



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026
9:00am – 10:30am**

MINUTES

Members:

Subha Chandar (Chair)
Ben Gitterman
Frederick Banks (Vice Chair)
Megan Weil Latshaw
Alexander Lehmann
Lisa Horne
Matthew McConaughey

Kylan Simpson (Staff)

Guests:

Michael Ichniowski
Kelly Love
Sean Lynch
Veronika Carella
Krisna Becker
Nadir Silver
Ashley Prescott
Anaiah Coates
Mackenzie Smith
Laura Lee Wright
Katherine Feldman
Cliff Mitchell

Welcome

Chair Subha Chandar (MDH) called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Kylan Simpson (Staff) initiated the recording after resolving temporary network issues. Attendance was reviewed, and the Council determined that a quorum was not present. As a result, formal approval of prior meeting minutes and official voting items were deferred.

Old Business

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The Council reviewed the status of the December 9, 2025 and January 13, 2026 meeting minutes. Due to the absence of a quorum, approval of both sets of minutes was postponed to a future meeting.

Update on Motion #3 (2021) – Pesticide Use in Schools

- Chair Chandar reopened discussion regarding Motion #3 and ongoing efforts to improve outreach and education surrounding Integrated Pest Management (IPM) implementation in Maryland schools. Discussion focused on the need for stronger education and communication efforts for IPM coordinators, teachers, facilities staff, and school administrators.
- Chair Chandar requested an update regarding outreach to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) facilities division. Vice Chair Frederick Banks (MDE) reported that the Council had connected with Jillian Storm, Executive Director of the Office of School Facilities, who introduced Samaj Tucker and Neil Jooshi. Both individuals intend to participate in future Council meetings on an ongoing basis.
- Members discussed the importance of adapting outreach and pest management education strategies to address changing environmental conditions and shifting pest patterns across Maryland schools.

Update on IPM in Schools Discussion

- Chair Chandar requested an update from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) regarding development of the school IPM template/tool.
- Alexander Lehmann (MDA) stated that the draft template had been forwarded to MDA upper management but feedback had been delayed due to staffing and leadership transitions within the Department. He stated that the template would be shared with the Council once finalized for official review.
- Veronika Carella provided extensive public input regarding the MDA template and shared supplemental materials comparing the MDA template to the more comprehensive “Draft Model IPM System” previously presented to CEHPAC and MDA leadership.
- Veronika Carella stated that:
 - The 27-page MDA template failed to address 21 of the 38 required statutory components of Maryland’s IPM in Schools Law
 - The template did not address seven outstanding action items identified in the 2002 Office of the Attorney General advisory letter
 - Several Boards of Education still lacked fully developed IPM policies and regulations
- The Council reviewed a comparison document titled “IPM TEMPLATE vs MODEL REVIEW,” which identified alleged missing or incomplete sections in the MDA template, including:
 - Inspection and monitoring procedures
 - Action thresholds
 - Pest management strategies
 - Notification procedures
 - School grounds procedures
 - Forms, checklists, and contract requirements

- Kelly Love (MDA) clarified that:
 - The January draft template had been forwarded to upper management
 - MDA staff had not yet formally reviewed the comparison analysis
 - School systems currently maintain approved IPM plans and MDA continues to conduct inspections and oversight activities
- A substantive discussion followed regarding whether current implementation adequately protects children’s health.
- Megan Weil Latshaw stated that the absence of evidence demonstrating harm does not necessarily indicate children are fully protected and emphasized the importance of continued investigation into implementation gaps.
- Ben Gitterman emphasized the need to ensure current statutory requirements are implemented consistently before creating additional administrative burdens or educational requirements. Matthew McConaughy stated that CEHPAC’s role may be best focused on developing recommendations and guidance that exceed minimum statutory standards to strengthen protections for children.
- Veronika Carella requested additional transparency regarding how MDA addressed the seven recommendations identified in the 2002 Attorney General advisory letter and where each required statutory component was addressed within the template.
- Kelly Love recommended that CEHPAC submit a formal written request to MDA upper management regarding those concerns.

Formation of IPM Subgroup

- Following discussion, Megan Weil Latshaw proposed formation of a focused subgroup to further evaluate implementation concerns and educational opportunities. Ben Gitterman recommended a direct, point-by-point discussion between MDA staff and Veronika Carella regarding the disputed template components.
- Chair Chandar agreed that a smaller subgroup should be established involving CEHPAC, MDA, MSDE, and related stakeholders to:
 - Develop educational materials
 - Improve communication regarding IPM implementation
 - Clarify statutory requirements
 - Support schools in implementation efforts

Update on School Construction Safety (MCPS)

- Chair Chandar provided an update regarding previous Council discussions related to school construction safety concerns involving Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). She acknowledged that legislative session activities delayed review of the draft invitation letter prepared with Megan Weil Latshaw.
- Chair Chandar stated that the draft communication would be reviewed and finalized before the next Council meeting.

