

Children's Environmental Health Working Group
Collaborative on Health and the Environment- WA (CHE-WA)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, December 12, 2013

HOST: Public Health-Seattle & King County as part of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (Will Perry)

VENUE: Public Health- Seattle & King County, Chinook Building, Room 126, 401 5th Ave Seattle, WA 98104 (*downtown Seattle*)

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2014 9:30-11:30am at the American Lung Association office (*South Lake Union area of Seattle*)

Attendees: (* = by phone)

*American Lung Association: Aileen Gagney**

*British Columbia Center for Disease Control: Linda Dix-Cooper**

Change Your Food-Change Your Life!™: Dennis Weaver

Environmental Protection Agency Region 10: Eve Livingston, Margo Young

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)

- *King County Solid Waste Division: Donna Miscolta*
- *King County Water and Land Resources Division: Gail Gensler*
- *Public Health- Seattle & King County: Lauren Brinker, Rhonda Kaetzel, Will Perry, Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen, Nicole Thomsen, Charles Wu*

Public Health- Seattle & King County: Denise Sharify

*Tribal Healthy Homes NW/Consultant: Rachel Koller**

*US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development: Hamdi Mohamed**

*US Dept. of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration: Carolyn Gleason**

*UW Superfund Research Program, DEOHS: Katie Frevert **

*WA State Department of Ecology: Holly Davies**

WA State Department of Health: Nancy Bernard

Stay in Touch! Join the Northwest Kids Environmental Health Group listserv!
Read and post information, events and opportunities regarding children's environmental health news in the Pacific Northwest. To join, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html. Scroll down to Environmental Education, click on Northwest Kids Environmental Health Group and follow the directions. You will need to sign up in order to post and receive messages. Questions? Contact Holly Davies, Ecology @ hdav461@ECY.WA.GOV

Host assignments for our 2014 meetings

These months still need a host: May, June November, and December. Nicole Thomsen offered meeting room space at Chinook Building in Seattle if a host group lacks a location.

1. Otherwise:

Month	Location	Host	Speaker

January 2014	American Lung Association of the Great Northwest		Gillian Mittlestaedt with Tribal Healthy Homes Northwest and the Tulalip Tribe will speak about how in-utero and early childhood exposure to wood smoke is associated with low birth weight and long term respiratory impacts.
February	UW Superfund Program	Katie Frevert	
March	LHWMP	Gail Gensler	
April	WA DOH (in Kent)	Ann Butler	Biomonitoring
May			
June	EPA??		
July, Aug.			NO MEETINGS
September	UW Center for Ecogenetics	Marilyn Hair	
October	Public Health- Seattle & King County	Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen	Room 126
November			
December			

2. [NW Children's Environmental Health Forum](#) follow-up discussion

Gail presented these Forum summary points:

Participants

1. Two hundred people sold out the room.
2. Participants from around the Pacific Northwest came from the public health, community health outreach, early childhood education, nursing, clinical practice, academic and government sectors.
3. 22% (!) of the attendees were nurses.

Speakers

A panel of national and local [speakers](#) spoke 'interview style' on basic science and emerging issues. Panel videos and speaker PPT's will be posted [here](#) in January.

A few highlights

1. Less than 25% of OB/GYN's say they ask their patients about environmental exposures. Yet we know that...

- Infertility is increasing in women under 25.
- Sperm counts have been dropping 1% a year since 1931.
- Obesity and diabetes may be influenced by a mother's prenatal exposure to certain chemicals.
- The lower a person's socioeconomic status, the greater the negative impact of environmental exposures.

At some point we must decide how to act based on what we know.

2. Participant response was overwhelmingly positive. From evaluations:

- *I will be able to incorporate a lot of information in patient care and community outreach efforts. It's wonderful to have new connections and resources.*
- *Helped to guide my career directions. I am making a career change into public health.*
- *Will focus on providing information in a community conversation about women's exposure.*

The group debriefed the event (most had attended):

What worked—

1. variety of speakers on the morning panel
2. Margo as the vibrant, welcoming M.C.
3. good panel interviewers
4. handout question that asked: "Which statement a panelist said resonated for you the most?"
5. not having breakout sessions; everybody stayed together all day and heard everything.
6. connections and relationship building, information for community outreach
7. panel format with PPT intro
8. people assigned to tables so they met different/new people
9. conference handouts/brochure
10. resource room -- provided good information and contacts
11. diverse group from all areas of work, not just government programs
12. comfortable, social feeling...happy and heady at the same time—right mix
13. good collaboration of those who put it on

What needed more work—

1. Table discussions: There were too many questions for the table members to process in too short a time. Suggest give one question at a time for the whole table to talk about, and do the other questions on your own time. Worksheets were great but not sure how to use them for some people. Folks got cut short. Got depressing....Have the facilitators wrap up each conversation with something positive.
2. Introductions—Lacked time for table members to introduce themselves to each other (due to late start time) give more time or direction for introductions at tables (maybe a quick exercise in

the beginning to get everyone warmed up, maybe one less panel will give more time for table talk

3. Marketing/recruiting ourselves – Some lost opportunities: invite audience to next CHE-WA monthly meeting, put a ‘sign up’ page in the program that folks can fill in/tear off and hand in, clarify that membership requires no money
4. Room: configuration, too cramped, audio, lighting for certain parts of the room,
5. Combined information a little too overwhelming and scary; need to end with something positive such as safer alternatives, steps we can take or what can we/I do
6. Have a question box for people who have questions or concerns, respond back individually
7. Next time offer CEU’s for school nurses through [School Nurse Organization of WA](#)
8. Some felt it lacked technical info

What else we might do for follow-up

- NPR will do an interview/article about nurses’ role in CEH
- Consider supporting creation of a nurses affinity group. Engage the PEHSU with this.
- Webinar training for WIC staff
- Outreach to CBOS, ethnic groups – bring information to the community, maybe a road show as done before, invite Maria Carlos from Equal Start to participate, invite CBOs as partners such as Open Arms (prenatal services in diverse communities), REWA, ACRS, Equal Start Coalition
- Send out periodic, upbeat and topic- informative e-mail reminders to participants
- A film showing
- A follow up re: safer alternatives? NOBODY who visited the LHWMP resource area booth knew about signal words
- Create traveling exhibits that organizations could check out from CHE-WA to use at events to teach about children’s environmental health....some people asked for this
- Do a long-term evaluation some months after the event to see attendee follow-up

Speaker presentation

Will Perry and Lauren Brinker presented an overview of some of the current community health outreach projects now underway by the Public Health –Seattle & King County Young Children’s Team as part of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP)