

Children's Environmental Health Working Group
Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE-WA)
September 2015 Meeting Notes
Thursday, September 10, 2015, 9:30am-11:30am
Meeting Location: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, King County, Seattle, WA
Speaker presentation—Gail Gensler and Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen from King County

CHE-WA's 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.

10:45am

Action Items/Upcoming Events

1. There are 2 working groups formed for upcoming CHE-WA events in the next year—2015-2016. See the Notes for more information and how to get involved.
2. Please send Gail short write-up's on how CHE-WA has benefited your work within children's environmental health. This information can be added to the CHE-WA Success Stories.
3. Announcing the October Public Health Cafe! We are trying something new, meeting in Kirkland in collaboration with Sound Alliance. The topic is the Best Starts for Kids Campaign that King County residents will vote on in November.

Public Health Cafe: Best Starts for Kids Campaign: The science behind child development & the importance of investing in children

Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Ave South, Kirkland. 2 blocks from the Kirkland Transit Center

When: Monday, October 12th 7:00-8:30 pm

What: Presentation & an interactive activity by Dr. Lorelei Walker. Q&A, informal conversation and snacks

Free, all ages welcome, no science background required.

<http://deohs.washington.edu/ceeh/public-health-café>

Attendees in-person

- Nancy Bernard, Washington State Department of Health
- Holly Davies, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Megan Dunn, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
- Gail Gensler (Meeting Facilitator), Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Steve Gilbert, Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders/University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (UW DEOHS)
- Carolyn Gleason, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Region 10
- Marilyn Hair, University of Washington, Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health (CEEH)
- Angel Ip (Note Taker), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10/Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

- Elise Miller, Collaborative on Health and the Environment
- Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Gretchen Stewart, EPA Region 10
- Laura Stewart, EPA Region 10/Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (ORISE)
- Nicole Thomsen, Public Health—Seattle and King County
- Nancy Uding, Washington Toxics Coalition
- Lorelei Walker, University of Washington Institute of Public Health Genetics

Attendees by phone

- Rachel Koller, Independent Consultant
- Barbara Morrissey, Washington State Department of Health
- Erik Saganic, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Group discussion—2015 Forum

The group discussed 3 possible events for CHE-WA to take on:

1. **Children’s Environmental Health Film Screenings:** For example, a film could be shown at the January 16 Home Show. Other venues include pairing with the Phinney Show and Washington Remodel Show. CHE-WA featured speakers could lead a discussion after a film screening. The venue locations would rotate across Seattle, for example, South Seattle and Seattle Public Library.
 - a. **Members:** Gretchen Stewart, Lorelei Walker, Carolyn Gleason, Nicole Thomsen, Laura Stewart, Angel Ip
2. **Ignite Talks:** These series of talks would be short talks, with time for discussion on various current children’s environmental health topics.
 - a. **Members:** Steve Gilbert, Megan Dunn, Angel Ip

There may be funding for possible events, if organizations can contribute funding to match funding with the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP). Two possible sources:

1. Department of Ecology—Public Participation Grant
 - a. Applied, waiting on possible funding
2. Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)
 - a. Through December 2016, up to \$13,000 may be available if other organizations can match funding with LHWMP.

Member Sharing

(Please connect with members on possible connections and collaborations)

Elise Miller--“Healthy Babies, Bright Futures” (Collaborative on Health and the Environment)

Elise Miller gave updates on a national Collaborative on Health and the Environment initiative called “Healthy Babies, Bright Futures”, previously called “First 100 Days”. The initiative will launch next year.

What is “Healthy Babies, Bright Futures”?

- Healthy Babies, Bright Futures is a platform for new initiatives and programs to reduce babies’ and their mothers’ exposures to neurotoxic chemicals.
- There is an interest in having a greater investment to create bright cities for children’s health and working at the municipal level. The National Coordinator for this initiative is

working with mayors and different cities, with Seattle being one of the first cities. Through this effort, the initiative will engage with Mayor's offices on decreasing neurotoxins in 8-10 cities.

