



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Tuesday August 10, 2021
12:30 – 2:00pm**

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/ifb-rknd-fpw

Join by phone
(US) +1 650-781-0593 PIN: 846 900 215#

Members

- Alicia Mezu
- Camille Burke
- Cliff Mitchell (chair)
- Kelly Love
- Kristin Rawlett
- Megan Latshaw
- Nse Witherspoon
- Ruth Vriend (for Sen. Guzzone)
- Dianna Abney
- Ben Gitterman
- Eamon Flynn (staff)

Guests

- Aparna Ganesh
- Cassie Shirk
- Fred Mason
- Hannah Donart
- Laura Stewart
- Lisa Cline
- Nolan O'Dowd
- Paul Ferraro
- Shweta Sharma
- Theodora Scarato
- Veronika Carella, MD CEHC Leg Dir

MINUTES

Approval of minutes

- A quorum was established.
- Nse Witherspoon moves to accept meeting minutes from June 10th, 2021. Seconded by Kelly Love and approved unanimously.

Shweta Sharma (MDA) introduced herself. She will be taking over for Kelly Love as the CEHPAC rep from MDA in the coming months.

Follow up on letters sent to MDA, MSDE, IAC in May

- MDA - IPM
 - MDA does not have any additional information beyond what was provided in the response letter.
 - Question about how pesticide data are reported or available to the public. The State Chemist is responsible for product registration, along with the EPA. MDE and MDH are both looking at open data initiatives. MDA has an online tool of products that

are registered in the State, and businesses and applicators can be looked up by name or applicator number.

- MD Registered Pesticide Search
<http://www.kellysolutions.com/md/pesticideindex.htm>
- Applicator search <https://egov.maryland.gov/MDA/Pesticides/>
- IPM in school laws
<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=15.05.02.%2a>
- CEHPAC looking for data about which chemicals and how much pesticides are used in schools. MDA is not the custodian of those records – applicators/school systems keep records for at least a couple of years but are not required to report those data to MDA.
- Veronika Carella (public) points out that MDA is a rep of CEHPAC, and the letter asked for a review of the policies required under the IPM law. There are no regulations for the State Chemist to use to determine if a pesticide can be used.
- Each school district has to develop a policy under the IPM law, and while MDA does not know of any districts that are not following that policy, MDA does conduct annual compliance inspections where they look at their IPM plan, policy, and practices. Request that those policies be shared with CEHPAC. MDA will follow up. IPM law only applies to the use of pesticides on pests and not in cleaning products generally.
- MSDE – Green Cleaning Policies
 - The new Secretary has seen the information provided by CEHPAC.
 - Application for ARP funds is available on the MSDE website.
- MSDE, IAC – Indoor Air Quality
 - Guidance is sent to schools with recommendations related to indoor air quality, and many of the recommendations have been implemented.
 - Discussion of the use of physical barriers, which may impede air flow and negatively affect ventilation. MSDE has not recommended physical barriers, following the advice of indoor air quality experts.
 - Suggestion that the Council revisit this topic for future meetings.
 - Motion that CEHPAC send letters to each school district to include in their plans to use the ARP funds to address safe indoor air, safe indoor water, and the other environmental concerns discussed by CEHPAC (Megan Latshaw).
 - Discussion of the motion included whether to be specific or general in the recommendations, given that school plans are due on the 17th. Previously CEHPAC did extensive outreach to schools related to eliminating mercury in schools, but this took over a year and required a significant amount of coordination. Suggestion that CEHPAC offer their assistance to school systems in addition to general recommendations for the plans that are due on the 17th. May provide additional opportunities for CEHPAC to engage with schools, who often have significant turnover of staff.
 - Suggestion that CEHPAC request all final plans from State and local school districts, as well as IPM policies and green cleaning policies for review.

- Motion was restated: Motion that CEHPAC send a letter to each school district asking them to include general language about using ARP funds to address environmental issues in the schools (air quality, water quality, green cleaning policies, and IPM plans). This letter would be based on MSDE letter and would add an offer that CEHPAC would reach out for further assistance and requesting green cleaning and IPM policies.
 - Kristen Rawlett seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously, with abstentions from the chair (Cliff Mitchell) and Kelly Love (MDA).
 - Megan Latshaw will draft the letter but will need the names and addresses of the 24 school district superintendents, as well as public boarding schools. Will start with public schools, but enduring materials may be beneficial to private schools as well in the future.
 - Motion that CEHPAC launch a project and work plan to conduct outreach and offer its expertise to school districts to assist in their work on their proposed plans for promoting indoor air quality and children’s environmental health.
 - Motion seconded by Camille Burke.
 - Discussion about changing the scope of CEHPAC’s traditional work, as well as the limitations of CEHPAC members who are also State employees. Suggestion to bring in environmental justice colleagues.
 - Suggestion that work plan include a timeline.
 - Motion passed unanimously, with abstentions from Kelly Love (MDA) and Cliff Mitchell (chair, MDH).
 - Ad-hoc group to include Nse Witherspoon (chair), Veronika Carella, Camille Burke, Kristen Rawlett, Ben Gitterman, Hannah Donart. This group will meet with recommendations for CEHPAC at the next meeting.

Review “Reducing EMF Exposure” guidance document

- CEHPAC worked on WiFi exposure previously, but parents were asking for detailed recommendations and actions people could take to limit exposure. Recommendations are evidence-based.
- Suggestion that an interim meeting be held in two weeks to vote to approve this document.

CEJSC Update

- Camille Burke presented to the MDOT Commissioners about the importance of environmental justice. August 20th – CEJSC is meeting with communities on the Eastern Shore and will report back on those conversations.

Public Comments

- Veronika Carella (MD CEHC Leg Dir) – Parents are concerned about IAQ related to what is being introduced into a school building to control the virus with specific concerns over the use of electrostatic sprayers in their children’s schools which aerosolize EPA registered pesticides (disinfectants). These applications cover every surface and migrate into the HVAC

systems (where they are heated/cooled and potentially contaminate the system and therefore IAQ). At a minimum MDA must be able to produce the "written policy" as required by the School IPM Law. We have only found one district (Mont County) with a policy. Not even Howard County has a policy. The letter only deflects the issue of fogging with EPA registered pesticides in schools. MDA has NOT addressed the actions requested by the motion which specified 1) Prompt public and open data reporting of EPA registered pesticides used in schools and 2) An update on each school district's compliance with and implementation of the MD School IPM Law.

- Hannah Donart is working with parent advocate scientists to work on legislation to update the IPM and green cleaning laws to protect students. Maryland's definition of a pest is not consistent with the EPA's definition of a pest. She has been unable to receive a list of the cleaning products used in her school. Request that CEHPAC consider action on water quality in schools.
- Theodora Scarato will be sending an update related to the use of 5G in Montgomery County and the installation of cell antennas close to homes. The Environmental Working Group is looking at the damage to the heart and risk of cancer at the levels allowed by federal regulations.
- Laura Stewart requests that the letter to be sent to schools should include using funding for outdoor lunch.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn (Camille Burke), seconded by Kelly Love, and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm.