



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Monday, May 6, 2024
10:00am – 11:30am

MINUTES

Members:

Cliff Mitchell (Chair)
Laura Allen
Alicia Mezu
Camille Burke
Christine Fogle
Ben Gitterman
Diana Abney
Kelly Love
Nse Witherspoon
Kylan Simpson (staff)

Guests:

Krisna Becker
Anja Caldwell
Jessica Koontz
Veronika Carella
Paulette Hammond
Sean Lynch
Michael Ichniowski
Alexander Lehmann

Meeting Notes

Welcome:

- Cliff Mitchell (Chair): Opened the meeting and conducted roll call.

Old Business:

Approval of April 2, 2024, Minutes:

- CEHPAC members reviewed the minutes from the April 2, 2024, meeting.
- Approval: The minutes were approved unanimously without any amendments.

Krisna Becker's Presentation:

- Krisna Becker: Presented concerns regarding the school construction situation, specifically related to air quality testing in the new wing of the school building:
 - Mentioned that children were moved into the new wing before proper air quality tests were completed.
 - Raised issues about the interior finishes and fumes not being properly flushed out before occupancy.

- Reported that symptoms like headaches among children subsided after a month but expressed ongoing concerns about demolition in the old wing, including potential asbestos and silica exposure.
 - Highlighted non-compliance with the school's indoor air quality plan and OSHA standards regarding HVAC system operations during demolition.
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New Business:

Discussion of Priorities and Focus Areas Moving Forward:

- Chair Mitchell: Emphasized the importance of recognizing the success of current programs and considering how to deliver services efficiently during fiscal constraints.
 - Nse Witherspoon: Stressed the need to prioritize indoor air quality in schools and address related health concerns.
 - Dr. Ben Gitterman: Discussed recent legislative efforts focused on improving children's environmental health, such as laws addressing air quality and pesticide use in schools.
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Public Comment:

Thoughts or Comments from Non-CEHPAC Members:

- Michael Ichniowski: Provided updates on environmental health legislation:
 - Highlighted a new law requiring testing and labeling of baby foods for heavy metals.
 - Discussed the impact of climate change on school closures due to extreme weather and the need for air conditioning and HEPA filters in schools.
 - Addressed concerns about PFAS contamination from pesticides and its effects on soil and food safety.
 - Sean Lynch: Requested that updates on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and pesticide use in schools be included in future meetings.
 - Veronika Carella: Highlighted:
 - The lack of consistent representation for parents and children in the commission meetings.
 - Missed opportunities during the legislative session and the need for better engagement.
 - Data gaps regarding pesticide use in schools and the necessity for basic protection measures during school renovations.
 - Cliff Mitchell: Explained OSHA regulations, noting that inspection requests must come from employers or employees, not third parties.
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Adjourn:

- Meeting Logistics and Future Plans:
 - Discussion on preferred meeting times (10:00 - 11:30 AM) and potential locations, including Prince George's County Health Department or Charles County Health Department.
 - Commitment to posting meeting agendas two weeks in advance.
 - Next meeting June 25, 2024 (10-11:30 AM)
- Motion to Adjourn:
 - Kelly Love: Motioned to adjourn the meeting.
 - Nse Witherspoon: Seconded the motion.