scholastic.
- Dr. Etzel stressed the importance of public health prevention in keeping children safe.

### ***World Health Organization***

- For more on WHO and children's environmental health, see: <http://www.who.int/ceh>
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 36 percent of diseases can be prevented by modifying environments. However, when considering health determinants versus spending, only a modest share of resources are allocated to prevention.
- When parents and community groups have clinical questions, helpful resources include the [World Health Organization](#) and [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units](#) (PEHSUs).
- The WHO has a training package on children's health and the environment, the goal is for the information to become integrated into the medical school and nursing school curricula. This effort will allow for primary prevention, before contaminants reach children.
  - Dr. Etzel noted her observations and medical training that medical schools do not require that the curriculum addresses environmental health. (See more on related work below by the World Health Organization (WHO))
  - For example, the WHO is working on efforts to include environmental health into the medical school curriculum in China, to help clinicians address air and water pollution.
- The WHO is also working on efforts to empower community members, and work on addressing endocrine disrupting chemicals. The WHO has published 2 recent publications on endocrine disrupting compounds.

### ***President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risk and Safety Risks to Children***

- [The President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children](#) is led by EPA and Health and Human Services (HHS) with representatives from 17 federal departments and White House offices.
- Dr. Etzel is involved in strong interagency coordination efforts and leading the senior staff steering committee.
- In 2010, the Obama administration charged the Task Force with key goals (see PowerPoint). The priority areas for the Task Force are currently asthma disparities, healthy homes, chemical exposures, and climate change.
- A top priority is the interagency coordination on housing, health, and asthma, and EPA and HHS working with federal, local, and state decision makers. They have highlighted the value of residential interventions for pediatric asthma and to encourage the initiation of pilot programs that include reimbursement by health insurers.
- There have been regional summits of pediatric home asthma interventions, with a lot of great work in the Pacific Northwest, most recently in September 2014. Our regional goal is that by 2020, we will reduce asthma urgent care visits for children ages 0-18 by 30 percent in tribal populations in the Northwest by funding and delivering high quality in-home asthma care.

***Questions from the group for Dr. Etzel***  
**Alanna Conley**

- Alanna noted that the [Oregon Healthy Kids Coalition](#) is very involved in working towards work in reducing the use of flavored cigarettes and e-cigarettes.
  - Dr. Etzel's said that state offices and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP) are doing great work in this field.

#### **Gail Gensler**

- Gail inquired about national level work on improving services with childcares.
  - Dr. Etzel referred CHE-colleagues to the [Children's Environmental Health Network](#) (CEHN) which is led by Nse Witherspoon, with recent childcare work in Oregon. OCHP is under-staffed for work addressing childcares.
  - Khesha Reed noted that OCHP has guidance for childcares. For more information, visit OCHP's [Childcare Resource Website](#).

The group thanked Dr. Etzel for her work at the ground level over the years, including her great work in the Public Health Service, which includes 8 years in Alaska. Aileen Gagney agreed with the importance of timely prevention, and how useful Dr. Etzel's work with the [Tribal Healthy Homes Network](#), resources such as the Air Matters Kit, and work on tribal housing has helped communities.

#### **Member updates and announcements (11am)**

##### **Peter Murchie – [Making a Visible Difference in Communities](#)**

- The Making a Visible Difference initiative works across the agency collaboratively at EPA, and is focusing on 50 communities across the United States. These are communities that are environmentally overburdened, underserved, and in economically distressed areas where the needs are the greatest.
- At EPA Region 10, Making a Visible Difference communities include:
  1. Bremerton, WA (Susan Conbere is a team lead, work includes sustainable planning around housing.)
  2. North Portland, OR (Alanna Conley and Michelle Ibarra are team leads.)
  3. Nampa, ID
  4. Newtok, Shishmaref, Shaktoolik communities in Alaska
  5. Native American communities in Washington and Oregon
- Making a Visible Difference pairs EPA Headquarters resources through partnership with key partners in the regions and collaboration work.
- Peter noted that there have been success in urban areas, and EPA is interested in additional work in rural communities.
  1. In Idaho, there are water and climate stress issues to consider.
  2. In Alaska, there is work on addressing tribal asthma issues in homes, related to reimbursement opportunities and other support.

##### **Gretchen Stewart – Recent Community Outreach Work in Alaska and Idaho**

- Gretchen has been doing community outreach work in Idaho and Alaska. In Idaho, she has been working on a project related to groundwater nitrates and pesticides.

