



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Monday, July 17, 2023

1:30 – 3:30pm

Join with Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/wrm-dask-hwk>

Join by phone

(US) +1 720-770-0069 PIN: 920 550 140#

MINUTES

Attendees:

Alicia Mezu
Mary Lehman
Ben Gitterman
Camille Burke
Christina Drushel-Williams
Cliff Mitchell
Devon Dodson
Kelly Love
Nse Witherspoon
Megan Latshaw
Paul Ferraro
Spencer Dixon (Sen. Gile)
Eamon Flynn (staff)

Guests:

Bonnie Raindrop
Laura Stewart
Emmanuel Asenso
Rachel Jones
Michael Ichniowski
Paulette Hammond
Sean Lynch
Veronika Carella
Alexander Lehmann
Callie D. (Caller **67)
Hannah Donart

Notes:

- A quorum was established and the meeting was opened
- Welcome and introductions, including to Sen. Gile and Del. Lehman as new members, representing the Senate and House of Delegates, respectively
- Chair provide an overview of CEHPAC, including its history, member composition, and responsibilities
- Approval of minutes (05/16/23)
 - Motioned by Devon, seconded by Camille. Approved unanimously.
- MDA Attorney General has agreed to meet with CEHPAC at a future meeting but was unable for today's meeting. The Chair will work with MDA and OAG to plan the meeting to discuss the

Integrated Pest Management law. The discussion will focus on the interpretation of the law and how it will be applied. The Chair will provide previously drafted questions to the Attorney General.

- Schools Workgroup: Other items that could be addressed by CEHPAC include engaging with MSDE and working on trainings for pesticide applicators. Asks that MDA inform CEHPAC of upcoming trainings. MDA has sent out a questionnaire for training topics for pesticide applicators, but a date has not been set yet. The previous manual was developed to help counties develop a plan and has not been updated since (all counties currently have a plan, so it may not be helpful). Request that CEHPAC review the questions for the AAG ahead of time. **Eamon will recirculate questions to CEHPAC members for review by email.** Chair invites members of the public to submit their questions as well for consideration by CEHPAC members for inclusion.
- Letter to agency legislative liaisons was sent, highlighting the role of CEHPAC in reviewing regulations pertaining to children’s environmental health. Chair discussed the Maryland Register as a way of identifying current regulations proposals.
- Discussion of holding the next meeting in-person with a call-in option. Next meeting is September 19, 2023, 11-1pm. Prince George’s County Health Department, Laurel Library, and UMD Laurel campus suggested as locations. Chair will work with Del. Lehman to secure a room.
- The Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal is being redesigned and will be released soon, including metrics and indicators at smaller geographic units. Page should be up this week. Portal focuses not just on the health status, but also the why, including disparities and state trends, and what Maryland is doing on each topic. Discussion of how data are collected and used to inform programs and policies. MDE EJ Screen Tool has been updated as of today. Megan discussed potential of using AI to analyze environmental health data to identify trends.
- Discussion of revision of training materials for IPM coordinators, including:
 - Reviewing information on websites
 - Providing resources and information during pesticide applicator trainings
 - Reviewing the manual for developing IPM plans
 - Date for trainings not set.
- Discussion of Baltimore City Health Department’s pilot project to improve lead testing rates. Working to ensure providers are knowledgeable of the data and disparities and programs and resources available to affected families. Aim is to strengthen connection between public health data and primary care providers.
- Local health departments have received numerous questions about cannabis. Information is available on the LHD, MDH, and Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) websites.

Public Comment

- Veronika Carella: Highlighted previous role as a member on CEHPAC. Thrilled to have representatives from Maryland legislature. Notes that questions for OAG have previously been drafted and no action has been taken on reviewing those questions. Requests CEHPAC take more expeditious action to review questions before they are submitted to the OAG. Notes that second page of “IAQ in Schools Workgroup Status Report” from a previous meeting were not included in the

March 21 meeting minutes. Notes Schools Workgroup draft letter to legislature in response to MDA response to Joint Chairmen Report has not been shared or discussed. Notes lack of data collection for pesticide applications by MDA.

- Bonnie Raindrop: Supports additional attention to IPM laws and training materials. Supports additional transparency in CEHPAC operations, including sharing documents. Supports discussion with OAG to gain further clarity about the interpretation of the IPM law. Would like to see letter Workgroup drafted.
- Mike Ichniowski: Notes importance of EPHT website and suggests connecting health indicators to environmental exposures. Notes importance of being proactive, including giving parents information about use of chemicals in cleaning that can exacerbate asthma.
- Sean Lynch: Supports comments by Carella and Raindrop.
- Laura Stewart: Requests Schools Workgroup be reconvened to put together recommendations based on the data, such as implementing/upgrading HVAC in schools where there are a large number of children with asthma. Notes that some schools are tarring roofs while children are in school. Requests CEHPAC look at construction practices and regulations for school construction.
- Hannah Donart: Notes importance of having voice of parents on CEHPAC. Supports being proactive in public health. Supports previous comments related to IPM.

Comments from Members:

- Camille Burke notes that there are many parents on CEHPAC, and it is important to have grace and not imply that this is not a place that parents do not want to be.
- Ben Gitterman echoes importance of public questions. Requests CEHPAC respond to questions directly. Chair notes that the Secretary of Agriculture's remarks indicate a willingness of MDA to engage with CEHPAC. Chair still has concerns about reconstituting the workgroup due to the ambiguities about how the workgroup's work was communicated externally. Chair states that CEHPAC is not simply a vehicle for addressing IPM in schools.
- Nse suggests laying out a process for identifying CEHPAC priorities. Chair suggests adding this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32pm.