

**CHE-WA Children's Environmental Health Working Group**  
**Meeting notes: Thursday, May 12, 2011 9:30-11:30**  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment- WA (CHE-WA)**

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: pre-conception to age 8.

Attending: Julia Berg (LHWMP-KC), Gail Gensler (LHWMP-KC), Nicole Thomsen (PHSKC), Susan Colton, Lauren Jenks (WA DOH), Kim Farnham (EPA), Susan Titus (EPA), Nancy Bernard (EPA), Elizabeth Loudon (ECOSS), Aileen Gagney (ALAW), Kristy Ivicsek (PEHSU)

On the phone: Margo Young (EPA), Holly Davies (WA DOE), Katie Frevert (US DEOHS), and Judy Olsen (Tacoma Pierce County Health District)

Host: Nicole Thomsen, Public Health-Seattle & King County

Next meeting: June 9 at Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County office, 130 Nickerson # 100, Seattle, 98109

**Action items**

- Invite Liz Dykstra to present on Bed Bugs in June
- Aileen would like to see the profile Gail developed of mothers of children age 0-8 who live in Seattle.
- Please join the NW Children's Environmental Health list serv, managed by Department of Ecology. Go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html>. Scroll down to Environmental Education and click on Northwest Kids Environmental Health Group
- Margo asked Nancy pictures to send pictures of kids in schools that are in the public domain.

**Agenda Items**

Note: The next meeting will be June 9, 2011, back at LHWMP in King County, at 130 Nickerson,

Updates - Members share what they are doing that relates to children's environmental health.

- Kim Farnham: Enforcement Officer with EPA. When inspectors bring back documents after an inspection, Kim develops the case and determines whether there are violations. WA & OR have delegation of RRP rules, so she focuses mostly on ID and AK.
- Judy Olsen, TPCHD: Clean Air for Kids Asthma program and Dirt Alert.
- Gail Gensler: Working on two CHE-WA workgroups. Put together profile of mothers of children age 0-8 in King County. Demographic profile—where do they live, ethnic, education, etc. Will inform how we reach out to this population. Also planning for project to reach out to childcare providers to tell them about Eco Healthy Child Care training/certification. Gail has been trained and certified to become Eco Healthy Child Care training. Latina health fair 5/14--about 800 people will be there. 11-4; rainier community center. LHWMP is a sponsor.
- Julia Berg: Has practicum student from UW to create website to show pesticide free public places. There will be pesticide free and pesticide reduced tiers; 50-60 parks in geographic king county plus other places like arboretums, Pacific Science Center. Hope to let people know where it is safe for young kids to play; also hope to influence other parks and decision makers to encourage other places to become pesticide free. Translating material on hazardous household products into Spanish for a health fair. Invite everyone to a [pesticide summit](#) on June 4 in Seattle—Paul Tukey will be speaking. Please join the listserv—there are 25 new folks signing up plus about 100 lurkers who were already there.
- Nancy Bernard: School Health and Indoor Air at DOH Healthy School Summit is towards the end of May 24-25. May 25 will be school env. health and safety section for 2 hrs. Presenters: Nancy Bernard, DOH; Margo Young,

EPA; Juliann Barta, EPA; Nancy Beaudet, NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit; Dave Waddell, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program; Carrie Foss, WSU Extension Urban IPM Coordinator  
Numbers are pretty low this year. Finding more reasons not to use Triclosan—including nosocomial infections spread by antibiotic soaps. Nancy would like to come up with some recommendations on using Triclosan. LHWMP may link to it if she completes it. Have environmental effects as well as health effects. Plus, bacteria are becoming resistant.