- "Healthy Babies, Bright Futures" is aiming to make Seattle the "Brightest City". Other local organizations that could be involved include Department of Ecology, King County, and the many other partners at CHE-WA. CHE-WA could support hosting an initial meeting.
- Here in Seattle, Dean Howard Frumkin hasn't involved with the early childhood education component.

What are upcoming steps for this initiative?

- Ruth, a trustee from Boston, will be visiting Seattle during the second week in October. There will be upcoming small meetings with chosen stakeholders.
- Other parties involved include:
 - Wells Fargo will engage 1000 communities.
 - Julie Cruz is moving the needle on substandard housing and determining how to turn metrics.
 - Sarah Dall has been working on flame retardants.
- There will likely be an official launch in early 2016.
- A critical next step is to determine sustained support.

Questions/Discussion from CHE-WA

- Gretchen expressed that Dr. Ruth Etzel may be interested in meeting. Elise said that the current focus of the meetings are with the funders, but could engage Dr. Etzel and similar leaders later in the process.
- There was a discussion on the CHE-WA group potentially shifting their energy from upcoming events to focus on Healthy Babies, Bright Futures. There is great opportunity to engage on children's environmental health at a national level and bring awareness on CHE-WA. At the moment, there are many moving pieces. Elise will keep the group informed, and the group will discuss future involvement. For the time-being, the group will continue to work on upcoming events collaboratively.

Carolyn Gleason (HRSA/HHS Region 10)

- Carolyn has been busy working on planning grants with colleague Lynn Gooding.
- Carolyn has been working across agencies at HHS on issues/interests related to health care centers, including state programs like Head Start. She has been working on various initiatives addressing health system transformations in Washington State.

Nancy Bernard (Washington State Department of Health)

- One of Nancy's work areas is on school environmental health and safety.
- Her office has been busy addressing wildfire smoke issues, including mechanical ventilation topics, among others.
- Washington Department of Health has various resources to address wildfire smoke issues and their impacts on children's health. Such resources that have been shared in Washington and other states include: webpages, 2-page indoor air quality information for schools, among others.

Megan Dunn (Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides)

- Megan has been working with the Bullitt Foundation to improve pesticides-site based visits in schools, with a focus in pesticide use prevention and teacher lounges.
- There are two upcoming fundraisers, including a collaboration with Snohomish Green Drinks.

Steve Gilbert (Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders/UW DEOHS)

- Steve is researching and addressing the cultural and public health perspective of walls. There are many issues that impact children’s environmental health.
- Please contact with Steve on possible collaborations and connections.

Nancy Uding (Washington Toxics Coalition)

- Washington Toxics Coalition is working on a scoping intervention study to address low income daycares in Seattle. The study will address air/dust differences, flame-retardants, and funding for intervention in daycares.

Angel Ip (U.S. EPA Region 10/Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health)

- Angel is working on Children’s Environmental Health Month work, which is the month of October at EPA. She will keep CHE-WA posted on upcoming events, activities, resources, and success stories, including information on guest speakers.

Laura Stewart (U.S. EPA Region 10/ORISE)

- Laura has been trialing an EPA tool, called C-FERST (Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool) with communities in Oregon and Washington.
- An example of this work has been assessing data tools to address just and healthy food systems. Locally, she has worked with Tacoma food banks as well as schools and universities. Another example of her data tools work in the community is her work on analyzing diesel exposure particulate matter in the I-5 corridor.

Gretchen Stewart (U.S. EPA Region 10)

- Gretchen is working on various projects for Children’s Environmental Health Month at EPA.
- Of relevance to this group is her work with Dr. Catherine Karr on addressing nitrates in the Yakima Valley for pregnant women and newborns. She is working on Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Credits via a Clinician’s training. This training will reach 40 clinicians in the Yakima Valley, as well as shared on the National Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU).
 - There will be two upcoming engagements, to include an in-house training (chosen by staff), as well as a live Questions and Answer.
- She has also worked on community outreach in Oregon related to wood smoke and health messaging.

Holly Davies (Washington State Department of Ecology)

- Holly is working on Model Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) work, as well as addressing prevention program funding.

