

**Children's Environmental Health Working Group
CHE-WA
May 13, 2010**

Note taker: Gail Gensler

Attendance: * indicates by phone

Julia Berg - facilitator	LHWMP
Michael Bergman*	Dept. of Ecology
Nancy Bernard	WA Dept. of Health
Cindy Callahan	Citizen (formerly of Seattle Public Utilities and DOE)
Russ Clausen	EPA-Region X, Lead Program
Teresa Cooper	WA Dept. of Health
Meredith Eddy	American Lung Assoc. of WA
Michelle Gaither *	Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center
Gail Gensler	LHWMP
Steven Gilbert	Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
Paige Heggie	People for Puget Sound and Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club
Lauren Jenks*	WA Dept. of Health
Jeanne Johnson	ECOSS
Dr. Catherine Karr – speaker	UW
Tracee Mayfield	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life

Reminder: Changes to scheduled meeting times:

- There will be NO meeting in July and August.
- The September meeting has been rescheduled from the 9th to the 16th.
- The November meeting has been rescheduled from the 11th to the 18th.

Upcoming speakers

- June - [CHILD Profile](#) (Laura Hutchinson)

Report outs:

- 1) Tracee Mayfield
LHWMP's Envirostars program is now creating a new certification for green janitorial services. Tracee is teaching childcares about green purchasing and how to purchase green janitorial materials. Contact him at tracee.mayfield@kingcounty.gov if you are interested in signing up for his green

- purchasing listserv. Also, Tracee can now get you a PDF of LHWMP's childcare needs assessment report.
- 2) Cindy Callahan –she recently read a PCC article about sales receipts containing phthalates in their ink. PCC will move to non--phthalates. (Steve Gilbert said that store carbon copies have Bisphenol A in them.)
 - 3) Meredith Eddy – HEALS's (home environmental assessments) are done mostly inside of Seattle; however they may be outside.
 - 4) Tracee Mayfield –He and Gail Gensler and Julia Berg delivered the first of several trainings for child care operators called “Greening Your Childcare.” This training will become the basis of a more general training for small businesses on how to green their business. Currently it is in English only. He is also giving technical advice to C-SHEL about air quality issues.
 - 5) Steve Gilbert reported that you will soon be able to download veggie information cards in English and Spanish at [IPMopedia](#) . He also mentioned a toxicology meeting on June 6 in Portland where he hopes to talk about mercury in tuna fish and why the FDA's allowable level is still so high.
 - 6) Jeanne Johnson – Working with LHWMP and Casa Latina on janitorial trainings. Jeanne participated in the following events: Beacon Hill Family Safety Fair, three Baby Boosts events with at-risk families, and others. She and other ECOSS staff will also participate at the healthy home activity area of the upcoming Duwamish Environmental Health Safety Fair on June 5 at Concord Elementary in Seattle Washington.
 - 7) Russ Clausen - The new Renovation, Repair and Painting lead rule is now in effect. See www.epa.gov/getleadsafe for more information. He recently went to Spokane to do site visits and to accredit prospective training providers for the new rule. Then he tabled at the Green Expo in Boise Idaho.
 - 8) Dennis Weaver - Keelee Clark, a middle school singer from Holy Rosary School in Edmonds, is still singing about an organic food message through “ It's Your Beat!” stage show. She will sing at our June meeting. Dennis will be on TBN TV the morning of May 21 talking about organic food.
 - 9) Miranda Taylor-(not present. Dennis shared her information.) Working on the Good Food Truck--creating an organic/fresh food truck (nonprofit) that brings affordable, good food into low-income neighborhoods. Partnering with South Seattle Community College culinary arts program.
 - 10) Teresa Cooper - Teresa works with the State Department of Health on topics related to maternal and child health and childcare health and safety. She recently hosted a 40-person conference in Wenatchee (at which Tracee presented about Bisphenol A and the precautionary principle). Donna Johnson at the University of Washington is seeking grant money from the Center for Public Health Nutrition to work on healthy food in childcares. Nothing so far, but they'll meet soon.
 - 11) Nancy Bernard-She is preparing a green cleaning presentation for the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools at the end of May. She is starting an IPM school coalition which may use K-20 videoconferencing. She mentioned the Urban Pesticide Education Strategy Team (UPEST) housed on the Department of Ecology site--a joint effort of DOE and DOH. The goal is for school districts to receive national STAR certification (this comes from a university). There are a

