



## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Thursday October 14, 2021  
10:30am – 12:00pm**

Members in attendance:

Cliff Mitchell  
Alicia Mezu  
Camille Burke  
Christina Drushel-Williams  
Devon Dodson  
Kelly Love  
Kristen Rawlett  
Laura Allen  
Nse Witherspoon  
Ben Gitterman  
Caroline Varney-Alvarado (phone)  
Eamon Flynn (staff)

Guest in attendance:

Ayeke Massam  
Cassie Shirk  
D'Paul Nibber  
Hannah Donart  
Laura Stewart  
Shweta Sharma  
Veronika Carella (CEHN Leg Dir)  
Vincent Andrews  
Theodora Scarato  
Brian Dobbs

Meeting Minutes

Roll call – confirmed a quorum of members is present.

Approval of minutes (8/10/21 and 8/26/21)

- Motion: Kristen Rawlett
  - Second: Christina Drushell Williams
  - Approved unanimously

Review of WiFi radiation exposure guidelines

- Discussion about purpose of document, branding, and distribution. Document would need a cover page to identify it as a CEHPAC product and not as an MDH product. Theodora Scarato has concerns about the language used in the document.
- Motion to table discussion for additional comments and edits to be made:
  - Second: Camille Burke
  - Approved unanimously

- Megan Latshaw to work with interested members and guests (including Theodora S) to review and revise document, including addition of a cover page.

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

- Request for updates from MSDE, MDA on any of the items. MDA had no updates or further response. MDA has reviewed the IPM policies. MSDE does not have any updates.
- Suggestion to resend the letters to MSDE with a new cover letter to the new State Superintendent of Schools (Cliff to send).

#### Ad-hoc schools workgroup report out

- Workgroup met previous week, led by Nse Witherspoon. Workgroup reviewed previous motions considered by CEHPAC.
- Anne Arundel County provided the requested IPM plan, but CEHPAC has not heard from the other school districts.
- Discussion of how CEHPAC can provide support and technical assistance to schools in creating healthy environments.
- Suggestion of requesting a response from MSDE and schools to the letters sent by a specific date.
- Discussion of a motion related to school drinking water (previously distributed as “CEHPAC MOTION 4 - Safe School Drinking Water 210608 FINAL”).
  - Unclear what the request is to MDE – the more specific the better.
  - Request for timeline for when the public comment will be open.
  - Discussion about CEHPAC’s ability to submit comments on regs.
  - Purpose to advocate for “filter-first” approach.
  - CEHPAC already has a mechanism for reviewing regulations, and CEHPAC could request from the water supply program at MDE a letter or email requesting that CEHPAC be notified of any future regulations proposals. CEHPAC could draft a policy statement about what it thinks should be included in the regulations.
  - Devon Dodson will look into the timeline for the drafting of the proposal and report back to CEHPAC.
  - Motion by Nse Witherspoon: CEHPAC to request the IPM plans and policies required by statute submitted to MDA for review by CEHPAC.
    - Seconded by Camille Burke
    - Motion was adopted, Kelly and Cliff abstained
  - Motion: CEHPAC sent to MDE a letter with the following points:
    - 1) Provide an update on the regulations related to the Safe School Drinking Water Act to CEHPAC and afford CEHPAC the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed regulations related to the Safe School Drinking Water Act.

- 2) CEHPAC is interested in any regulations that have already changed as a result of the Safe School Drinking Water Act.
- 3) Report from MDE about implementation of and compliance with existing regulations and the Safe School Drinking Water Act.
  - Members expressed concerns about inclusion of point-of-use filters, and suggested focusing on the process rather than the policy proposal.
  - Intention is that CEHPAC review any regulations proposal, as well as requesting MDE review the compliance by each school district with federal and state laws.
- Seconded by Devon Dodson
- Approved unanimously

#### CEHPAC Annual Legislative Report

- Changes in 2021 report were reviewed and report will be submitted

#### Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy

- Department and State have submitted to CMMS a strategy and plan to address three domains: transformation of healthcare, hospital quality, population health (opioids, diabetes, child and maternal health). Within child and maternal health, one goal is to reduce the number of childhood asthma emergency department visits by 42% (50% for black children).
- Working through multiple programs – reducing triggers in the home environment, case management, encouraging asthma action plans, outreach and education, etc.
- \$2.5M in additional funding to local health departments to increase home visiting for asthma (as well as lead).
- Local health departments have additional funding but are struggling to hire staff and personnel.
- Discussion about addressing the overuse of pediatric ED visits as part of the strategy, as well as access to primary care providers.

#### Scheduling 2022 meetings

- Eamon to send out follow-up email about 2022 meeting dates/times and potential joint CEJSC/CEHPAC meeting in December.

#### Public Comment

- Laura Stewart – Notes that item 3 on the water safety motion is intended for CEHPAC to communicate that there is funding available for water bottle filling stations that filter for lead and other contaminants and reduce plastic disposable water use. Notes that some children with asthma can benefit from allergy shots.

- Hannah Donart – A parent rep has not been present at CEHPAC’s meetings. Urges CEHPAC to look into that issue. Motion item 3 urges MDE to revise regulations to list point-of-use filters as the primary strategy.
- Veronika Carella (CEHC Legislative Director) – Shares concerns about the attendance of the parent representative, requests that CEHPAC recognize her as the interim parent rep until the Governor is able to successfully fill the position. Anne Arundel school system’s letter stated that they do not have an IPM plan. Requests that follow up to May letters to state agencies be kept on the agenda until all items are addressed.
- Theodora – Issue of wireless radiation is urgent and should be included in legislative report. Encourages CEHPAC to urge MSDE and MDE to take action to reduce environmental exposures.

Motion to adjourn by Devon Dodson, seconded by Kristen Rawlett, and approved unanimously at 12:04pm.