



## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, January 16, 2024  
10:30am – 12:00pm

#### **MINUTES**

##### Members:

Subha Chandar (Chair)  
Alexander Lehmann  
Alicia Mezu  
Camille Burke  
Lisa Horne  
Megan Latshaw  
Kylan Simpson (staff)

##### Guests:

Cliff Mitchell  
Michael Ichniowski  
Theodora Scarato  
Veronika Carella

#### **Meeting Notes**

##### **Welcome**

- Chair Subha Chandar called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
- Quorum was not initially met. Discussion proceeded without voting on official matters.

##### **Old Business**

##### **Approval of December 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

- Discussion:
  - Subha stated that the minutes from December 19, 2024, were available for review and any necessary edits should be submitted before approval at the next meeting.
  - Camille Burke confirmed receipt of the minutes and agree to review.

##### **New Business**

##### **PFAS Discussion/Presentation by Dr. Clifford Mitchell (MDH)**

- Presenter: Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Director, Environmental Health Bureau, MDH
- Overview:

- Explained the Maryland PFAS Action Plan, prepared for the General Assembly and submitted in December 2023.
- Detailed multi-agency involvement: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and other agencies.
- Stressed the importance of a systematic and holistic approach to addressing PFAS contamination.
- Key Points Discussed:
  - PFAS are widely distributed in water, soil, consumer products, and food packaging. Health concerns include bioaccumulation, endocrine disruption, and carcinogenicity.
  - The George Walter Taylor Act mandated the development of the PFAS Action Plan.
  - Discussed environmental justice considerations and the disproportionate impact of PFAS on vulnerable communities.
  - MDE is actively testing drinking water and wastewater sources for PFAS contamination.
  - Discussed the complexities of PFAS degradation and their presence in various environmental media.
  - Highlighted emerging research on PFAS exposure pathways, including fish consumption advisories.
  - Emphasized cumulative exposure concerns, particularly for at-risk populations.
  - Questions from Members:
    - Megan Weil Latshaw asked about PFAS contamination in private wells.
      - Dr. Mitchell confirmed that MDE focuses on public water systems, but private well owners should test their water regularly.
  - Questions/Comments from Guests:
    - Michael Ichniowski shared results from his personal PFAS blood testing, revealing high levels of PFOA and PFOS despite production ceasing decades ago.
    - Theodora Scarato provided resources on historical industry knowledge of PFAS risks and regulatory actions.
    - Veronika Carella inquired about the state's strategy to eliminate known PFAS contamination sources.
      - Cliff Mitchell stated that interagency efforts are ongoing to regulate and mitigate contamination.

## 2025 Legislative Session Updates

- Bills for Discussion:
  - HB 0114 – Pesticide and Pest Control:
    - Summary: Bill proposes updates to pesticide application policies and record-keeping requirements.
    - Discussion:
      - Alexander Lehmann confirmed that the bill is primarily a cleanup measure.
      - Subha stated that CEHPAC will track the bill's progress and discuss potential testimony.

## Public Comment

- Michael Ichniowski provided information on upcoming legislation banning PFAS in pesticides.
- Veronika Carella expressed concern over vacant CEHPAC seats, particularly the MDE representative and Parent Representative. Urged outreach to the Governor's office for timely appointments.
- Veronika criticized MDA for lack of transparency in pesticide application record collection. Presented case studies highlighting gaps in 1997 IPM law compliance at Maryland schools.

Recommended MDA request school pesticide application records electronically and share them with CEHPAC. Noted that MDA has \$2.5 million allocated for environmental programs, which could fund database improvements.

- Theodora Scarato shared updates on wireless radiation exposure research, regulatory gaps, and ongoing legal battles regarding FCC compliance.

### **Adjourn**

- Subha Chandar adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.