

Children’s Environmental Health Working Group

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

Thursday, May 12 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Department of Health, 20425 72nd Ave, S. Kent, WA 98032

Host group: Washington State Department of Health, Elisabeth Long and Nancy Bernard

Speakers/Presentation: Nancy Bernard from the Washington State Department of Health’s Indoor Air Quality/School Environmental Health and Safety

Topic: DOH’s work on school environmental health and safety.

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.

Attendees in-person	
Nancy Bernard	Washington State Department of Health (host)
Michelle Gaither	Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)
Gail Gensler	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)
Elisabeth Long	Washington State Department of Health (host)
Arthur Wendel	ATSDR

Attendees by phone	
Nancy Beaudet	PEHSU
Megan Dunn	Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
Marilyn Hair	UW CEEH
Emily Polstein	American Lung Association (ALA)
Gretchen Stewart	EPA – Region X
Lorelei Walker	Health Equity Circle and CHE-WA

Opening

Gail Gensler welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order, and facilitated the agenda.

Next meeting will be June 9, 2016, hosted by the American Lung Association in Seattle. It will be the last meeting before taking a two month break for the summer.

Group Discussion

1. Gail Gensler (LHWMP) announced Steve Gilbert submitted two abstracts on behalf of CHE-WA for the October WSPHA conference. One is on the work of CHE-WA as a collaborative and its role and mission and the other is on Children’s Environmental Health issues. If we are approved, Lorelei asked when WSPHA needs a commitment. TBD.

2. Gail Gensler opened the discussion of the need for someone to take on the CHE-WA facilitator position when she retires. *The replacement should ideally be identified by the end of the summer.* She estimates the workload is only approximately six hours a month to prepare for the meetings.
3. Lorelei Walker (CHE) announced that the CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Workgroup (this workgroup) will become the CHE Washington state chapter. Upcoming CHE calls are: May 24 - Human microbiome and June 7 – Exploring the role of acetaminophen in asthma and autism.
4. Nancy Beaudet (PEHSU) recently conducted a successful workshop on pediatric environmental health topics. There were 28 participants, including public health professionals and clinicians from Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Clinicians and public health officials had a rare time to connect and educate each other.
5. Megan Dunn (Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides) attended the Indian Health Conference and said it was good. She has been working with farmworkers on pesticide drift and schools and PTAs on a law to unfreeze minimal environmental standards.
6. Marilyn Hair (UW) is planning another workshop for school health teachers on Environmental Health in August. Find more information about the ATHENA Curriculum for Health classes here: <http://deohs.washington.edu/ceeh/educator-resources> and more information about the summer 2016 ATHENA Teacher Workshop here: <http://deohs.washington.edu/ceeh/athena>. Marilyn is still waiting on news about her grant renewal.
7. Emily Polstein (American Lung Association) has been conducting home visits and is partnering with Sea Mar clinics for referrals. Sea Mar works with homes with kids who have asthma; Sea Mar also works with many Spanish –speaking families. Aileen Gagney is focusing on tobacco issues right now.
8. Arthur Wendel (ATSDR) announced the Brownfield Cooperative Grant is open for applications. It is \$150,000/year for health related assessments. To apply and/or learn more, see <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/grants.html> .
9. Nancy Bernard (DOH) mentioned that the school rule on environmental toxins ([WAC 246-366A](#)) remains frozen since 2009 but is receiving a lot of attention recently because of lead in drinking water concerns.
10. Elisabeth Long (DOH) has been working on lead in drinking water issues throughout the state. The Governor issued [a directive](#) on increased lead efforts. The document includes directives that address child cares, blood lead level screenings, and working on lead service lines.
11. Gail reported for Dennis Weaver (Change Your Food, Change Your Life) that his company is receiving international attention.

Presentation

Nancy Bernard, Washington State Department of Health's Indoor Air Quality/School Environmental Health and Safety Specialist, presented on school environmental health and safety issues. She provides technical support to local health jurisdictions and schools on school environmental health and safety issues. Her program maintains the [DOH/OSPI K12 Health and Safety Guide](#) on best Practices for school state health and safety and [the DOH](#)

[website](#) has many good resources.

Find her full presentation and her School Environmental Health and Safety Program fact sheet on the CHE-WA website at <http://www.chewa.org/CEHgroup.html> under Meeting Presentations and Handouts.

A few random points from the presentation:

- She works with local health jurisdictions on the siting of every school in WA State.
- WAC 244-366 includes a noise control section that sets ambient noise levels for empty classrooms.
- Kids must be able to see outside more than 50% of their school day.
- Currently only nine WA School Districts have active school inspection, and only two of them do it annually. Districts are only required to do 'periodic' inspections, and 'periodic' is not defined.
- Most WA K-12 schools are using quats to disinfect.
- The state does not see Wi-Fi in schools as a problem.
- Rubber mats are approved K-12 as playground surfacing; crumb rubber is not.
- D-limonene sprayed liberally is as sensitizing as formaldehyde.