

Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington (CHE-WA)
Children's Environmental Health Working Group - Meeting Notes
July 10, 2008 9:30-11:30
Location: King County Environmental Lab

(Attendance list at very end)

Committee Reports

Conference Planning Committee. (Margo)

- Planning a two or three day conference to be held in the fall.
- Group is now involved in choosing a date.
- Forming subcommittees to work on specific tasks.
- Anticipating 300 people each day.
- Considering a public fair on the third day—probably a Saturday.
- Proposed dates to be sent out on the CHE-WA list serve for reaction.
- Program planning committee will be selecting speakers and topics.
- Inclusiveness will be provided by the composition of the Program Planning Committee.
- Will meet again in August from noon-1:30 at 130 Nickerson St..
- **Will send out draft sponsor list and event summary, hopefully next week.**
- Group plans to meet every month immediately following this meeting, except for this time!

Children's Health Month in October (Margaret)

- Handed out an update [see very end of notes**]
- Group discussed how we can increase the visibility of Children's Environmental Health.
- Goal is to more publicly launch the activities of this work group.
- Webpage on the CHE-WA website is one method.
- Perhaps identify events and activities taking place in October, and distribute them in a flyer.
- EPA is investigating the impacts of climate change on children's health. **Margo will put an EPA person in contact with our group.**
- It is up to all of us to step up and see which of the many events we can participate in.
- **We will send out an email asking, "What activities in October might your group be doing?"**
- What groups are behind October as Children's Health Month nationally?
- **A year ago there was a Governor's proclamation—state staff worked on it. The Governor. has signed before for the lead project. Who will check on this?**

National Children's Study (Tom)

- Draft review is underway. Currently there's a lot to say about the protocol.
- Most important thing going on now is funding. The first seven vanguard centers are funded.
- They want to do community outreach, but not get too far ahead of the process.
- Tom is heading up the outreach effort in King County.
- Tom also distributed a brochure on the National Children's Study.
- **He is forming an email update list as the schedule is uncertain.**

Matrix status discussion (Margo)

- 17-18 people have filled it out so far.
- To view it you have to register.
- **Margo will send out an email with instructions on how to get the spreadsheet.**

Synthetic Turf (Tracee)

- Tracee is considering a procurement approach for dealing with this issue.
- Looking for three or four people to coauthor this effort.
- Playfields yield create revenue for Parks Departments.

- Neighborhood impacts on locals are frequently resented as sports fields users converge from throughout the region.
- Open space vs. Sports fields.
- You have an “Intimate interaction” with playfields—you take part of them home with you.
- Ground-up tires, not a lot of quality control, are used as fill.
- There is a huge issue of what to do with tires from the state perspective.
- Lead chromate is the dye in the green grass blades in synthetic turf.
- Use of disinfectants in the care of synthetic turf doesn’t synchronize will with the Program’s other chemical messages.
- There is now a proposal for four synthetic fields.
- Policy maker for Seattle Parks says he won’t approve converting natural fields to turf because of issues associated with turf fields.
- What are the alternatives to artificial turf? Is real turf off the table?
- Multistory facilities are being discussed.
- DOH has a workgroup on artificial turf.
- Lifecycle cost analysis is being done on synthetic turf vs. natural turf playfields.
- “Every time we try to reduce costs, we intensify the toxicity of our environment.” (Dennis).
- Several people volunteered to help Tracee. Who are they?

Washington State Public Health Association Resolution (Steve)

- Steve is drafting one.
- Resolutions are a big deal, powerful and catalyze change up the food chain.

Board of Health rule—346356 (Children’s Health and Safety)

- Is being challenged
- Very political

Guest presentation: *Hidden Hazards in Arts and Crafts* by Dave Waddell

See handout of slides

Attendance list:

Aimee Boulanger	Institute of Children’s Environmental Health
Annique Lennon	Children’s Alliance
Angela Delahoz	Public Health-Seattle and King County
Barbara Ross	Lead Program--EPA
Cindy Callahan	Seattle Public Utilities
Cynthia Shurtleff	WCAAP
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food-Change Your Life!
Heather Trim	People for Puget Sound
Henry Draper (notetaker)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Jeff Ketchel	Public Health-Seattle and King County
Julia Berg(facilitator)	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Julie Parker	PHSKC/CCHP
Margaret Shield	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
Margo Young	US Environmental Protection Agency
Michelle Gaither	Pollution Prevention Resource Center
Nancy P Bernard	WSDOH

Robin Kenepah	PHSKC Childcare Health Program
Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohn	PHSKC-LHWMP
Steve Gilbert	INNA
Thai Nguyen	Public Health-Seattle and King County
Tom Burbacher	University of Washington
Tracee Mayfield	Public Health-Seattle and King County

**** Draft “Marketing” Plan for Children’s Health Month in October 2008 [July hand-out]**

from 7/9/08 discussion – participating: Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen , Miranda Taylor, Margaret Shield

Goals:

- Get the word out about the CHE-WA Children’s Environmental Health Work Group and its activities to potential allies and community groups:
 - Promote the Fall 2009 Children’s Environmental Health Conference and our interest in more sponsors and participating organizations (conference work group will start this promotion before October, but can contribute to this effort)
 - Promote other activities of the CHE-WA Work Group as appropriate (such as?)
- Utilize existing children’s health month activities to distribute info and resources on children’s environmental health issues

Anticipated Outcomes:

- some increased visibility of CHE-WA Work Group activities
- some new participants in the work group or our activities
- some new ideas

Potential Activities: (not in particular order, just numbered for convenience)

1. Public launch of web pages for our Children’s Environmental Health work group on the CHE-WA web site.
 - Develop web pages with info about the work group’s mission and activities, and links to resources and info about children’s environmental health.
 - “Launch” these web pages in October with email to our various lists.
 - To Do - check with Gail and Aimee about status of work group web pages and how to do this.
 - To Do - develop content of web site; need volunteers to help with this and need to determine content approval process
 - To Do – consider the existing materials our work group organizations have on children’s environmental health issues. Are there some basic tips on children’s environmental health that it would be easy for us all to agree upon to disseminate via email as part of our launch of this web site?

2. Identify children’s health month events and distribute children’s environmental health materials at as many events as possible – materials to include a new handout about the CHE-WA work group as well as existing materials from our organizations.
 - To Do - ask Gail to send email question to entire CHE-WA work group asking: What Children’s Health Month events do you have scheduled or know about? Do you have potential to hold an event related to children’s environmental health during children’s health month? (especially ask that of UW PEHSU and the National Children’s Study who might be able to schedule a related lecture)
 - To Do - research on what other groups will be doing as children’s health month events, eg nurses, health educators, UW units, Children’s Alliance, etc... Sharon will ask Morgan Barry about PH-SKC activities, and check on Tacoma Smelter Plume group

Margaret will check with National Children's Study about October talks or outreach; and will check in with Nicole Thomsen at PH-SKC about potential lead testing events; and will do some web searching to look for current or past children's health month events.

- To Do – develop handout about CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Work Group for distribution at children's health month events: handout could include our mission and goals statement, summary of our upcoming activities (eg conference), how to get involved, web site URL.
- To Do – coordinate on the existing materials our work group organizations have to distribute at children's health month events and figure out how to get them to as many events as possible.

Note that this sub-group did not feel we currently have the resources (time or money) to put on an event on our own for this October. We preferred approach of piggy-backing on events of others where possible to get the word out, then working toward a big splash in Fall 2009 with the Children's Environmental Health Conference.