New Business

MDH Strategic Plan for Environmental Justice

- Chair Chandar introduced Cliff Mitchell (MDH) to discuss implementation of the Governor's Environmental Justice Executive Order and development of MDH's Environmental Justice strategic planning process.
- Cliff Mitchell explained that:
 - All Maryland state agencies are required to designate Environmental Justice Officers
 - Agencies must develop biennial Environmental Justice strategic plans with measurable metrics by July 2026
 - CEHPAC input would help inform MDH stakeholder engagement and strategic planning priorities
- Cliff Mitchell requested that the Council identify top children's environmental health priorities appropriate for MDH leadership and involvement.
- Megan Weil Latshaw emphasized that MDH's unique role is interpreting and applying health outcome data to environmental issues and recommended leveraging Maryland's extensive health datasets to identify disparities and prioritize interventions.
- Krisna Becker recommended development of stronger green purchasing standards and preventive environmental health strategies in collaboration with other agencies. He also advocated for creation of a centralized environmental complaint and case management system across agencies.
- Vice Chair Banks recommended consulting the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families to identify environmental risk areas affecting children statewide. Matthew McConaughy identified PFAS contamination, drinking water quality, food insecurity, and access to healthy built environments as priority areas for future discussion.
- Chair Chandar stated that CEHPAC had not formally prioritized the top environmental health threats facing children and recommended revisiting the earlier Children's Environmental Health strategy documents to guide future work.
- Kylan Simpson confirmed that MDH apprentices are reviewing historical Children's Environmental Health materials and will present findings related to outdoor air quality at the next Council meeting.

Legislative Session Debrief

- Chair Chandar led a debrief regarding CEHPAC's legislative engagement during the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session. Members discussed the effectiveness of the weekly legislative meetings and the Council's increased coordination during session.
- Members noted that:
 - Legislative meetings improved collaboration and responsiveness
 - Earlier scheduling and advance distribution of materials would improve participation

- The process demonstrated CEHPAC’s ability to engage effectively in legislative review and policy discussions
- Vice Chair Banks discussed proposed future legislation concerning:
 - Reduced response timelines for elevated blood lead levels
 - Lead-free certification requirements
- Michael Ichniowski highlighted passage of Maryland’s PFAS sewage sludge legislation as a significant environmental policy development.

Priority Setting for 2026

- Chair Chandar initiated discussion regarding future CEHPAC priorities and the need for a more structured prioritization process moving forward.
- Discussion focused on:
 - Environmental justice
 - Air quality
 - PFAS contamination
 - Pesticide exposure
 - Drinking water
 - Food insecurity
 - Access to healthy built environments
- Members also discussed the importance of prevention-focused environmental health strategies and improved access to environmental health complaint systems.
- Veronika Carella emphasized the importance of closing data gaps related to pesticide use and exposure tracking in Maryland schools.

CEHPAC Membership

- The Council briefly discussed membership participation and future engagement needs. Additional outreach to absent members and stakeholders will continue moving forward.

Public Input

Public comments focused heavily on:

- Transparency in pesticide use reporting
- Compliance with the IPM in Schools Law
- Public access to environmental exposure data
- Preventive environmental health strategies

Veronika Carella submitted written public comments (Appendix B) and supporting materials following the meeting, including:

- Comparative analyses of the MDA IPM template
- References to the 2002 Attorney General advisory letter
- Requests for stronger implementation and oversight mechanisms

Michael Ichniowski stated that pesticide-use tracking should be mandatory rather than voluntary and highlighted concerns regarding PFAS contamination and environmental exposures.

Adjourn

The meeting concluded without quorum for formal votes. Chair Chandar thanked members and guests for their continued engagement and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Appendix A

2026 Maryland Legislative Session Summary

The 2026 Maryland General Assembly session included significant discussion on environmental health, climate policy, environmental justice, energy affordability, school infrastructure, and chemical regulation. Several bills related to lead exposure prevention and school construction advanced successfully, while many broader climate and environmental justice proposals stalled in committee.

HB 252 / SB 203 – Lead Paint Abatement Services advanced significantly during session, reflecting continued state focus on childhood lead poisoning prevention and environmental health protections.

