

Children’s Environmental Health Working Group

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

Thursday, September 8, 2016 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: UW Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100, Seattle

Host group: Katie Frevert, Community Engagement Core manager, University of Washington Superfund Research Program (UW SRP)

Speakers/Presentation: Katie Frevert (UW SRP) and Nancy Beaudet (UW PEHSU)

Topic: The collaboration between the UW SRP and the University of WA Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (UW PEHSU) in developing a lead exposure training for pediatric health practitioners in the Silver Valley region of Idaho. Key partners include the Idaho Panhandle Health District (within the Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality), staff of Region 10 EPA and the Shehone Medical Center.

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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 Beaudet	UW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
Nancy Bernard	WA State Department of Health
Katie Frevert	UW Superfund Research Program
Gail Gensler	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County [note taker]
Steve Gilbert	Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND)
Marilyn Hair	UW Edge Center
Elisabeth Long	WA State Department of Health
Will Perry	Public Health - Seattle & King County
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health - Seattle & King County
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life™
Arthur Wendel	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Community Health Investigations

**Attendees by phone:**

Sandrine Deglin	Alaska State Department of Health
Megan Dunn	Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
Rachel Koller	Cleaning for Health
Erica Liebelt	WA Poison Center
Gretchen Stewart	EPA
Sarah Yoder	Alaska State Department of Health

## Opening

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

Next meeting will be October 13, 2016, at Public Health – Seattle & King County.

## Group Discussion

1. Nancy Beaudet (PEHSU)
  - Inquiries quieted down this summer. If a clinician wants to contact PEHSU, have them contact [pehsu@uw.edu](mailto:pehsu@uw.edu) or [walshky@uw.edu](mailto:walshky@uw.edu) .
  - Catherine Karr will visit Alaska in January 2017 working with EPA to provide pediatric environmental health trainings in several cities.
  - Sheila Sathyanarayana will speak on perinatal environmental health exposures in October in Spokane.
  - PEHSU submitted a proposal to WA DOH to have a role in lead screening.
  - Ada Otter is on maternity leave; Maggie Willis, a nurse at University of Washington Medical Center, is filling in temporarily.
  - Nancy will have to cut back her attendance at our meetings since she is only 25% on PEHSU. No one else is slated to take her place.
2. Megan Dunn (NCAP)
  - She is working with the Washington state PTA on a resolution about safe chemical use in schools. If it passes it will recognize a connection of environmental impacts on children in schools.
  - She will host the November meeting with a focus on marijuana and pesticides.
  - September the children are back to school and lice is often an issue. See resources on the NCAP website regarding lice.
3. Gail Gensler (LHWMP)
  - She received a public health leadership award from the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) for leadership in children's environmental health. Kudos to our group!
  - She and Lorelei will present to the WSPHA annual conference in Wenatchee on Oct. 45, 2016. The topic is CHE-WA as a model for community health change.
  - Reminded the group that she will no longer be able to facilitate after December 2016.
4. Marilyn Hair (CEEH)
  - Their recent teacher workshop had a good representation from teachers statewide. The workshop focused on train-the-trainer for high school lessons on environmental health.
5. Rachel Koller
  - She is working with Megan Dunn on the PTA resolution.
  - She's also looking at class supply lists in the Seattle schools to see how often her safer, *Cleaning with Caution* materials are on the list. Unfortunately, it's totally variable classroom to classroom.
6. Erica Liebelt (Wa Poison Center)
  - She is the new Executive and Medical director of the WA Poison Center. She is a pediatrician by training, and has worked as a pediatric emergency medical doctor and as a medical toxicologist. She has worked

with pediatric environmental health most of her career, mostly related to childhood lead. She would like to see the Poison Center be involved in this group.

- The WA Poison Center just launched a new campaign about cannabis.

7. Elisabeth Long (Wa Department of Health)

DOH is wrapping up their response to the Governor's Directive on lead prevention and will submit it October 1st. Proposals include increasing lead screening rates, better funding case management, tightening childcare licensing inspections on lead hazards, the feasibility of creating a rental registry and encouraging electronic lab reporting.

