



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health Protection and Advisory Council
July 21, 2020

Virtual meeting via Google Meet: meet.google.com/mjh-sizd-dod

Phone Number (US): [+1 252-692-0135](tel:+12526920135)

PIN: 264 959 745#

10:00am – 11:00am

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Cliff Mitchell (Chair)
Eamon Flynn (staff)
Alicia Mezu
Megan Latshaw
Ruth Vriend
Julian Levy
Kelly Love
Suzan Lowry

Caroline Varney-Alvarado
Laura Allen
Nse Witherspoon
Ben Gitterman
Public
Veronika Carella
Zain Kazi
Theodora S.

Welcome and Introductions

New members!

- **Jovonne Walker** works as the Center Director for Kinder Care Education. She will be representing parents of children with asthma, lead poisoning, or other environmental health issues.
- **Kristen Rawlett, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. She will be representing an academic institution.
- **Suzan Lowry** is the Health Officer for Charles County and will be representing the Maryland Association of Counties. Her background is as a pediatrician and has worked with MDH on issues related to environmental health and COVID-19.
- Members introduced themselves to Dr. Lowry.
- Cliff gave a brief background of CEHPAC, including its establishment and purpose.
- Duane Johnson (MDE, vice chair) has left the administration, and MDE will be designating a new individual to fill this seat.

Approval of minutes (01.21.2020)

- Veronika requested minutes reflect MDA response to letter, including request for follow up meeting.
- Kelly specified MDA sent response on February 21st.
- Megan Latshaw suggested adding the following to the action items for the minutes:
 - Letter from CEHPAC to MDA has been received, MDA will ask for a response before next meeting, but it was noted that a quicker response would be more beneficial and timely given the legislative session .
 - Request for Sen. Guzzone to follow up with MDA instead if MDA is unable to respond in a timely matter.
- Megan motioned to adopt minutes as amended by addition of two action items. Julian Levy seconded the motion. Motion was adopted unanimously.

COVID-19

- General updates
- Concerns related to environmental health
- Designation of essential/critical infrastructure businesses

- Cliff asked members for how COVID-19 is affecting their jobs and functions, and if there are issues related to COVID that they think CEHPAC should be addressing.
 - Megan - Cleaning/disinfecting in schools, home environmental issues/exposures, including to pesticides.
 - Nse - Working with CDC on guidance on cleaning/sanitation of early learning facilities. Contributing to Health Schools Network report/guidance. Success stories of NYC may not be a predictor for how transmission will occur in Maryland. How are we improving our public health capacity in schools to deal with future public health crises. Many students working at home, which may lead to increased lead exposures. Buildings that have been closed for extended periods may have additional environmental hazards. Also concerned with which populations are bearing the burden of the crisis, and how interventions can be implemented in a way that is equitable.
 - Laura Allen - Program works with Early Head Start to implement green healthy cleaning standards. Assisting with reopening safely with educational “small bites” on different topics. Working with Maryland Family Network to reopen safely per latest guidelines, especially when there is not a nurse in every school. Received grant from MSDE to expand nursing services to more child care centers.
 - Ben Gitterman - When I think of toxicology and COVID as a clinician, I am MOST concerned about the alternative cleaning materials being used as things like LYSOL etc have become less available, and the safety of those alternatives. There are so many products out there that there is not enough guidance about these products
 - Alicia - School health services planning for reentry (cleaning, ventilation, student with asthma, etc.). Developing guidelines for use of medical cannabis in school

settings per latest legislation. Weekly subcommittee group meetings on reentry planning. School health centers exploring telehealth models.

