

Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Working Group  
Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE-WA)

**Meeting Notes**

Thursday, April 10, 2014

9:30AM – 11:30AM

Meeting location: Public Health – Seattle & King County, 401 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rm 126, Seattle, WA 98105

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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**

- Aileen Gagney, American Lung Association
- Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County --LHWMP
- Sonia Hoglander, Home Evolution Consulting
- Lisa Nerat, Public Health-Seattle & King County
- Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen, Public Health-Seattle & King County
- Nicole Thomsen, Public Health-Seattle & King County
- Krysta Thornton, American Lung Association
- Dennis Weaver, Change Your Food-Change Your Life®

**Attendees by phone**

- Nancy Bernard, WA DOH
- Ann Butler, WA Dept of Health
- Katie Frevert, UW Superfund Research Program
- Carolyn Gleason, HRSA
- Rachel Koller, Tribal Healthy Homes Network
- Lorelei Walker, UW IPHG
- Margo Young, EPA

**Meeting**

**Next meeting:** May 08, 2014 @ Washington State Department of Health, Kent Offices, 20425 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Suite 310. Kent, WA 98032 ([map](#))

**Topic:** *WA Environmental Biomonitoring Survey*

Ann Butler, a Health Services Consultant at the WA State Department of Health in Tumwater, will give a presentation on the WA State Department of Health survey measuring pesticides and two types of chemicals found in plastics (BPA and phthalates) in women, teens and children living in subsidized housing in King County.

## Update on NW CEH Forum follow-up projects

1. Gail is presenting at the [Infant & Early Child Care Conference](#) on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma.
2. Gretchen is creating a 'how-to' manual for putting on future Forums.
3. We plan to present CEH-related topics at more conferences:
  - a. Nicole, Steve, Holly and Aileen will present CEH at the May conference of the WA State Environmental Health Association. Title: "Healthy Environments for the Next Generation -- Before, During, and After Pregnancy". They'll talk about lead and Healthy Homes and will showcase CHE-WA.
  - b. Steve and Nicole will submit a proposal to present at the Joint Conference of the WA State Public Health Association in Yakima.
  - c. The abstracts and presentations for these conferences will be made available on the CHE-WA website so that others can re-purpose them.
4. WIC webinar is still a work in progress.
5. ssHave looked into purchasing the *Textbook of Children's Environmental Health*. A request to WA Ecology has been put in as they are the funding source that would be used to purchase said books.
  - a. Recommended person to get a book: Melody Meyer, Organic Trade Association
6. Karen Bowman has two students looking internships. One student is from SPU the other is from Central WA University. Please contact Gail for more information if you are interested.

## Updates from group members

### Ann Butler

No update

### Rachel Koller

1. She is also the EH volunteer helper at Adams Elementary in Seattle where she is developing a classroom cleaning guide for the school. The guide continues with some simple examples of how to clean such as do not use disinfectant wipes, instead choose soap and water. Staff are not sure soap & water counts as "cleaning."
2. Suggestion made to connect with Dave Blake.

### Lorelei Walker

1. Working on developing an epigenetics video for the web and more. Tentative completion date of late September.
2. Suggestion made to connect with Joel Nigg from Oregon State Health Sciences.
3. Also the opportunity to present this work at SOAR. Nicole will connect her with Sammi Truong (PHSKC) to facilitate this process.

### Katie Frevert

1. The next PH Café from the Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health is Tuesday, May 13th, 7-8:30 PM at Chaco Canyon Café in West Seattle. The topic will be Nanotechnology.

2. Participating in the Community Health Studies: Health and Environmental Justice gathering. It will be a great place to connect with health teachers statewide. Please contact Katie for more information.

**Lisa Nerat**

No Update

**Margo Young**

1. Feds are undergoing a lot of change including early retirement buyouts. No changes to her staffing.
2. Focus of work will be morphing to a more focused Children's EH and Environmental Justice emphasizing communities. Details on what this means is in the works.

**Nancy Bernard**

1. Presenting at the Washington State Environmental Health Conference about mold in schools.
2. WA DOH and OSPI have responded to the concerns of Wi-Fi in schools. Public comment has closed. To learn more...  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/WiFiSafety.aspx>.

**Carolyn Gleason**

1. Offices continue to be in chaos as the move is imminent.
2. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alaska Earthquake
3. WIC webinar is still a work in progress.

**Nicole Thomsen**

1. Attended and presented on the Northwest Environmental Health Conference in Portland sponsored by the Oregon Environmental Council.
2. Work flow is still very much in flux. Still focused on healthy housing.

**Aileen Gagney & Krysta Thornton**

1. 10 people have taken the ALA's recent MHE training.
2. Aileen is now a certified Healthy Childcare trainer.
3. May is Asthma Month.
4. June 7<sup>th</sup> is a new event nationwide called Lung Force Walk which is focused on women and lung cancer.

**Dennis Weaver**

1. Fran Solomon suggested Dennis participate in the Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus Fair which they are doing. It's April 22 & 23 with 2 shows per day.
2. Been sharing and promoting CHE-WA at the Organic Trade Association and Cornucopia.

**Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen**

April 5<sup>th</sup> EcoHealth Childcare training held in partnership with Raja for Africa. 16 people received training; all with enthusiastic remarks. Soon to schedule another training before Ramadan.

**Gail Gensler**

1. CHE National has an EMF working group with over 300 members.
2. Joined in on the CHE National monthly check-in call. Promoted our CHE-WA CEH website as a little known resource.

**Future Speaker Ideas:**

- Andrew Dannenberg, UW, Built Environment

**Other Suggestions:**

- All members may want to join the WCAAP mailing list
- Expand our CHE-WA CEH website to have a corner devoted to posing all the latest news updates and opportunities.

**Monthly presentation**

This month the presentation was from Sonia Hoglander, an electrical engineer, building biologist, and activist dedicated to reversing the impacts of electromagnetic radiation on health and the environment. Sonia provided a brief overview of electromagnetic radiation's impact on health, and the efforts of two organizations: (Washington Wireless Awareness and Means for Change) regarding microwave radiation in our schools, and stopping smart meter implementation. Slides are attached. A few points from the speaker:

- The 'mid-level' microwave frequency ranges are showing increasing health effects. This includes cell phones and cell towers.
- WHO announced cell phone radiation as a potential carcinogen at the same level of concern as asbestos, DDT, and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke. WHO recommends more research.
- Children's brains absorb far more EMF's than adults' brains, yet the standard Specific Absorption Rate is based on a 6-ft. man for a 6-minute exposure.
- The Telecommunication Act of 1996 prohibits the public from using health concerns in blocking cell tower placement.
- Note that WA DOH/OSPI report that came out in January of 2014 reviewed the data and concluded that wireless in schools is not a problem. Speaker disagrees.