Barbara Morrissey (Washington State Department of Health)

- Barbara is working on addressing asthma via home visits for children’s health.
- Many conditions are not covered for reimbursement. She is working on various internal initiatives at Department of Health related to environmental health and medical care systems.

Gail Gensler (King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program)

- She continues to provide environmental health trainings for child care staff and management with a heightened focus on reaching administrators. This also continues to work on a state-wide workgroup tasked with coming up with approved bleach alternatives for use in child cares.
- Gail will have a new position in 2016 focused on outreach work.
- There was a brief discussion on transitions within CHE-WA. Gail has been the lead CHE-WA contact since the beginning, but will be retiring in the next few years.
- Megan shared how the CHE-WA group has benefited her work in children's environmental health. If you could send a brief write-up to Gail on how the CHE-WA group has benefited you, that information can be added to Success Stories.

Marilyn Hair (University of Washington, Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health)

- Marilyn inquired about possible speakers for December when it is her organization's turn to host the CHE-WA meeting. Possible speakers include Nancy Beaudet.
- She is continuing work on Public Health Cafes. Dr. Lorelei Walker will be presenting on October 12. See more information on Page 1.

Lorelei Walker (University of Washington Institute of Public Health Genetics)

- Lorelei Walker graduated from her PhD program at UW.
- She has been working on epigenetic and environmental toxicants including the impact of heavy metals. Public health implications include the best starts for kids, and avoiding various childhood exposures.

Nicole Thomsen (Public Health—Seattle and King County)

- Nicole has been involved with healthy housing and lead work (across many communities) with the King County Board of Health.
- For example, what is a healthy house? She has been working with the board on developing Statements and Visions to address many health outcomes.
- At LHWMP, there is a new way of understanding behavior changes from education and outreach work beyond the primary, education campaigns.

Elise Miller (Collaborative on Health and the Environment)

- Elise commended the CHE-WA group. The CHE-WA group is the strongest group within CHE-National.

Rachel Koller (Independent Consultant)

- Rachel is continuing her school environmental health schools in local elementary schools.
- For example, at the beginning of the year, teachers request various products from students. She has been working with schools to specify fragrance-free baby wipes, no antibacterial wipes. Some schools ask about disinfectants.

Holly Davies (Washington State Department of Ecology)

- Holly is working on lead screening guidance, which has been drafted for broader peer review. The test on when to test for lead is changing.
- Holly is doing work on perfluorinated chemicals. She is interested in understanding behavior changes on various topics from talks and trainings.

Speaker Presentation—Gail Gensler and Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen

Gail and Sharon shared many interactive examples of their eco-healthy childcare work. They have given many workshops across King County on “Toys, Crafts, Chemicals and More: What’s Safer for Kids?”.

Please refer to Gail (gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov) and Sharon (sharon.schoenfeld-cohen@kingcounty.gov) regarding handout materials. See a recording of the talk at the [CHE-WA site](#).

Some findings from training evaluations

1. LHWMP successfully teaches attendees how to read labels to buy safer things.
2. However, many staff cannot buy; it’s up to supervisors or management to buy things.
3. Even directors don’t always make purchasing decisions.
4. Childcares are currently overwhelmed by their Early Achievers improvement program. This is an initiative by the Washington State Department of Early Learning to raise the standard of teaching in early learning settings. Consequently, child cares may be less interested in focusing on health and safety trainings.
5. There is much to address within a childcare setting.

Miscellaneous information

- LHWMP offers a \$500 matching funds [incentives program](#) for small businesses in King County (including child cares) for approved items. In a child care setting this might include HEPA vacuums, safer toys, safer arts and crafts materials, safer chemicals.
- There are ~2,000 licensed child cares in King County, with ~26,000 children in buildings built before 1978 which means the buildings likely have an original layer of lead-based paint.
 - How do we address areas such as renovation, interim controls?
- Barriers to working with child cares may include fear of additional reporting by many agencies, language barriers, and distrust of the government.
- Three State Department of Education Health Specialists serve child cares in Washington State. There was a discussion on inspectors, nurses, and health districts.
- Gail would like to work more with child care administrators to help systematize environmental health and safety changes.