



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Tuesday, June 25, 2024
10:00am – 11:30am

MINUTES

Members:

Cliff Mitchell (Chair)
Laura Allen
Alicia Mezu
Ben Gitterman
Kelly Love
Lisa Horne
Paul Ferraro
Megan Latshaw
Sen. Dawn Gile

Kylan Simpson (staff)

Guests:

Veronika Carella
Sean Lynch
Eric Gally
Alexander Lehmann

Meeting Notes

Welcome:

- **Cliff Mitchell (Chair):** Opened the meeting and conducted roll call. Quorum not met.

Old Business:

- **Update on Clean Indoor Air Act:**
 - Follow-up on last month's discussion. Acknowledgment of Eric Gally and other stakeholders for the passage of amendments to the Clean Indoor Air Act.
 - The amendments prohibit vaping in indoor public areas, treating electronic smoking devices like tobacco products. Acknowledgment of challenges from bars and restaurants, and efforts of the stakeholders.
 - Implementation process with the Environmental Health Bureau and the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control. Outreach to the business community for awareness and enforcement of the new law.
 - Mentioned the success of achieving 95% compliance with indoor smoking prohibitions and the focus on electronic smoking devices, highlighting their ease of concealment and the need for public assistance in enforcement.

- **Eric Gally:** Expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort and discussed remaining challenges with tobacco retailers and cigar stores.
- **Megan Latshaw:** Praised Maryland's progressive stance on this issue.
- **Veronika Carella (Public):** Raised concerns about smoke drift from marijuana and tobacco in apartment complexes affecting children. Inquired if the new law addresses this issue.
- **Cliff Mitchell:** Explained ongoing outreach efforts to promote smoke-free policies in private and public housing, but acknowledged limitations in prohibiting smoking in private apartments. Mentioned the possibility of private lawsuits for public nuisance.

New Business:

- **Quorum now met** with eight council members present.
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pesticide Use in Schools:**
 - **Cliff Mitchell:** Discussion about IPM and pesticide use in schools, mentioning the absence of Nse in the meeting. Noted the importance of addressing pesticide application transparency.
 - **Megan Latshaw:** Recalled previous motions from 2021 regarding IPM, emphasizing the need for a transparent, publicly accessible database to track pesticide applications in schools. Suggested writing a follow-up letter to request MDA to create such a database.
 - **Kelly Love (MDA):** Responded to concerns about pesticide applications, clarifying that the product in question was labeled as caution and not a danger. Noted proper notifications and inspections were carried out in Cecil County.
 - **Cliff Mitchell:** Proposed focusing on updates regarding the IPM manuals and engagement with IPM coordinators rather than specific cases.
- **IPM Coordinators and Training:**
 - **Kelly Love:** IPM coordinators meet once a year, typically in winter, to discuss updates and regulations. Open to suggestions for meeting topics from CEHPAC.
 - **Veronika Carella:** Identified as a contributor to the IPM manual revision process.
 - **Ben Gitterman:** Inquired about the timing and effectiveness of implementing updates from the annual meetings.
 - **Kelly Love:** Confirmed that updates can be implemented immediately after meetings, with IPM coordinators taking action plans back to their school districts. Mentioned that the training materials provided in the past have not been updated and there are no new materials to distribute.
 - **Cliff Mitchell** suggested two action items for the council:
 - 1. Meeting with the training coordinator to discuss updates to the manuals.
 - 2. Evaluating the manuals to identify areas needing updates.
 - **Megan Latshaw** supported the idea, stating that even outdated materials could be a starting point for discussions.
 - **Kelly Love** confirmed the training coordinator could meet with the council for further discussion.
 - A group from the council will review the training materials and provide detailed feedback on necessary updates.
 - **Paul Ferraro** raised concerns about the importance of transparency and the need for accurate data.
 - **Cliff Mitchell** acknowledged the difficulty in developing databases and highlighted the governor's emphasis on transparency.
 - **Kelly Love** explained that while their information is publicly available, there are gaps because they do not collect certain data unless required for investigations.
- **Motions:**
 - **Megan Latshaw** proposed that the **MDA create a publicly accessible database of all pesticides applied in Maryland schools. Seconded by:** Paul Ferraro and Ben Gitterman.

- A discussion ensued regarding the feasibility and resources needed for such a database.
 - **Cliff Mitchell:** Proposed to amend the motion to specify the timeframe for pesticide application.
 - **Laura Allen:** Inquired about the policy of applying pesticides only on weekends.
 - **Kelly Love:** Confirmed that non-chemical means must be exhausted first and that the discussed application occurred on a Saturday.
 - **Vote on Amendment:**
 1. **Motion to Amend:** Passed with six votes in favor, two abstentions
 - **Amended Motion:**
 1. Megan Latshaw amended the motion to **request that the MDA first collect complete records of all pesticide applications in Maryland schools and make them publicly accessible, with the ultimate goal of creating a searchable database.** Laura Allen suggested setting a time limit for the request and the response to avoid delays. **Seconded by:** Paul Ferraro and Laura Allen.
 - **Cliff Mitchell:** Proposed that the council **recommends MDA request records of all pesticide applications in Maryland schools and make them publicly accessible.**
 - **Vote on Motion:** Passed with seven votes in favor, two abstentions
- **Letter to Sec. Addicks and Maryland General Assembly**
 - **Megan Latshaw:** Suggested a letter to Secretary Atticks and Maryland General Assembly or committees with jurisdiction over these issues.
 - **Senator Dawn Gile:** Recommended addressing the letter to the chairs of relevant committees.
 - **Cliff Mitchell:** Requested volunteers to assist Megan in drafting the letter.
 - **Paul Ferraro and Laura Allen:** Volunteered to help draft the letter.
 - **Alicia Mezu:** Offered to provide feedback on the draft.
 - **Upcoming Meeting Schedule:**
 - **Cliff Mitchell:** Discussed the feasibility of holding the next meeting on July 23rd and the possibility of canceling the August meeting.
 - **Attendance:** Council members to indicate their availability for the July and August meetings.
 - **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **Ben Gitterman** made a motion to approve the May minutes as quorum is now met.
 - Seconded by Megan Latshaw. Nine in favor.

Public Comments:

- **Veronika Carella:** Expressed frustration about the lack of parent representation on the council and provided an example of pesticide application issues at Northeast Elementary School. Highlighted the ongoing implementation issues of the 1997 School IPM law and previous efforts to address children's environmental health through training materials and public reports.

Decisions Made:

- The motion for MDA to request and make pesticide application records publicly accessible was adopted.
- The second motion to create a publicly accessible database of pesticides applied in Maryland schools was adopted.
- Volunteers were designated to assist Megan Latshaw in drafting a letter to the relevant legislative committees.

- Future meetings were discussed, with members to indicate their availability to potentially cancel the August meeting if attendance is low.

Next Meeting:

- Scheduled for July 23rd, with a potential follow-up meeting in August if necessary.