



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Monday, October 21, 2024
9:30am – 11:00am

MINUTES

Members:

Subha Chandar (Chair)
Alicia Mezu
Ben Gitterman
Nsedu Witherspoon
Lisa Horne
Megan Latshaw
Sen. Dawn Gile
Kylan Simpson (staff)

Guests:

Veronika Carella
Christopher McGrath
Michael Ichniowski
Zakiyyah Holmes
Tim Shepherd

Meeting Notes

Welcome

- Subha Chandar (Chair) opened the meeting and acknowledged that the session was being recorded by Kylan Simpson. Encouraged participants to actively engage with the agenda items.

Old Business

Approval of September 24, 2024, Minutes

- Subha introduced the September meeting minutes. Quorum was not met. September and October meeting minutes will be approved at November meeting.

Update on Letter to Maryland Department of Agriculture

- There is no current update with the letter.

New Business

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 20-26, 2024)

- Subha discussed Maryland's universal lead testing policy, emphasizing its benefits compared to the previous zip-code-based system. Noted the importance of raising awareness through social media and partnerships.
- Nsedu Witherspoon highlighted the ongoing public health challenges related to lead poisoning and its historic role as a children's environmental health issue.
- Alicia Mezu asked for updates to lead testing forms used in schools.

- Subha confirmed the forms were updated and will be provided to schools, removing the zip code requirement. Shared details about the "Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids" remediation program.

Comments on MDE Final Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Regulations

- Tim Shepherd (MDE) presented on the ACT regulations, focusing on the requirement for manufacturers to increase zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) sales in Maryland. Noted the regulation's phased implementation from 2027 and outlined the challenges, including:
 - Infrastructure upgrades.
 - High vehicle costs for medium and heavy-duty trucks.
 - Coordination with Maryland DOT and energy agencies on grid impact.
- Nse expressed concerns about the health impacts of diesel particulate matter on children and the need for collaborative public health messaging.
- Veronika Carella (Public) suggested expanding the no-idling program to hospitals to reduce harmful emissions.

Comments on Clean Indoor Air Act Regulations

- Christopher McGrath (MDH) provided an overview of proposed updates, primarily adding vaping devices to the Act. Requested member feedback by October 25, 2024.
- Megan Weil Latshaw questioned whether the updates appropriately distinguished vaping from smoking due to differences in chemical composition.
 - Christopher McGrath clarified that the regulations aligned with the updated legal definition of environmental health, which encompasses both.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pesticide Use in Schools

- Subha maintained IPM as a standing agenda item and reiterated its importance for future discussions. Mentioned the need to address effectiveness reviews for current IPM practices in schools.

Annual Reporting

- Subha addressed the preparation of CEHPAC's annual report, which includes legislative priorities and accomplishments. Discussed incorporating feedback on previous reports to make them more concise and actionable.
- Nse suggested distributing the report to targeted audiences like legislative committees and including actionable recommendations for improved utilization.

Public Comment

Parent Representative Vacancy

- Veronika volunteered to fill the vacant parent representative role, noting her ongoing participation and expertise in children's environmental health.

Integrated Pest Management

- Veronika requested CEHPAC's support in forming a formal working group to draft a model IPM plan for schools. Highlighted the collaboration of Marcy Horton (Howard County IPM Coordinator) and the availability of resources from multiple counties.

PFAS Contamination

- Veronika urged CEHPAC to address PFAS contamination in water, citing cases in Howard County schools where PFAS levels have risen due to pesticide use. Requested the Council to pressure the Maryland Department of Agriculture to enforce EPA product label warnings and promote safer pesticide alternatives.

Legislative Support

- Michael Ichniowski asked about CEHPAC's role in commenting on or supporting specific legislation.
 - Subha explained the Council's ability to submit letters of support, opposition, or information and the importance of strategic coordination with agencies.

Adjourn

- Subha confirmed the next meeting tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2024, with potential rescheduling due to holiday and travel conflicts.
- Ben Gitterman: Noted technical difficulties during the meeting but confirmed his full attendance.