



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Thursday June 10
10:30 – 12:00pm**

Participants

Members

Cliff Mitchell (chair)
Alicia Mezu
Camille Burke
Ruth Vriend
Devon Dodson
Kelly Love
Megan Latshaw
Laura Allen
Nse Witherspoon
Christina Drushel-Williams

Eamon (Staff)

Guests

Caroline
Burmese Smith
Hannah Donart
Cassie Shirk
Christina Ardito
Eden Durbin
Fred Mason
Gloria Mikolajczyk
Jessica O'Kane
Kelly Doordan
Laura Stewart
Lisa Cline
Nolan O'Dowd
Ray Serrano
Theodora Scarato
Veronika Carella, MD CEHC Leg Dir
Bri A.B.
Advika Agarwal
Ami Mundra
Aparna Ganesh

Minutes

- Meeting called to order
- Quorum was established

Old Business

- Approval of minutes from April's meeting
 - Motion: Devon D.
 - Second: Christina Drushel-Williams
 - Approved unanimously
- Current vacancies were reviewed. Eamon will reach out to Office of Appointments for any updates.
- A response was received to the letter sent to MDA regarding IPM in schools today (June 10) and was distributed to schools.
 - Some questions may still be outstanding, including each school district's compliance with IPM law and list of pesticides used at each school. Generally the open data items in CEHPAC's letter were not fully addressed.
 - There is an open data initiative on behalf of the State, including inspection compliance letters from MDA, but antimicrobials and disinfectants are not included in the IPM law.
 - Suggestion that we identify specific items for follow-up with MSDE and MDA after everyone has had a chance to review MDA's response. Will be added to agenda for next meeting.
- Request was made that materials to be distributed to CEHPAC members be sent to Eamon to be routed to all members.

New Business

- Presentation from Christina Ardito (MDE) about the Lead in Drinking Water in Schools Program, which requires schools to test drinking outlets for lead and take remediation actions if the sample's lead level exceeds 5 ppb (action level). Summary of discussion follows:
 - Temporary mitigation measures can be used only for certain outlets available to staff only, including flushing the outlet before use if testing results allow.
 - The US Environmental Protection Agency still has 5ppb as the practical quantitative level for lead in drinking water under the Lead and Copper Rule. Labs must consistently and reliably measure lead levels in drinking water, even if levels of detection are lower, and many State-certified laboratories still report lead at this level.
 - Schools with well water are subject to federal lead and copper testing laws, and these schools also have greater control over controls over corrosion. Water is tested using different methods that cannot be directly compared. Maryland uses a 250ml first draw method, whereas the federal laws use a 1L draw.

- COVID-19 has led to more water stagnation in water systems. MDE and MSDE has issued instructions on how to properly flush water systems, and some schools have implemented additional control measures.
- Certification of procedures and testing procedures are very comprehensive, and can be a significant workload for local school systems.
- Difficult for parents to know what's going on, and how data will be shared. MDH and MDE are putting together an application to gather all the drinking water data under the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program.
- The law applies to public, private, and charter schools.
- Other water outlets that are used for consumption, including bathroom sinks and outside hose bibs, are subject to testing requirements, even if not designed as a drinking water outlet, if the school identifies the outlet as used for consumption by students and/or staff. Additional information and communications should be sent out to parents, schools, children.
- Filters can be installed and used to prevent exposure, but they can also be problematic themselves if not properly maintained.
- There is a Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission which is the primary body for addressing issues concerning lead.
- Climate Change
 - MDH is applying for a CDC grant to address climate change. MDH is requesting CEHPAC's support and assistance to focus on climate change indicators related to children's environmental health.
 - Motion to approve letter of support: Megan Latshaw
 - Second: Devon Dodson
 - Approved unanimously.
 - Megan Latshaw to sign
 - Eamon to send letter to members
- WiFi Exposure
 - CEHPAC has looked into WiFi radiation in the past, including developing a report.
 - Suggestion that members review guide and send feedback and comments to Eamon and Megan within two weeks.
 - Researchers are continuing to review emerging evidence and science and policy decisions.
 - Suggestion that home-visiting programs provide some of this information to clients – BCHD is already doing this in a limited way. CEHPAC should consider other communication channels, including school nurses and MSDE.
- SIHIS update – tabled for next meeting.

Public Comment

- Veronika Carella (MD CEHC Leg Dir) - MDA RTK and BIAS: Please include MDA HiAP Data Sharing Issue in the agenda for the next CEHPAC meeting. Per the CEHPAC LETTER (Nov 2019) to MDA Sec Joe Bartenfelder requesting action from MDA on Health in All Policies [HiAP] Concerns and his reply (Oct 2020) – MDA continues to refuse to take action on the “Data Sharing” HiAP issue. Refusal to share vital public health information when children and others are exposed to hazardous pesticides approved for use by the MDA

State Chemist and regulated by MDA Pesticide Regulations shows extreme MDA bias and failure to consider or protect children's health, public health and groundwater (i.e. environment) when deciding what pesticides can be applied in the State of Maryland and how to respond to reports of pesticide poisonings. This is a violation of human and civil rights of children and others and denies them access to due process. Requests consideration of the Water Motion on next meeting's agenda. How can CEHPAC ensure the regulations are updated and the data is available to ensure funds go to schools that need it most to ensure safe drinking water for children?

- Motion requests MDE issue regulation changes, including COVID-19 recommendations from EPA. Request that CEHPAC put together workgroup to draft recommendations for what regulations should include. Request that motion be reviewed and adopted. Request that CEHPAC discuss lack of response from MDA to data sharing issue from HiAP report. Notes that there is no access to data related to potential pesticide exposures from MDA.
- Lisa Cline – Montgomery County schools having issue with excessive screen time. MSDE developed best practices as a result of legislation, but dissemination of best practices has been challenging.
- Laura Stewart - Requests CEHPAC look at using filters until 2024 until drinking water lines can be replaced as a long-term solution.
- Aparna Ganesh – Hydration stations have significant benefits. Any amount of lead in water is unsafe. Also saves water for environmental benefits, including reduced used of plastic water bottles.
- Ami Mundra – Echoes support for hydration stations, noting need for hydration stations at other school districts.
- Advika Agarwal – Echoes support for hydration stations, noting need to consider students with compromised immune systems and effects of COVID-19 related school closures on water stagnation and associated issues.
- Bri A.B. – Question about cost to test all water facilities. Varies significantly depending on age of school and number of outlets (Camille Burke).
- Theodora – Requests some sort of checklist for parents to give them consumer friendly information about lead testing.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Megan Latshaw
- Second: Christina Drushell-Williams
- Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.