- Aileen Gagney: ALAW training. Just got done with HH in Bellingham. Trained about 20 people. June 7-8—Healthy Homes Essential Course. Not sure if it is open to the public yet. Bed bugs can carry MRSA. No residual pesticides are effective on them. High heat over 140° kills them. National Centers for Healthy Housing has a good brochure for bed bug protocols.
- Elizabeth Loudon, ECOSS: Environmental Coalition of South Seattle. Busy with Cinco de Mayo activities last week. Interested in pesticide free parks—noticing poisoned hemlock and Japanese knot weed in some parks. Putting together planning committee for the [Duwamish River Festival 2011](#) August 27 at Waterway Park —do you know someone who wants to participate or have a booth? It will keep a health focus. Last year was excellent. ALAW would love to be there. Involved in healthy foods for South Park initiative through Communities Putting Prevention to Work. There's no grocery store in South Park—food desert. Talk with Dennis Weaver—Change Your Food Change Your Life.
- Kristy Ivicsek: Research Nurse at Children's working on study looking at phthalates in infant development. Recruited about a 1/3 of pregnancy cohort. Other role at PEHSU—new project is to work with group in Portland that did an air toxics assessment—collaborating to reach out to health care providers to tell them about the results. Putting together a fact sheet.
- Susan Colton: Development rights Bill—just signed—protects agricultural and forested land. Governor spoke and mentioned as “wins” for WA the closure of coal plant, outlawing of coal tar, oil spill precautions. Cascade Land Conservancy.
- Nicole Thomsen: Dr. Bruce Lanphear—will talk this afternoon on Second Coming of the Sanitarians at 12:30. Attended DOH OHP training with Shelley Bischoff and Daisye Orr on partnership.... Developing and Managing Partnerships for Community Health Outcomes. Part of Healthy Communities trainings. What does a partnership mean? It's a tool, but is different than networking or advocacy. Check it out on [HERE](#). Trying to get Shelley to speak at PHSKC and will open it to group. Nicole will send info to list serv.
- Margo Young: On the road going to speak to a group in OR about Children's Env. Health. Glad everyone got the newsletter. No grants out for school programs right now. Can Margo send Nancy pictures of kids in schools that are in the public domain?
- Lauren Jenks: Working on a way to fund and do more elevated blood lead level investigations. Jeanne Johnson (after the fact, via Gail): Volunteer Presentation for ALA - MHE program (Topic HHW). Tentative Plans for Baby Boost event this month.

#### Sub-groups report out

- WSEHA partnership will happen—we will do 4 trainings plus a webinar on Children's Env. Health in Moses Lake, Tumwater, Spokane, King County. Aileen, Lauren, Margo, Nicole will be speakers on healthy homes, lead, overview of children Env. health.
- Medical provider education subgroup – Been brainstorming, but seems possible to work with DOH Medical Homes program. Plan to include some children's environmental health topics in training collaborative. Sponsoring La Leche League conference in September. Focus is on caregivers, naturopaths, etc.
- *Protect Kids from Toxics* flier should be completed in June and inserted in CHILD Profile mailings.

#### Speaker

Nicole Thomsen-- An Approach to Healthy Housing Using Rental Housing Inspection Programs

- Homes have a potential to affect our lives because we spend about 50% of our time there.
- US Surgeon General put out a call for Healthy Housing in 2009.
- Definition: A healthy home is sited, designed, built, maintained, and renovated in ways that support the health of its residents.

- Aspects of healthy homes (lead, mold, pesticides, water damage, rats, etc) farmed out to many different agencies, programs. The Healthy Homes initiative helps us become more holistic when working with people on home-related health issues.
- No demographic group is immune to home health hazards, but low-income people may be disproportionately affected.
- Healthy Housing includes the interior of the home and the external structure, air and water quality, safety, behavior, surroundings, chemical exposures
- Code inspectors address some, but not all of these components. Most code violations are identified through a complaint-based system.
- Licensing and inspection system would improve this system by bringing more equal assessment and correction of violations. Likely to improve the quality of the housing stock.
- Rental Housing Inspection Programs exist in Seattle, Pasco, Tukwila, WA state, Tacoma.
- Inspection Programs in Seattle and Tukwila relatively new. Seattle's program still in development. Inspection program will not replace complaint-based system.