HB 233 / SB 48 – Public School Construction and Alterations successfully passed both chambers with strong bipartisan support and focused on school infrastructure modernization.

Several environmental and climate-related bills received hearings but did not advance, including:

- **HB 91 – Neonicotinoid Pesticides**, which proposed restrictions on certain pesticide uses to protect pollinators and environmental health.
- **SB 181 – Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition**, which addressed environmental and wildlife concerns related to lead ammunition.
- **SB 590 / HB 1199 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Cap-and-Invest Study**, which proposed studying an economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction program.
- **SB 686 / HB 1022 – PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements**, which proposed restrictions and reporting requirements for products containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals.
- **SB 781 / HB 1268 and SB 780 / HB 1287 – CHERISH Bills**, which focused on cumulative environmental impacts, environmental justice considerations, and environmental permitting reforms.

Additional bills discussed included **HB 691 – Permitting Efficient for Housing Construction Projects**, **SB 386 / HB 897 – Lower Bills and Local Power Act of 2026**, **SB 432 / HB 572 – Climate Crimes Accountability Act**, and **HB 854 – School Construction – Nonpublic Special Education School Renovation Program**.

Overall, the session reflected growing legislative attention toward environmental health, climate resilience, energy affordability, PFAS regulation, and environmental justice issues across Maryland.

Appendix B

Public Comment Submission

Provided by: Veronika Carella

Good Evening, CEHPAC Chair Subha Chandar and Vice-Chair Frederick Banks, Thank you for the opportunity to participate in today's CEHPAC meeting. Please share this email widely. I have already included some CEHPAC members and guests as it constitutes MD CEHC Public Input which I tried to convey verbally and in the Chat Box.

Regarding today's discussion on Agenda item "**Update on IPM in Schools Discussion - MDA TEMPLATE Progress**":

Attached is the MDA TEMPLATE as well as a DRAFT version of our MD CEHC review - both of which we discussed at today's meeting. MDA's decision not to share their 27-page **School IPM TEMPLATE** with CEHPAC as requested of MDA by CEHPAC at the last CEHPAC meeting (January 13, 2026) is disappointing and further delays any next steps on the part of the Council to ensure that Maryland children are fully protected under the 1997 IPM in Schools Law.

The 27-page **MDA IPM TEMPLATE**, shared with MD CEHC by MDA on Jan. 23, 2026, fails to address 21 of 38 components of the 1997-1998 IPM in School Law as they were missing while others sections were incomplete, misleading, or inaccurate. We have done a comparison of the IPM TEMPLATE with the IPM MODEL we developed at MDA Sec. Atticks request (*presented at October 14, 2025 CEHPAC meeting*). Attached is a "Summary of Findings" showing the components of the law addressed in both the MODEL and the TEMPLATE. Again, the MDA IPM TEMPLATE does NOT address the required components 1997 IPM in Schools Law nor the 7 action items highlighted in the **2002 Office of the Attorney General's Letter of Advice to MDA** (*also attached*). Per the 2002 AOG Letter these long outstanding action items are necessary for MDA to address in order to fully protect children under the law - including the need to address the incorrect training manuals still provided on the MDA IPM in Schools webpage.

As discussed today, we are particularly eager to hear MDA explain and show at the next CEHPAC meeting (June 9, 2026) exactly where in the MDA IPM Template each of the required components are addressed including the 21 we identified as "missing". We appreciate CEHPAC's continued action to request a detailed response from Sec. Atticks on MDA's review the **IPM Model** [*presented to MDA August 1, 2025 and CEHPAC October 14, 2025*].

REFERENCED DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

- 1) MDA IPM TEMPLATE 260123 (*Drafted by MDA's Alexander Lehmann*)
- 2) IPM TEMPLATE vs MODEL REVIEW- CEHPAC Mtg 260512 (*MD CEHC Public Input*)
- 3) IPM LAW - OAG 2002 MDA ADVICE LETTER w-ACTION ITEMS (*Outstanding MDA Action Items*)
- 4) IPM Model - Required Components 250801 MDA Mtg - CEHPAC 251014 (*Requested by MDA Sec. Atticks*)

Again, we look forward to working with CEHPAC, MDA, any workgroups, and stakeholders to ensure that the **IPM Model** - once reviewed, adopted and implemented - facilitates the full protection of children as intended by the **1997 IPM in Schools Law**. Please take action on these

issues as they have time sensitive implications for Children's Environmental Health and Protection - particularly any action CEHPAC can take to encourage all County Boards of Education [BOE] to comply with the statutory requirement to adopt an **BOE IPM Policy** and **BOE IPM Regulations** - in addition to updating their **IPM Plans** so that they address all required components.

