



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council
Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022
10:00am – 12:00pm**

CEHPAC Members in attendance:

Eamon Flynn (staff)
Camille Burke
Devon Dodson
Kelly Love
Alicia Mezu
Christina Drushel-Williams
Dianna Abney
Megan Latshaw
Nse Witherspoon
Ben Gitterman

CEJSC Members in attendance:

Guests in attendance:

Veronika Carella
Bonnie Raindrop
Voncica Molock
Julian Levy (phone **12)
Cassie Shirk
Laura Stewart
Theodora Scarato

Notes

- A quorum of CEHPAC members was not present
- Opening remarks and welcome by Secretary Tablada
- CEJSC and CEHPAC both have vacancies from representatives from the General Assembly of Maryland (GAM). CEJSC and CEHPAC have separately written letters to GAM requesting the vacancies be filled. CEHPAC has been working on topics including Integrated Pest Management, which includes interviewing IPM Coordinators at schools about how to improve training, education, and implementation of the IPM laws and green cleaning laws as they relate to schools. CEHPAC has also returned to address the potential health impacts of electromagnetic radiation, approving a guideline for how to reduce exposures to EMR. CEHPAC also reviewed a draft of the MDA JCR Report on IPM and provided feedback to MDA, which was included in the final JCR report which was submitted 12/1/22.
- CEJSC will be doing community outreach with Eagle Harbor, Curtis Bay, and Cheverly about EJ issues in the spring. Bellevue and Charles County may be other communities worth reaching out to. Megan's students will have some deliverables about EJ issues in Charles County in two weeks.
- EPA has created the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. Each regional representative is doing direct community outreach to communities with EH concerns based

on EJ Screen and other data sources. The identified communities by EPA are adjacent to the communities identified by MDE. MDE and EPA will be coordinating their outreach and activities in these communities. EPA has never done direct community outreach without being compelled by legal actions. A “dirt shop” event is being informed by Baltimore City Health Department about how to follow up with communities if lead is found in the soil. February 15 – targeted date for EPA and MDE to being outreach to four communities.

- Two new tools related to environmental health data have been developed and demoed – MDE EJ Screen and the MDH Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal. Marrying the two tools together could enrich the state’s ability to identify and address environmental health issues. The EPHT Data Portal is in beta testing at the moment but publicly available. MDE’s EJ Screen tool has changed the way MDE staff evaluate projects and looks at overburdened communities.
- The EPA Action Level for blood lead level has decreased from 5ug/dL to 3.5ug/dL. Subha presented on the change and the implications for Maryland. MDH also evaluated the universal testing strategy established in 2015 and found that the changes were effective, particularly in areas not previously defined as at risk for lead poisoning and for identifying children with levels between 5 and 9 ug/dL rather than levels over 10ug/dL. Testing rates continue to fall below goals, and much of the data lacks socioeconomic status factors. MDH recommends working more with the provider community, improving data quality, and continuing the universal testing strategy. There are issues with getting parents to bring children for well child visits, sensitivity of lab instruments, and insurance coverage of point-of-care testing. Otherwise providers send patients to labs to have the testing done, and sometimes there is no follow-through. There are also questions and barriers about when the 24 month visit can be done (such as at 20 months).

Public Comment

- Laura Stewart – Free State Parent Teacher Association is available for assisting state agencies in outreach to communities.
- Veronika Carella:
 - o Requests CEHPAC report to the legislature on their findings and recommendations on the compliance of the IPM law. Requests CEHPAC to instruct the Maryland Air Quality Advisory Council to specifically review the MDA IPM Report.
 - o Notes the significant data gap related to pesticide application data, and notes there are statutory requirements to collect specific data when pesticides are applied, upon request (COMAR 15.05.01.12). MDA does not appear to request the data from the applicator.
- Bonnie Raindrop: Requests CEHPAC document which schools are in full compliance with IPM law, and the evidence supporting those findings.

Megan Latshaw motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and the meeting adjourned at 11:41am.