



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Wednesday, January 26
10:00am – 12:00pm**

Members in attendance:

Cliff Mitchell (chair)
Camille Burke
Christina Drushel-Williams
Dianna Abney
Kelly Love
Kristen Rawlett
Megan Latshaw
Paul Ferraro
Ben Gitterman
Alicia Mezu
Eamon Flynn (staff)

Guests in attendance:

Cassie Shirk
Paulette Hammond
Shweta Sharma
Veronika Carella
Kate B
Laura Stewart
Hannah Donart
Kylan Simpson
Theodora Scarato

Minutes

- Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.
- Christina Drushel-Williams moved to approve the minutes from October 14, 2021, seconded by Kristen Rawlett. No discussion, motion passed.
- Christina Drushel-Williams moved to approve the minutes from December 7, 2021, seconded by Camille Burke. No discussion, motion passed.
- Members were reminded to complete financial disclosure.
- Kelly Love sent the Integrated Pest Management plans from the school systems to CEHPAC, per CEHPAC's request. The 519 page document was sent to members on the morning of 1/26/2022. Chair asked the Schools Workgroup to review the documents and report back to the main body.
- Letter was sent to the General Assembly regarding vacancies on 1/25/22. Speaker Jones's office has acknowledged receipt of the letter.
- Cliff reviewed the EMF exposure guidelines document, including his comments and edits which were sent out to members. Specifically, the section on extremely low frequency magnetic fields lacked sufficient evidence, and other sections were edited for accuracy and clarity. The quotes from specific products may create legal issues if companies felt their products were misrepresented in a guidance document.

- Discussion focused on the intended audience (Maryland parents and families) and the method of distribution (on CEHPAC's website). Additional grammatical errors were noted. The value and liability of the product fine print section was also discussed. It was suggested that it may be helpful to note what to look for in consumer product information or what the key messages are (there are simple and free ways to reduce exposures) rather than quoting the fine print directly. Suggestion to include generic language of fine print rather than specific language attributed to a specific product. Paul Ferraro to work on edits to this section. Suggestion to add more background information about how this builds upon CEHPAC's previous work on this topic. Discussion about including relative risk comparisons to other consumer products or environmental risks, and challenges of making comparisons with rapidly changing technology. Chair suggests document be revised for consideration at the April 20, 2022 meeting.
- The chair discussed the role of CEHPAC as an advisory council during the legislative session - to advise and provide information to the General Assembly, but not to initiate or lobby for legislation. In general, CEHPAC has reviewed legislative matters and weighed in with testimony and has been most successful when addressing the principles of environmental health that relate to a topic rather than the particulars of a bill. Camille noted that CEJSC had a very similar discussion yesterday, and CEJSC will discuss with CEHPAC opportunities to weigh in.
- Proposed legislation related to children's environmental health was discussed, including the role of agency representatives. CEHPAC generally will not weigh in on legislation that makes administrative changes, as opposed to policies and programs that specifically affect children's environmental health. Members are encouraged to read legislation themselves rather than rely on the interpretation of any specific agency or organization. Specific legislation discussed included HB 131, HB 387. Cliff notes that the state chemist is part of MDA. MDA reps noted that they address pesticide use outside of agriculture, and program staff would likely move with the program.
- Ad-hoc schools workgroup reported out to CEHPAC.
 - Status of letters and requests of MSDE, MDA, and the General Assembly. Cliff did resend the letters to Superintendent Choudhury on December 7th, 2021. Workgroup to look at documents provided by MDA. Green Cleaning Policies and Plans request is still outstanding (MSDE).
 - Legislation of interest to the workgroup
 - Status of the MDE water quality regulations, proposed revisions to the MDE template letter, and status of drinking water outlets deemed "non-drinking water." Camille to work with Cliff and Devon on MDE-specific items. Chair notes there is a Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission which has a primary focus on lead poisoning prevention, and the value of CEHPAC also weighing into lead poisoning issues may not be the best use of time and resources if the work is duplicative and not complementary. Discussion about formal interaction between CEHPAC and the LPPC, periodically include updates from the LPPC on the CEHPAC agenda, or sharing materials from LPPC meetings with CEHPAC members. Cliff noted that the Green and Healthy Housing Initiative received a large HUD grant to address lead in housing.

Public Comment

- Laura Stewart notes there is interest in providing filtered water bottle stations in schools to filter lead and reduce plastic bottle consumption. Stewart notes that the artificial turf bill helps track where the turf goes, which she notes is important as some turf could be dumped near waterways and lead to a release of microplastics, and the bill provides greater accountability.
- Kate Breimann (Smart on Pesticides Coalition) discussed the pesticide regulation transfer bill, and notes that the IPM provisions would also move to MDE. She notes that the intention of the bill is to house the regulations in the agency that has more expertise in environmental (and not only agricultural) contexts. She notes that other states have also passed similar legislation.
- Veronika Carella asks CEHPAC to support the pesticide transfer bill (SB 268/HB 387), the environmental human rights amendment, the water safety bill (SB 221/HB 402), and the safe schools indoor air act as these bills address topics of interest to CEHPAC. Carella notes that pesticides in Maryland are used in contexts beyond agricultural use, and that MDE has the expertise to regulate pesticides and provide greater oversight and accountability. She notes the scope of MDE is more in line with pesticide regulation compared to MDA. Carella requests CEJSC and CEHPAC discuss the bills noted by the schools ad-hoc workgroup.
- Paulette Hammond notes that MDA program staff would be transferred with the program as a result of the pesticide transfer bill.
- Theodora Scarato asked about the review of the EMF guidance document. Scarato also noted that they filed with the FCC a request to look at the last two years of science and to review their handling of this issue. She noted that the FDA should be looking at this issue but does not have the procedures or policies in place to review the considerations and guidelines. Scarato noted that FDA claimed that they do not regulate cell towers and do not have any evidence or data on their safety. Scarato also provided information to CEHPAC on new research and work related to RF radiation. Scarato noted that New Hampshire is considering further setbacks for homes and schools near cell towers.

Following public comment, there was a motion to adjourn by Christina Drushel-Williams, seconded by Megan Latshaw, and adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56am.