- Julian - Biggest issue for industry is preventing transmission from work to home, especially if social distancing and mask use are not possible/practical at work.
 - Kelly - Issues with social distancing for people coming into the office.
 - Megan - Brought up discussion about application of pesticides, especially in home settings where children are spending more time, and the designation of pesticide applicators as essential/critical infrastructure businesses. Cliff asked to table this issue for now and will come back to this on the agenda.
 - Ruth - No legislative issues to report.
 - Suzan - Could grant for asthma be used to expand services of asthma prevention program to children who are at higher risk of COVID-19 (e.g. high pollution areas)?
- Cliff opened up discussion on previously sent letter from MDA to CEHPAC and more recent internal CEHPAC communications regarding the allowance of landscapers to apply pesticides in lawn treatment services. Kelly Love confirmed that the December 4th letter was the final response from MDA. Veronika Carella noted that the meeting with Sec. Bartenfelder and members of CEHPAC to discuss the CEHPAC 11/19/19 HiAP MDA Letter and finalize Sec. Bartenfelder's official response had not yet taken place as requested by Sec. Bartenfelder at a meeting on February 24, 2020. Does the Council want to focus specifically on children's environmental health issues that relate to COVID, and tailor our discussion with MDA?
 - Megan - Could ask health officials to designate aesthetic application of pesticides as non-essential.
 - Julian - Agrees with Megan.
 - 301-xxx-xx16 - Does research support that pesticide exposure could affect one's immune response?
 - Do pesticides in general make you more vulnerable to viral infections?
 - Veronika - In statute, discretionary pesticide applications have been deemed harmful to public health. Children are protected from such applications when on school grounds, and some local jurisdictions have prevented their application generally. Children should receive the same level of protection when at home as when at school. Pesticides applied for lawn treatment are not applied for protection of food crops or other public health issues. County officers are authorized to determine this segment of the landscaping businesses not be allowed while children are sheltering in place and not allowed to go to school.
 - Megan motions to approve and send the letter dated May 20, 2020 as edited by CEHPAC members. Julian Levy and Laura Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Megan to do final edits and send on behalf of CEHPAC.
 - YES: Laura, Megan, Julian, Nse, Alicia, Ben
 - NO: [None]
 - ABSTAIN: Cliff, Kelly, Suzan

Maryland Children and the Environment Report Update

- As capacity increases, MDH will resume working on this report. Sarah Glick is still interested in the report and may be able to contribute to additional content.

Future meetings

- Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) joint meeting
- At least 4 more meetings in 2020
 - September, October, November, December
 - August meeting may interfere with school reopening efforts. Eamon and Cliff will look for additional meeting times.
- Eamon and Cliff working to fill vacancies. Julian notes vacancy in House position.

Public Comment

- Veronika - Requested members note the four items noted by email and copied below:
 - CEHPAC membership – vacancy and statutory qualification concerns raised.
 - Action requested on CEHPAC and CEJSC Letters re: essential and non-essential portions of business per MD GOV exec order of 4/5/2020. Thanked CEHPAC for approving Letter to County Health Officers at this meeting.
 - Action Requested on CEHPAC's November 19, 2019 Letter to MDA Secretary Bartenfelder which remains outstanding and not officially responded to. No signed and official response has been received by CEHPAC as required by statute, as Sec. Bartenfelder is also a CEHPAC Commissioner bound by the duties defined in statute.
 - Action Requested to fill Data Gaps - CEHPAC has been made aware of the inability for anyone to access the information about the hazardous pesticides applied for discretionary purposes during the COVID-19 public health crisis. CEHPAC's assistance in accessing vital public health information is such as pesticide application records is requested and required to protect children and their environments (especially their groundwater).
- Theordora - Many people are streaming media much more due to COVID-19. Recommends CEHPAC develop fact sheet and recommendations on oxidative stress and electronic device use (cell phones, wireless tablets/laptops), and more prominently publish the WiFi report. Referenced reports and efforts from California and Russia. MSDE recommendations did not include reducing wireless exposure.

Adjourned at 11:15am (moved by Julian and Laura).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Statute: [Health-General §13-1501—1506](#)

Website (includes meeting dates, minutes, etc.):

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>

Members:

Seat	Name
Senate	Sen. Guy Guzzone
House	VACANT
MDH (chair)	Cliff Mitchell
MDE (vice chair)	Duane Johnson
MDA	Kelly Love
MSDE	Alicia Mezu
DHS	Shawnette Mills
DHCD	Caroline Varney-Alvarado
Gov Office for Children	Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Health care provider	Ben Gitterman
Health care provider	Laura Allen
Academic institution	Kristen Rawlett
Parent/Guardian	Jovonne Walker
Epidemiologist	Megan Latshaw
Economist	VACANT
Toxicologist	Nse Witherspoon
MACO	Suzan Lowry
Private industry	Julian Levy
CEJSC	Camille Burke

Staff: Eamon Flynn (Eamon.Flynn@maryland.gov)