

CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group

Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2010

Upcoming speakers

December - Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest - Carole Miller - VP of Education, Training and Organization Effectiveness

November Speaker

We welcomed a talk by Denise LaFlamme about WA DOH's Washington Environmental Biomonitoring Survey (WEBS). The group wondered if DOH would consider using this study as a case study for the upcoming CHE-WA regional meeting on how to share information about children's environmental health with the media.

Reports

1. Nicole Thomsen, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Wrapping up mapping project on risk for lead poisoning. Citing UW study. They don't have enough children listed to prove correlation; however, there is a linear risk due to age of housing. Ranked risk areas using health planning areas in King County. Focused on percent of housing built before 1960. Found highest percent of older homes are in Seattle. When they overlaid the number of children under four, they found the highest risk areas in Seattle to be Beacon Hill, Georgetown, and South Park. Will create a springboard education campaign around this. Presenting to Georgetown Community Council January 11, South Park community Council January 4. Focusing on owner-occupied housing due to regulatory gap there.
2. Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food, Change Your Life!
Working on the following messaging: "Gobble Till You Wobble-What Are You Thankful For?"--To be shown the day before Thanksgiving.
3. Russ Clausen, EPA (Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule)
Wally Reid spoke at an IPS-sponsored small business forum. Russ spoke in Boise at another forum to an audience of government agencies who hire contractors.
4. Kristy Ivicsek, Children's Hospital/PEHSU
She spoke about a current research project she's involved in on endocrine disrupting chemicals. It follows pregnant women and then looks at infant development. The study is specifically looking at infant reproductive development, and follows moms during pregnancy, birth, and at one year. N = 220 women and their infants from Seattle, 880 total across the whole study. They're looking at birth defects, but mainly looking at changes in ano-genital distance – which is likely an indicator of more subtle effects.
5. Erin Mader, EPA – Community environmental health
working on a project in Alaska Native Villages with Margo Young. Goal = Create a capacity building model to address children's health in ANVs. Looking to address respiratory diseases in ANVs with simple solutions to address indoor air quality issues.
6. Jeanne Johnson, ECOSS
New pilot project through December around Duwamish River Cleanup and reaching immigrant/refugee communities. Doing intros with these communities about seafood consumption advisories. Also sharing about comment period on the cleanup. Upcoming meetings on Dec. 7th (Concord Elem.) and 9th (Georgetown).

7. Steve Gilbert, INND
Shared a new [report on the hazards of coal ash](#) report from Physicians for Social Responsibility and Earth Justice. And mentioned [Particles on the Wall](#) – an exhibit mostly on Hanford that unites science factoids with digital arts.
8. Gail Gensler, LHWMP
1- Creating a profile of women of child-bearing years and pregnant women in King County: Who are they? Where do they live? What are their ethnic backgrounds? 2- New, national Eco-Healthy Childcare program – hoping to work with them to start eco-healthy child care certification in King County. 3- Writing articles about children’s environmental health. One coming out in December about labeling toys. 4- Wireless device protection – is it bogus? 5- Forum 2011 meeting set for December 1st.
9. Cara Dolan, EarthJustice
Working to educate public on health impacts of coal. WA’s coal plant is the largest single source of mercury, nox, CO2, etc... Trans-Alta releases millions of pounds of coal ash/year. Invited all to a Dec. 8th – 6-7:30pm. Presentation on health impacts of coal ash.
10. Margo Young, EPA
Draft school siting guidelines are out for public review until mid-February. EPA will be issuing a Request for Proposals for children’s environmental health very soon.
11. Julia Berg, LHWMP
Working next year on creating a map of pesticide-free parks in King County. Grad student will be working with Julia for next 2 years. Will hopefully encourage park management to go pesticide-free. Contracted with Steve Gilbert to do a literature search on children’s environmental health and lawn chemicals. Draft is out – will be done soon.
12. Meredith Eddy – ALANW
Good news-- Got funding restored for Master Home Environmentalist project.
13. Lauren Jenks – DOH
EPA grant is going well investigating ethnic remedies and risks to lead exposure.
14. Aimee Boulanger
Doing consulting work for non-profits and agency for folks working on children’s environmental health. Canceled: CHE-WA ‘s meeting today on environmental health in the media and messaging. At the next meeting hope to have Howie Frumkin there, and will also have reporters there.

Discussion about January’s meeting

We will not have a speaker in January. Group brainstormed these ideas to discuss at that time.

1. Continue to have speakers? Look for strategic partnering?
2. Should we morph into more of a group-driven group rather than LHWMP-supported?
3. Projects that the group would like to take on.
4. Base our next steps on the Forum’s Action Agenda?
5. Messaging – how do we get our message out to people? How do we take advantage of social media? Who’s the audience and how do we message to them?
6. Telling our story.
7. What kind of audiences and issues can we reach with what we have now? How can we better leverage our working group for some particular audiences that are difficult for some folks to reach?
8. Continue meeting monthly?

Attendance (* indicates by phone)

Julia Berg (facilitator)	LHWMP
Aimee Boulanger*	Children's Environmental Health consultant
Russ Clausen	EPA-Region X, Lead Program
Cara Dolan (speaker)	Earth Justice
Meredith Eddy	American Lung Association of the Pacific Northwest
Gail Gensler – (note taker)	LHWMP
Steve Gilbert	INND
Kristy Ivicsek	PEHSU/Children's Hospital
Lauren Jenks*	WA Dept. of Health
Jeanne Johnson	ECOSS
Nicole Thomsen	Public Health- Seattle & King County
Dennis Weaver	Change Your Food Change Your Life
Margo Young	EPA