- few school districts that already have this IPM certification; however, it is expensive (but IPM will save the school district money over time). There is a bill in the Washington state legislature to mandate that school districts do IPM (K-12 are currently exempted). On a new topic, DOH has 13 indoor air quality loan monitoring stations for use in public and private schools K-12. These monitor the school's HVAC system. See more details on her website. To continue funding the program the school districts have to send data to the Department of Health; however, very little data is being sent. If interested in more information on her work or to sign up to be on her listserv see her [website](#) .
- 12) Nicole Thomsen – Her EPA-funded grant is winding down. She has started working on planning a lead-based paint education campaign focused on paint retailers and/or neighborhood associations. She is trying to increase the amount of lead poisoning surveillance in King County. In 2009 she was able to directly link her work/influence to a 15% increase in surveillance by looking at data from clinic screenings. Also, all children seen at Healthpoint clinics -- formerly Puget Sound Centers for Health-- (located all over King County) will now be screened for lead at age 12 months and 24 months in compliance with ETSD guidance.
 - 13) Paige Heggie -- She does fundraising, outreach, and community organizing and is trying to get a wider focus to see what's going on with groups in the area.
 - 14) Lauren Jenks--She links families with lead-exposure issues to the Lead Hazard Control Program from the Department Of Commerce. She is currently working on a case with several children who were lead-poisoned from participating at a shooting range. She mentioned a new EPA startup grant that will include trainings and information focused on people who use home remedies that include lead.
 - 15) Michael Bergman--He coordinates the Department of Ecology's Toxic-Free Tips Program, a statewide resource that provides information on toxics in the environment in everyday-use products. Currently focusing on alternative cleaners. Some of his key messages are 1) Read labels and 2) downplay the "super-clean" mentality. He has sets of green cleaning kits-type cards; they will soon be in Spanish as well as English. He is working a little on indoor pesticides. Reach Michael at 360-407-6853.
 - 16) Michelle Gaither -- She is using funding from an LHWMP grant to test toxic-free, refillable dry erase markers in a West Seattle elementary school.
 - 17) Julia Berg--She is working to insert children's environmental health messaging into the Child Profile set of letters which are sent to all Washington parents who have children between the ages of zero and six. **Note that Laura Hutchinson, the facilitator for the Child Profile group, will be our next speaker in June.** Another project Julia is interested in is the use of cosmetic chemicals on lawns and the creation of pesticide-free parks.
 - 18) Gail Gensler – She participated in the Latina Health Fair, and will soon participate in the Duwamish Environmental Health Fair.
 - 19) Other: A request was made again for the following information: The newly forming Children's Environmental Health Journal club meets monthly on 3rd Tuesday of each month. To **opt in** to receive announcements about the journal club or to be added to the email notification list, contact Emily EunKyong Choe at emily6902@gmail.com .

We welcomed CHE-WA CEH working group member Catherine Karr ckarr@u.washington.edu , UW professor, speaking about the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU's) <http://depts.washington.edu/pehsu/> .

A few points from the talk:

1. Catherine is the pediatrician on the University of WA's PEHSU team. She is also a researcher.
2. There are 10 PEHSU's across the United States at academic locations.
3. The UW site serves Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, and Washington. They also reach out to international sites including Mexico, Canada, and Southeast Asia. They've been operating for about 10 years.
4. The biggest users are average medical doctors since most doctors get under six hours training about environmental exposures.
5. They provide services on health risks associated with environmental exposures including the following: many phone consultations (~60-70 consults/quarter), development and delivery of trainings to medical residents including a web-based training and fact sheets (for example one on plastics and plasticizers). They also help families and community groups directly if asked, and they work with the media.
6. Most calls are about exposures to young children at home and come from within Washington.
7. Their questions break out as follows: indoor air quality 16%, metals 23%, plastics 20%, pesticides 10%.
8. The PEHSU staff at UW have some specialty expertise--Catherine's includes asthma, air pollution, and farm worker health. Her teammates' expertise covers phthalates, endocrine disruptors, and pesticides.
9. Catherine is a co-writer for a forthcoming policy statement about pesticides via the American Academy of Pediatric Health's Environmental Health Council, on which she sits.
10. If you know parents with questions about environmental exposures it's okay to send them directly to Catherine. Shall also connect up with the family's doctor.