



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 9, 2021
1:00pm – 2:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance:

- Cliff Mitchell
- Ben Gitterman
- Devon Dodson
- Eamon Flynn (staff)
- Alicia Mezu
- Megan Latshaw
- Kristen Rawlett
- Ruth Vriend
- Jovonne Walker
- Christina Drushel-Williams
- Cassie Shirk
- Kelly Love

Guests in attendance:

- Martine Kirwin
- Nina Cardin
- Veronika Carella
- Kristen Jackson (MSDE)
- Theodora Scarato
- Amy Nahley
- Fred Mason
- Cindy Osorto
- Marissa Tan
- Julian Levy

Notes:

- **Administration**
 - Introductions
 - Confirmed a quorum of members present
 - Approval of meeting minutes
 - 11/09/20
 - Motion: Kristen Rawlett, Ben Gitterman
 - No discussion, **approved** with none against.
 - 12/03/20
 - Motion: Devon Dodson, Ben Gitterman
 - No discussion, **approved** with none against.
 - Review of current vacancies
 - 2021 meetings

- Next meeting scheduled for March 11th, rest of meetings will be scheduled shortly, distributed, and posted to CEHPAC website.
 - Open Meetings Act training recommended to members. **Eamon will distribute link to training to members.**
 - Reminder to members to file financial disclosure statement by April 30th.
- **COVID-19**
 - Brief discussion of COVID-19 implications for children's environmental health, including exposures to lead and other home hazards. Ask of members for specific actionable items Council should undertake with regard to COVID-19.
 - School reopening relates to a number of environmental issues, including ventilation.
 - No vaccine has been approved for children under the age of 16. Resistance to vaccine by some members of the public. Suggestion that the Council should be thinking about how to message about safety of vaccine for children.
 - Is there a role for CEHPAC in advising the legislature, agencies, clinicians, or public about deferred well child visits, health screenings, identification of home environmental hazards?
 - Suggested presentation at upcoming SHIP conference
 - Guidance about how to address deferment of children's health care (vaccines, lead testing, environment hazards) with parents
 - MDE has never stopped conducting lead inspections
 - Guidance for teachers and schools in returning to in-class education (including for new technologies, like UV lights).
 - Guidance exists from EPA, MDE, MDH, MSDE, ASHRAE regarding maintenance and flushing of systems. MDH to gather and provide information about existing guidance. Schools have a point of contact with state agencies.
 - Suggestion that next meeting be used to review and evaluate guidance available for schools and homes and identify any gaps or unmet needs. Unclear if parents are provided with or looking for this information.
 - Kristen Rawlett, Alicia Mezu, Ben Gitterman, Veronika Carella (public) volunteer to form workgroup to discuss this topic before next meeting.
- **Discussion from December joint CEHPAC/CEJSC meeting deferred.**
- **Legislative session**
 - Discussed changes for 2021 session, including submission of testimony and hearings
 - Suggestion to schedule additional meetings to discuss specific pieces of legislation which Council members are interested in taking a position. Meetings would be in-between regular meetings. Ask that members develop a synopsis of the bill(s) to be discussed at the interim meetings.
- **Public Comments**

- Request that meetings return to two hours.
- Request that CEHPAC send a letter to Sen. Bill Ferguson to request override of Governor's veto on SB 300, Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition.
- Request that MDH respond to July 21, 2020 letter regarding protection of drinking water and other environmental hazards in private homes.
- Request that CEHPAC follow up on recommendations of HiAP report.
- Noted a federal lawsuit against FCC regarding radiofrequency radiation exposure. Request that MDH or CEHPAC provide recommendations on how to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields.
- Suggest that CEHPAC send a letter to members of the General Assembly notifying them of the experience and availability of CEHPAC to address issues or concerns.
- Motion to adjourn: Ben Gitterman, Kelly Love
 - Meeting adjourned 2:06pm