



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Tuesday, July 8, 2025
9:00am – 10:30am

MINUTES

Members:

Subha Chandar (Chair)
Alicia Mezu
Frederick Banks (Vice Chair)
Megan Weil Latshaw
Laura Allen
Lisa Horne
Senator Dawn Gile
Alexander Lehmann
Paul Ferraro
Matthew McConaughey
Kylan Simpson (staff)

Guests:

Krisna Becker
Bethan Haaga
Kelly Love
Michael Ichniowski
Laura Stewart
Sean Lynch
Veronika Carella

Welcome

- Chair Subha Chandar (MDH) welcomed members and confirmed quorum once Vice Chair Frederick Banks joined.
- Announced that the Assistant Attorney General was available if legal consultation was required.
- Adjusted agenda order to prioritize new business due to time constraints.

Old Business

School Construction and Student Health

- Background: Ms. Krisna Becker had raised concerns about student exposures during ongoing school construction.
- Action: Megan Weil Latshaw drafted a letter to the county superintendent supporting recommendations from the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment.
 - Key recommendations:
 - Relocate students during construction or schedule projects when schools are not in session.
 - Limit children's exposure to hazardous construction environments.

- Edits & Input:
 - Paul Ferraro suggested grammatical and structural improvements.
 - Matthew McConaughy recommended updating references (e.g., current Secretary of Health).
 - MDH (Subha Chandar) recommended removing specific school references and focusing on *statewide guidelines*.
 - Frederick Banks (MDE) emphasized educating school officials/parents about lead and asbestos abatement responsibilities.
 - Consensus: broaden focus from one school to statewide best practices and guidance.
- Vote: Motion to send revised letter (with edits) passed. MDH and MDE abstained.
- Next Steps: Megan Weil Latshaw to finalize and sign the letter, circulate to superintendent, county health officer (Dr. Kisha Davis), and CEHPAC. **(Letter and Response attached below)**

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from January, May, and June 2025 were reviewed.
- Motion to approve was made by Frederick Banks and seconded by Laura Allen and Lisa Horne.
- Approved unanimously.

New Business

Advanced Clean Truck Amendments & Building Efficiency

- Report by Megan Weil Latshaw (Liaison to Air Quality Advisory Council):
 - Maryland typically adopts California's stricter vehicle standards. Recent federal actions have created uncertainty.
 - Building efficiency: new GHG reporting requirements expected; concerns raised by fuel suppliers over market share disclosure.
- Council Role: Megan to continue providing updates and bring issues with clear children's health implications to CEHPAC.
- Agreement that state agency representatives could be invited for future presentations when children's health is directly impacted.

Motion 3 (2021) – Pesticide Use in Schools (Follow-up Discussion)

- Facilitated by Frederick Banks (MDE).
- *Motion attached below*
- Context: Motion tied to four pillars of school environmental health (indoor air quality, safe drinking water, IPM in schools, green cleaning). COVID highlighted gaps.
- Key Points:
 - MDA (Alexander Lehmann / Kelly Love): Antimicrobials are exempt from IPM law, consistent with EPA and other states. Inspections conducted; IPM plans in place for public schools.
 - Veronika Carella (Public Advocate): Raised concerns about lack of data collection ("data gap") on pesticide applications in schools. Requested CEHPAC press for enforcement and record-keeping.
 - MDH & Council Members: Suggested shifting approach from enforcement requests to broader education, outreach, and guideline development for schools.
 - MSDE (Alicia Mezu): Recommended involving MSDE student services and school facilities leadership in future discussions.

- Outcome: No new motion passed. Frederick Banks to review history, engage MSDE/MDA, and return with recommendations.

Public Comment

- Michael Ichniowski: Asked if Maryland can maintain higher air quality and PFAS standards despite federal rollbacks. MDE confirmed review of state regulations underway.
- Sean Lynch (Maryland Pesticide Education Network): Shared ongoing outreach efforts on safe disinfectants in schools.
- Veronika Carella: Requested:
 - Appointment of a parent representative to CEHPAC.
 - Agenda time (Oct 14, 2025) to present model policy on IPM in schools.
 - Greater enforcement of EPA pesticide labeling requirements.
- Krisna Becker: Suggested Maryland Green Building Council may also have enforcement roles relevant to construction and IPM compliance.
- Council Response: October agenda to include Veronica's presentation; ongoing exploration of coordination with MDE/MSDE.

Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9th with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

CEHPAC March 11, 2021 MEETING
M O T I O N #3 (originally part of Motion #1)
COVID-19 and Integrated Pest Management in Maryland Public Schools

“CEHPAC send a letter to Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) requesting a review of the Maryland School IPM Law to ensure that COVID-19 pandemic related actions are addressed in MDA Regulations, County Board of Education mandated IPM Policy, and County level IPM Plans. Specifically to address;

- 1) Prompt school-based transparent public and open data reporting of EPA registered pesticides a. used for disinfecting protocols (including all product labels and SDS information) b. verifiable strategic and regulatory measures taken to reduce exposure to any type of respiratory irritant used indoor for disinfecting as their use affects indoor air quality and therefore school occupants.
- 2) An update on each school districts' compliance with and implementation of the Maryland School IPM Law, to include a mandated policy and update the regulations and the required written policies to include EPA registered pesticide products used to control pathogens, based on a review of the of COVID-19 pandemic information and guidance provided by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). “



**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

July 8, 2025

Dr. Thomas Taylor
Superintendent, Montgomery Public Schools
Thomas_W_Taylor@mcpsmd.org

RE: School Construction and Student Health

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The Maryland Children's Environmental Health & Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) respectfully submits this letter requesting your prompt action to protect children from hazards associated with construction.

Established by the Maryland General Assembly pursuant to Health-General §§13-1501—1506, CEHPAC's goal is to enable children in Maryland to grow up in a safe and healthy environment. Our duties include:

- Review and comment on existing rules, regulations, and standards to ensure that they adequately protect the health of children from environmental hazards by considering the special vulnerability of children, which arises because of their developing physiology and because their exposures can differ greatly from those of adults;
- Recommend uniform guidelines for State agencies to follow to help reduce and eliminate children's exposure to environmental hazards;
- Educate others regarding the environmental hazards that impact children's health and the means to avoid those hazards; and
- Provide any other relevant information that will assist in protecting children's health.

The Council has heard that students at a high school in your district have experienced symptoms typical of exposure to poor air quality, harmful fumes, and chemicals. The source of these environmental exposures appeared to be ongoing school construction.

We support the statements made by the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE) in the attached correspondence. CEHPAC agrees with MACCHE's recommendation to "consider an alternate schedule for school construction that does not include when school is in session," and supports the implementation of such an approach for schools currently undergoing construction, as well as for future multi-year projects. Planning and executing school construction projects with children's health at the forefront is essential to preventing the risk of both acute and chronic health problems in Maryland children.

CEHPAC Website: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>

As MACCHE pointed out, children are not little adults, and following OSHA laws does not guarantee they will be protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Megan Weil Latshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Megan" being the most prominent.

Megan Weil Latshaw, PhD MHS
Commission Member

Attachments

cc: Meena Seshamani, MD, PH.D, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health
Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment
Dr. Carey M. Wright, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joshua L. Michael, President, State Board of Education
Dr. Kisha Davis, Health Officer, Montgomery County

From: Taylor, Thomas W <Thomas_W_Taylor@mcpsmd.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Megan Weil Latshaw <mlatshaw@jhu.edu>
Cc: Frederick Banks -MDE- <frederick.banks1@maryland.gov>; Subha Chandar -MDH- <subha.chandar@maryland.gov>; Meena.Seshamani@maryland.gov; Serena.McIlwain@maryland.gov; Carey.Wright@maryland.gov; Joshua.Michael1@maryland.gov; Kisha.Davis@montgomerycountymd.gov; Malchodi, Catherine E <Catherine_E_Malchodi@mcpsmd.org>; McGuire, Essie <Essie_McGuire@mcpsmd.org>; Mamoon, Adnan <Adnan_Mamoon@mcpsmd.org>; Kylan Simpson - MDH- <kylan.simpson@maryland.gov>; Mamoon, Adnan <Adnan_Mamoon@mcpsmd.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Children's Environmental Health Protection

External Email - Use Caution

Thank you for reaching out, Dr. Latshaw,

We appreciate the partnership and support. Thank you! To be candid, I am a little troubled by some assertions in your letter that are represented as fact, because they are really just based on anecdotal reports. That said, I sincerely appreciate the partnership and recommendations.

To be crystal clear, please know that MCPS would never willingly or knowingly put children in harm's way.

I grew up in Maryland (Montgomery County, specifically) but spent the majority of my professional career across the river in Virginia; I am now just returning to Maryland and getting readjusted to how this state works versus my last one. Just curious because I don't know... does CEHPAC have access to funding to support some of the recommendations outlined on your website and in your letter? Or are these just recommendations? For example, the cost of only doing school construction at collocated site when school is not in session would have multi-million-dollar ramifications (perhaps even hundreds of millions of dollars with the only project we presently have at a collocated site). I looked at the website that you provided but didn't see anything about funding to support recommendations.

Again, I appreciate the recommendations and partnership and would love more information about financial support.

Sincerely,
Thomas W. Taylor, EdD MBA
Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools