



**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024**

**1:00pm – 2:30pm**

**MINUTES:**

**Members:**

Subha Chandar  
Ben Gitterman  
Alexander Lehmann  
Megan Latshaw  
Paul Ferraro  
Jovonne Walker  
Camille Burke  
Dianna Abney  
Sen. Dawn Gile  
Kristen Rawlett

Nsedu Witherspoon  
Kylan Simpson (Staff)

**Guests:**

Veronika Carella  
Michael Ichniowski  
Zakiyyah Holmes  
Kelly Love

**Welcome**

**Old Business:**

Approval of June 25, 2024 and August 15, 2024 Minutes:

- Subha Chandar noted that the group was unable to approve the minutes from the June and August meetings in the previous session.
- Subha stated a motion was needed to approve the minutes from the June and August meetings.
- Camille Burke made a motion to approve the minutes from the June and August meetings. The motion was seconded.
- There was no further discussion, and the minutes from the June and August meetings were unanimously approved.

Update on Letter to Maryland Department of Agriculture:

- Subha informed the group that the letter to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, containing recommendations and requests from the council, was sent on Friday morning.
- Subha stated the Department of Agriculture acknowledged receipt of the letter right away.
- Kylan Simpson confirmed the letter has not yet been posted on the CEHPAC website, but will be added shortly along with the meeting minute updates.

### **New Business:**

#### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pesticide Use In Schools:

- Subha discussed the suggestion for CEHPAC to review current integrated pest management (IPM) practices for effectiveness and incorporate any new research findings based on previous meeting discussions.
- Nsedu Witherspoon stated that a few years back, Veronika had spent time talking to IPM managers at a few schools in Maryland. Through these conversations, they identified some key concerns:
  1. Many of the IPM managers were planning to retire soon or move on, which raised concerns about who would be taking over their roles and responsibilities.
  2. The IPM managers acknowledged a range of training needs, and Nsedu noted there may be opportunities to enhance the existing training curriculum and engagement methods.
  3. The IPM managers reported dealing with increased infestations, such as termites, after schools had been closed down during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  4. Nsedu noted that with increasing heat and humidity, the IPM managers may need to be proactive in addressing emerging pest issues, especially in areas like Southeast Maryland.
  5. She emphasized the importance of having buy-in from school administrators and teachers, as sometimes teachers request pesticide applications, which can undermine IPM practices.
- Subha and Kylan agreed to follow up with MSDE to understand their capacity and engagement in supporting IPM training and implementation in schools.

#### Council Membership Review:

- Subha reminded members about the importance of participation and attendance, noting that Kylan does track attendance. If you are not able to attend, please let us know.
- Subha introduced Alex as the new Department of Agriculture representative on the council, replacing the previous representative.
- The council discussed the need to identify a new representative from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, as the previous representative, Christine Fogle, is no longer with the organization.
- Camille and Subha discussed the importance of engaging with the CEJSC and other councils to ensure cross-collaboration and information sharing.

#### Lead Poisoning Prevention Week:

- Subha informed the group that Lead Poisoning Prevention Week will be held from October 20-26, with a focus on the 30th anniversary of lead laws in Maryland.
- The council discussed the importance of promoting the week and coordinating activities with the Maryland Department of Environment and other organizations.
- Subha mentioned that the Maryland Department of Environment and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative may be planning press events or other activities during the week, and encouraged the council members to share any events they are planning so they can be cross-promoted.
- Kylan was tasked with sharing links to the EPA and CDC toolkits for Lead Poisoning Prevention Week to assist with the council's promotional efforts.

- Camille discussed the challenges of the lead service line project in Baltimore, noting that Baltimore City and Baltimore County are assisting the Department of Public Works (DPW) with this large project. Camille explained that the project involves citizens identifying their own service lines, which came from a directive from the EPA. Camille stated that she and others have been assisting DPW, as they have found the response rates from citizens to be low, and they have been trying to explain why this is a daunting task for residents. Camille acknowledged that there is federal money behind the project, but reiterated the difficulty for residents in testing their own water service lines. She said they have had extensive conversations with DPW and even did a city council hearing on the challenges of this approach. Camille offered to provide more basic information about the partnership between Baltimore City and County, and the efforts to increase outreach and get higher participation numbers in the lead service line identification project. Camille suggested that during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the CEHPAC council could help promote this project and provide context around the challenges faced by residents in completing this task on their own.

Discussion of other CEHPAC priorities and preparations for legislative session:

- The discussed potential bills that may come up in the upcoming legislative session, including those related to PFAs and other environmental issues.
- Megan Latshaw asked and Nsedu confirmed if the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) had any PFAs position statements or other materials that can be shared.
- Megan and other members shared their past experiences and suggestions for handling legislative session letters and comments, noting the challenges of the fast-paced nature of the legislative process.
- The council agreed to revisit past positions and prepare for the upcoming session, with the possibility of scheduling additional meetings or conference calls to ensure timely responses.

**Public Comment:**

- Michael Ichniowski, representing the Maryland Health Professionals for Healthy Climate, shared concerns about PFAs in drinking water and the need for testing and regulation.
- Michael mentioned that a bill to remove trash incineration as a renewable energy source from the renewable energy portfolio was defeated last year, and may be resubmitted this year. He noted that while waste-to-energy generation has some benefits, it is not considered clean energy in the same way as solar or wind power.
- He also mentioned an upcoming webinar on Children's Environmental Health Day (October 10th, 2024) that the group could promote.
- Michael mentioned that Consumer Reports recently tested a wide variety of cinnamon brands for lead and listed which ones had large amounts, smaller amounts, and which were safer. He noted that last year, there was an issue with apple cinnamon pouches and toddlers in Maryland, which led to a new law that goes into effect on October 1st. The law requires foods for toddlers and infants sold in Maryland to have a label indicating the food has been tested for heavy metals and the levels present.
- Michael suggested that providing information to the public about the potential for lead contamination in cinnamon could be worthwhile during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. He explained that the lead could come from the soil where the cinnamon trees were grown, or potentially from lead chromate or lead oxide being added as adulterants. He recommended that the council consider promoting the Consumer Reports information about safer cinnamon brands to raise public awareness about this potential source of lead exposure.
- Veronika Carrella, representing the Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition, emphasized the need to address PFAs in pesticides. She noted that around 1,000 of the 14,000 pesticides listed openly

contain PFAs, and she requested that CEHPAC and the Environmental Justice Commission work together to address this issue and protect groundwater.

- Veronika also raised the issue of standing when filing pesticide complaints, stating that MDA had previously refused to investigate a complaint she made regarding a pesticide application at Northeast Elementary School because she did not have standing. She requested that CEHPAC ask MDA to review that specific case and provide a determination on whether the application was compliant with the IPM in Schools law.
- Veronika also requested that CEHPAC consider reactivating an ad hoc work group to continue the work of the previous indoor air quality work group, specifically focused on reviewing IPM models and best management practices.

## **Adjourn**