##### **Wenona Wilson – Tribal and Air Quality Work**

- Wenona introduced herself to the group. Wenona is the Manager of the Tribal and Air Toxics Unit at EPA Region 10, she is also a Colville tribal member.

- There is a pilot project on tribal indoor air quality in homes reimbursement project to address asthma.
- She was involved in the Workgroup on the Tools for Schools video and work, being the previous Manager of the Community Engagement and Environmental Health Unit at EPA Region 10.
- Other work on Wenona's team address (but not limited to) ambient air quality, newly designated areas in Idaho and Alaska, wood stoves research (Gretchen Stewart), newly designated areas impacted by air quality issues, work with the Indian Health Service (IHS).
- There was a question on whether work from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency apply to Wenona's work.
  - Eric responded that if the areas are non-attainment areas, then those areas would pertain to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.
  - Holly noted that Washington standards on air quality are more stringent than federal standards.

#### **Nancy Bernard—EPA Tools for Schools and Schools Discussion**

- Nancy Bernard inquired about the state of the [EPA Tools for Schools](#) program nationally, and expressed her interest in having that program supported.
  - **Action Item for Peter Murchie to Dr. Etzel**
- There was also a good group discussion about one of the video products used by EPA Tools for Schools that the State of Washington helped fund originally – The Virtual School Walkthrough: Identifying and Solving Common Indoor Air Quality Problems. A subgroup of the CHE-WA agreed to meet and look at ways of updating this tool, which is almost 10 years old (David was a past contact).
  - *OCHP and the EPA Indoor Environments Division (IED) may be interested in supporting this video update.*
  - **Action Item for Peter Murchie to Dr. Etzel**
- There was also a discussion regarding WA-WAC site approval for schools.
- Susan Conbere mentioned that there was a school siting pilot tool for Billings, MT from the Office of Sustainable Communities that may be of relevant interest.

#### **Aileen Gagney— Updates from the American Lung Association**

- For the Yesler Breathe Easy project, there is a bilingual component. There may be overlap with Gail's work on healthy home assessments.
- Through a partnership with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Aileen and colleagues have completed 100 home assessments. They have partnered with ECOS for work with Spanish-speaking residents. There are also many residents from Somalia and Ethiopia.
- She has been active Master Home Environmentalist program work locally and in Memphis, TN.
- Through an Environmental Justice grant, she is also involved in addressing trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination in groundwater. American Lung Association is also doing work in data from healthy home assessments, landlord tenant assessments, and other projects.
- There was a discussion that mold is a tenant's responsibility unless it is a water issue. If not a water issue, then mitigation is up to the landlord. Aileen is interested in low-cost or no cost suggestions to address these issues.

#### **Barbara Morrissey – Updates from the Washington Department of Health**

- Barbara serves as an Advisor on the [EPA Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee](#) (CHPAC).

- Barbara, Holly, and Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) colleagues are active on state bills related to addressing children's environmental health. Barbara is also involved in work in preventing toxics from being released.
- For next week's CHPAC meeting in Washington, DC, Barbara would like to bring up Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform and new research/data related to Phthalates, which was presented to the Washington State legislature.
  - **Action Item for Peter Murchie to Dr. Etzel**
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been addressing Phthalates, but has limited staff. The National Academy of Sciences has recently produced a [Cumulative Risk Assessment on Phthalates](#).
- The Washington Department of Health is looking at state data, as well as data on Phthalates and bio monitoring. Findings have shown that 10 percent of women have more than the recommended level of phthalates. WA DOH is concerned about pre-natal and male reproductive track exposures.

**Holly Davies—Interest in children's environmental health issues not widely known to public**

- Holly wants to work on children's environmental health issues that the public may not realize are issues. (**Action Item for discussion**)
  - How do we get people's attention?
  - How do we do this type of work when people do not have awareness on acute topics? For example, flame retardants.

**Gretchen Stewart—Workgroup on Messaging**

- Gretchen is interested in forming a Workgroup on Messaging. (**Action Item for discussion**)
  - People can be resistant to different types of messaging. How can we better reach people where they are?

**May 2015 - CHE-WA meeting at UW**

- Next month's meeting will be on May 14 at University of Washington from 9:30am-11:30am.
- Lorelei Walker is hosting May's meeting.
- Contact Gail Gensler at [Gail.Gensler@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Gail.Gensler@kingcounty.gov) or see the [CHE-WA Meeting's website](#) for more details on next month's meeting, more on CHE-WA, or to join the mailing list and meetings.