



## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Tuesday, June 10, 2025  
9:00am – 10:30am

#### MINUTES

##### Members:

Subha Chandar (Chair)  
Alicia Mezu  
Frederick Banks (Vice Chair)  
Megan Weil Latshaw  
Del. Mary Lehman  
Paul Ferraro  
Camille Burke  
Matthew McConaughey

Kylan Simpson (staff)

##### Guests:

Krisna Becker  
Emily Verghis  
Veronika Carella

#### Welcome

Subha Chandar opened the meeting and confirmed that a quorum was not present, limiting the council's ability to vote on items.

Subha reviewed the agenda, emphasizing updates on legislation, CEHPAC's statutory authority, and ongoing environmental health issues in Maryland schools.

#### Old Business

*Quorum not met for approval of previous meeting minutes.*

#### New Business

##### **2025 Legislative Session Updates**

*Delegate Mary Lehman led discussion on the following legislation:*

##### **Synthetic Turf Bill (2024):**

- Now law. Requires MDE to collect and report data on synthetic turf field disposal.
- Emphasized environmental concerns from materials such as crumb rubber and plastics.
- Implementation will involve a 2–3 year survey, and RFPs are in progress.

### **Beverage Container Deposit Law (“Bottle Bill”):**

- Passed the House Committee for the first time but stalled in Economic Matters.
- Uses reverse vending machine model (e.g., NYC).
- Supported by Senate President Ferguson; expected to be reintroduced next session.

### **CHERISH Act (Cumulative Environmental Impact Permitting):**

- Megan Weil Latshaw described it as potentially transformative.
- Bill was weakened, and support was withdrawn by stakeholders.
- Delegate Lehman noted this may help avoid enacting weak laws that reduce momentum for future improvements.

### **HB 1342 / SB 932 – Aesthetic Pesticide Ban on State-Owned Property:**

- Did not pass due to lack of support from DNR.
- Dept. of Agriculture committed to helping smaller agencies manage pesticide plans without formal legislation.

### **PAS Pesticides Bill (POS/PAS Definition Preservation):**

- Industry amendments weakened the bill; support from environmental groups and sponsors was withdrawn.
- Delegate Lehman emphasized the importance of avoiding precedent-setting weakened legislation.

Members discussed the possibility of revisiting **HB 1503 (2010)**—the Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Act—to advocate for a renewed legislative push in 2026.

Veronika Carella recommended placing the reintroduction of this bill on CEHPAC’s next agenda. She also requested continued monitoring and support from Delegate Lehman and the council to preserve Maryland’s current statutes. She highlighted concerns with:

- State highway pesticide spraying and public health risks.
- Lack of review for public health effects by MDA.
- Weakening of POS pesticide definitions during legislation.

### **Discussion on School Construction and Indoor Air Quality Issues (Krisna Becker – Public)**

Krisna shared personal experience with school construction at her daughter's high school causing:

- Prolonged exposure to tar fumes, welding, PVC fumes.
- Health impacts: nausea, throat irritation, and lack of evacuation protocols.
- Highlighted gaps in accountability:
  - No regulatory oversight for indoor air quality in schools during construction.
  - HVAC systems often recirculate construction pollutants.
  - MSDE and IAC do not actively enforce existing standards.

Krisna requested:

- CEHPAC’s support via a letter or formal statement before her court hearing on July 18.

- Longer-term support on draft legislation being developed with Senator Feldman and MDE.
- She has already received letters of support from Dr. Kisha Davis (Chief Medical Officer, Montgomery County) and Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (EPA Region 3 PEHSU)

Paul Ferraro suggested including economic analysis of alternative school construction models to aid advocacy.

CEHPAC members expressed interest in helping draft a support letter but noted no vote could occur due to lack of quorum.

Krisna will share existing letters of support with Megan Weil Latshaw.

Megan to draft a possible support letter for council review.

Council to prepare to vote on the draft letter during the July 8, 2025 meeting, in time for Krisna's July 18 hearing.

## **Agenda for 2025**

### **Statutory Review and Council Responsibilities**

- Reviewed CEHPAC's statutory duties under MD Health Code §13-1501-1506:
  - Review/comment on rules and regulations.
  - Recommend guidelines and education programs.
  - Submit annual reports to the Governor.
  - Engage with proposed legislation and conduct public outreach.
- CEHPAC has 19 authorized positions; current vacancies: ~4.
- Some members (e.g., agency reps) serve beyond 4-year terms unless replaced.
- Council must meet at least 6 times per year; quorum remains based on total authorized members.
- CEHPAC lacks a state budget but may seek travel reimbursement if needed.

### **Additional Items from Members**

Delegate Lehman shared details on the **Maryland Tenant Mold Protection Act (SB856)**:

- Mandates landlord assessments/remediation timelines.
- Requires state agencies to create educational materials for tenants.

### **Public Comment**

#### **1. Status of Previous Public Input (January 16 & May 13, 2025)**

- Veronika requested updates and CEHPAC action on previously submitted public comments.
- She emphasized that these included priority issues already identified by CEHPAC, especially concerning data gaps and children's health protections.
- She referenced CEHPAC motions passed on June 25, 2024, calling attention to the need for follow-up and implementation.

## 2. Four Pillars Motions (2021)

Veronika urged the Council to revisit and take further action on the four CEHPAC motions:

- Motion 1: MSDE Green Cleaning
- Motion 2: MSDE Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
- Motion 3: MDA IPM and Pesticides in Schools
- Motion 4: MDE Safe School Drinking Water
- She stressed that these motions still require action beyond the 2021 “Calls to Action” letters.
- She cited the disbanded Schools Workgroup and its 2023 status report, which listed several outstanding items needing attention.
- Requested CEHPAC to integrate these motions and workgroup findings into their current priority planning.

## 3. Data Gap and Pesticide Use in Schools

- Veronika reiterated concern about a lack of transparency and data access regarding pesticide use in schools.
- She referenced:
  - A \$5,000 civil penalty issued by MDA against an applicator who violated EPA label instructions during a school application involving a PFAS-containing pesticide.
  - The importance of MDA exercising its authority to collect and disclose all pesticide application records under Maryland's Public Information Act (PIA).
- She emphasized that without data access, CEHPAC cannot evaluate the efficacy of Maryland’s IPM in Schools Law.

Veronika also requested CEHPAC review its advisory role within the framework of the Maryland Health in All Policies (HiAP) Final Report, specifically highlighting CEHPAC’s contributions to that report.

## **Adjourn**

- Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.