We remind you that the CEHPAC review of the MDA approved Plans confirmed that to date only six(6) BOEs have actually adopted the statutory IPM Policy (*Allegany, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Talbot and Wicomico*). And that the MDA approved IPM Plans for 8 of the BOEs state that they will develop a plan based on the outline approved and on file with MDA. **Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties** only have an outline of their IPM Plan approved by MDA - and state within the outline that the IPM Plan will be developed based on that MDA approved overview. As the law went into effect in 1997 - there has been ample time to comply with all the components of the 1997 IPM in Schools Law - necessary to protect children's health and their school environments. We look to CEHPAC to ensure that all children are protected under existing laws and regulations.

Public Input #1 of 2: Status of Jan 16, 2025 and December 9, 2025, January 13, 2026 Public Input Concerns requesting update and action

Regarding the discussion of CEHPAC priorities and open items, please consider MD CEHC "public input" already submitted requesting that CEHPAC continue address the outstanding issues previously identified by CEHPAC as priorities. Of particular concern is the outstanding **DATA GAP** issue which CEHPAC partially addressed via the two motions adopted at the June 25, 2024 meeting. This remains an open item, as the records for pesticide application made to Maryland Public Schools are NOT being requested/collected by MDA thus making this data inaccessible for review. Such review is needed in order to determine whether or not children are actually protected - as intended by the **1997 IPM in Schools Law** - from exposure to hazardous pesticides or if IPM solutions can be identified to reduce or eliminate such applications in the future. Please work to close this **DATA GAP**.

Without pesticide application data CEHPAC cannot determine if the IPM in Schools Law is actually protecting children and their school environment. CEHPAC has a duty to work to identify and closed these known gaps and ensure transparency in accessing data which is controlled by MDA and other stated agencies in order to ensure that children are fully protected under Maryland Law.

Public Input #2 of 2: CEHPAC PRIORITIES - Four Pillars Motions

A review of the "**4 PILLARS**" identified via previously adopted CEHPAC Motions would shed light on the issues discussed today along with supporting documentation (*included in the motions*). This information could facilitate action on **CEHPAC Priorities** moving forward. As background, attached are the four corresponding CEHPAC Motions which still require action by CEHPAC to address the issues identified - beyond the "**Call to Actions**" letters issued by CEHPAC in 2021 [listed at url: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/oeahfp/eh/pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>];

- 1) "CEHPAC MOTION 1 MSDE **Green Cleaning** Call to Action 210420 FINAL"
- 2) "CEHPAC MOTION 2 MSDE **Indoor Air Quality IAQ** Call to Action 210420 FINAL"
- 3) "CEHPAC MOTION 3 MDA **IPM and Pesticides in Schools** Call to Action 210420 FINAL"

4) "CEHPAC MOTION 4 MDE **Safe School Drinking Water** 210608 FINAL" - *no letter sent - MDE responded at meeting - followup needed*

Additionally, as reference (and shared on the screen today), the "**Schools Workgroup**" **Status Reports** (*prior to disbanding the workgroup*) which documents the statutory review of MDA approved IPM Plans, lists outstanding CEHPAC "to do's", and outstanding **IPM in Schools** items can be found at these CEHPAC links

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Documents/CEHPAC/CEHPAC%20IAQ%20%26%20SCHOOLS%20WRGRP%20STATUS%20RPT%202-21->

[23%20Mtg%20SUMMARY%20of%20FINDINGS%20PRINT%20EMAIL.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Documents/CEHPAC/CEHPAC%20IAQ%20%26%20SCHOOLS%20WRGRP%20STATUS%20RPT%202-21-23%20Mtg%20SUMMARY%20of%20FINDINGS%20PRINT%20EMAIL.pdf)

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Documents/CEHPAC/CEHPAC%20IAQ%20%26%20SCHOOLS%20WRGRP%205-16->

[23%20STATUS%20RPT%20230516%20FINAL%20EMAIL.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Documents/CEHPAC/CEHPAC%20IAQ%20%26%20SCHOOLS%20WRGRP%205-16-23%20STATUS%20RPT%20230516%20FINAL%20EMAIL.pdf)

Referenced Attachments Submitted by Veronika Carella:

- 1) MDA IPM TEMPLATE 260123
- 2) IPM TEMPLATE vs MODEL REVIEW- CEHPAC Mtg 260512
- 3) IPM LAW - OAG 2002 MDA ADVICE LETTER w-ACTION ITEMS
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