8. Will Perry (PH-S&KC)

- He does lead investigations for Public Health-Seattle & King County.
- They just closed their one thousandth recorded case (tracked since 2007). The largest group of their cases are immigrant and refugee children.
- The Flint, Michigan incident has led to more inquiries, more testing by new providers, and more calls from the public.
- He has yet to see lead water exposures in King County drinking water.
- Two interesting exposures that are showing up is make-up (kohl) and turmeric from curry. There is no guarantee that turmeric and curry purchased in one store is any safer from any other store. It could even be a problem for infants through mother's milk. Supplements are a particular problem since they are neither drugs nor food and fall under neither regulation system.

9. Gretchen Stewart (EPA)

10. Nicole Thomsen (PH-S&KC)

- She has a new role as LHWMP's new project manager doing social marketing campaign for lead, targeting parents of children 0-3 in King County. This is not necessarily a social media campaign although it may include social media.
- She is continuing to work on the Healthy Housing guidelines and recommendations which will be presented to the Board of Health in November.
- This past July, she presented about lead to the Board of Health. They approved a resolution to encourage health care providers to move toward screening all children at twelve months and twenty-four months and to encourage Wa State L & I to update their occupational standards for lead.
- Jean Kohl-Welles took this resolution to the King County Council for unincorporated King County to consider.

11. Dennis Weaver (CYFCYL)

- On September 19, CYFCYL will help with fundraising for Wa Food and Farming Network's annual dinner.
- On February 2, 2017, "The world of organics will change!"
- His "Good Living" CD has now been heard in 143 countries and in all fifty United States.

12. Arthur Wendel (ATSDR)

- ATSDR is coming out with a child care siting manual.

**Networking break**

## Presentation

Find the PPT presentation in the Meeting Presentations and Handouts section of the [CHE-WA website](#).

A summary follows:

Katie Frevert, Community Engagement Core manager, University of Washington Superfund Research Program (UW SRP) and Nancy Beaudet, UW PEHSU, described the collaboration between the UW SRP and the UW PEHSU in developing a lead exposure training for pediatric health practitioners in the Silver Valley region of Idaho. Key partners include the Idaho Panhandle Health District (within the Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality), staff of Region 10 EPA and the Shehone Medical Center.

This training will be a combination of the participants watching a DVD followed by being able to talk over the phone with a PEHSU staff member. This format was requested by Idaho since they are so remote.

Why this area? This is the largest Superfund site in the United States; it has a legacy of silver mining with lead contamination. Local health has well documented high blood lead levels from local children; however only 25% of children in the area are in the screening program. The hope is to reinforce that all Medicaid kids get tested. However, since this is also an area of high tourism, lead screening is a tense issue.

A lively discussion followed. Some points:

1. Katie will find out if Idaho requires mandatory reporting.
2. Katie mentioned that she works with the [Northwest Toxics Community Coalition](#). They are having an October summit. Katie will invite their members to attend our working group.
3. Blood lead level screening and testing is hard to get across to Washington physicians.
4. WA DOH would like to test at twelve months and twenty-four months; however most testing results come from Head Start which tests 3-4 year olds. Head Start Medicaid kids' results aren't always reported.
5. Yes, lead screening is included as a topic in the twelve months [ChildProfile mailings](#) that come from the WA DOH to parents. But do pediatricians know about ChildProfile? Perhaps we should send ChildProfile to pediatricians as well as parents.
6. Teaching nursing and medical school students about environmental health issues is critical; they will carry the message.
7. When we do trainings for physicians, we need to do them where the physicians are.
8. Do medical providers even know if a child they are seeing is on Medicaid? If they don't even know this, then they can't know the Medicaid test results.
9. Should the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend testing for blood lead levels? What about the AAP's [Bright Futures](#) site recommending this?
10. There is a WA DOH proposal to require in-home child cares to be tested as lead-safe places.