



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
11:00 – 1:00pm

**Join with Google Meet**

[meet.google.com/rqf-nxbm-gjk](https://meet.google.com/rqf-nxbm-gjk)

**Join by phone**

+1 307-314-3840 PIN: 198 422 784#

**Members in attendance:**

- Ben Gitterman
- Camille Burke
- Christina Drushel-Williams
- Cliff Mitchell
- Devon Dodson
- Jack Daniels
- Jovonne Walker
- Kelly Love
- Laura Allen
- Megan Latshaw
- Alicia Mezu
- Dianna Abney
- Eamon Flynn (staff)

**Guests in attendance:**

- Bonnie Raindrop
- Lorelei D'Huyvetter
- Michael Ichniowski
- Ruth Berlin
- Veronika Carella

**Notes:**

- A quorum was established, and the meeting was opened.
- **A motion was made by Devon Dodson and seconded by Christina Drushel-Williams to approve the minutes from February 6, 2022. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes were adopted.**
- Schools Workgroup Report
  - o Many of the IPM plans are out of date and may be missing information or not in line with actual practices.
  - o Recommendations include providing information to parents about IPM, working with schools to update IPM plans, working with MDA to update website content, improve school construction policies, and improve accessibility of IPM plans to the public.

- Members of CEHPAC voiced appreciation for the work of the Schools Workgroup and the recommendations made.
- Cliff proposed folding the work of the Workgroup back into CEHPAC as a whole and have CEHPAC move forward with considering the recommendations of the Workgroup.
- Members of the Workgroup stated that additional members of the public have been attending the Workgroup's meetings, and the status report provided is an update and not necessarily the full report of all of the Workgroup's efforts and activities.
- Cliff emphasized that CEHPAC is charged with doing this work, and at this point the Workgroup has brought the topic to the point where CEHPAC will be responsible for accepting and taking action on recommendations.
- Suggestions to keep this as an open item until Nise is able to collate additional recommendations.
- Letter to state agencies about the role of CEHPAC in the regulatory review process
  - **Motion by Devon Dodson, seconded by Camille Burke to approve the letter. The motion was passed unanimously, and the letter will be sent by Cliff.**
- Review of current membership and vacancy, including members whose terms are expiring soon.
- Legislative Updates
  - **Megan Latshaw moved to send the letter for HB 9 to the Finance committee, seconded by Laura Allen. The motion passed unanimously.**
  - Christina Drushel-Williams discussed the Maryland Youth Advisory Council of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and its interest in the legislative session and environmental policies.
- PFAS
  - Cliff reviewed the new maximum contaminant level for PFAS chemicals proposed by the EPA, including what PFAS chemicals are, the previous health advisory levels set by the EPA, and the new regulatory proposed standards, which would go into effect late 2023 / early 2024.
  - Major issue is not in private water systems but in wells. MDE is now testing public wells to ascertain the PFAS levels in Maryland. MDE is also working to remove PFAS chemicals from use, including fire fighting foam.
  - Maryland is discussing the implementation of these new standards with other states. Messaging and communications will be important. Private drinking water wells are not subject to the EPA MCL or the state's framework, but Maryland is thinking about the implications for private well owners and MDE is still committed to testing private wells for PFAS chemicals.
  - Communications and messaging will be important, including how to communicate with health care providers who will be asked about this topic by parents. Cliff will be sending out draft materials and FAQs to CEHPAC members for feedback.
  - Pediatric health specialty units are getting inundated with questions about this subject, including rural areas. Cliff requests feedback on the specific questions asked of those units.
- Asthma

- Review of SIHIS goals and progress. During COVID-19, ED visits related to asthma dropped significantly, but those rates are now returning to pre-pandemic levels. SIHIS goal is to reduce the number of ED visits overall and to narrow the racial disparity in ED visit rates.
- MDH is going to be working to revise the state asthma action plan at the recommendation of the Asthma Community of Practices, and Cliff requests CEHPAC members' assistance to do outreach to the asthma care community and schools, provide feedback on increasing asthma action plan use, and revise the asthma action plans.
- Office of Child Care has an asthma-friendly child care training (Laura Allen has provided some of these trainings, and Camille helped write the curriculum). Camille is also working on asthma-friendly recreation centers.

#### Public Comments

- Veronika Carella requests CEHPAC take action on the summary of findings provided to CEHPAC by the Schools Workgroup, and requests the summary of findings be included in the meeting minutes and be made available to the public. Carella discussed the history of the IPM law and the implementation and enforcement of the IPM law, including IPM plans which are incomplete or out of date. Notes communications to school systems will require MDA to clarify their interpretation and definition of IPM plans, policies, and systems. Believes MDA is not enforcing the IPM law, so schools are not implementing it. Carella requests the Workgroup be allowed to continue to operate in order to assist MDA with revisions to the IPM law or asking the legislature for resources to support training. Carella emphasized the role and responsibilities of CEHPAC as it relates to the Schools IPM law.
- Ruth Berlin is part of lead organization (MD Pesticide Education Network) behind PFAS bills. Happy to share information with CEHPAC about PFAS and pesticides. Need to deal with eliminating sources as well as treating drinking water. Notes IPM laws are critical, but concerned that the data provided by MDA do not show schools are in compliance with IPM laws. Manuals on MDA website are out of date and incorrect and need to be updated. Note importance to train MDA staff and school staff.
- Bonnie Raindrop represents the Smart on Pesticides Coalition and is concerned about the IPM Schools Law and its implementation. Notes research on pesticides found several million parts per trillion of PFAS chemicals. Notes the potential synergistic effects of PFAS and pesticides. Supports decision to make Workgroup findings documents public. Notes that disinfectants may also be considered pesticides by the EPA, increasing exposure pathways.
- Michael Ichniowski is the chair of the Environmental Health and Climate Change Committee of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Ichniowski reviewed the information provided by the Schools Workgroup and notes that schools personnel are in need of help and guidance to update the IPM plans, which are currently inadequate and out of date. Requests information about whether PFAS has been found in public water supplies. Notes that the PFAS testing of pesticides bill is important to stopping the spread of PFAS chemicals. Asks about if there are residential filters that can capture PFAS chemicals. Notes many disinfectants used in electrostatic sprays are not approved for use as electrostatic sprays, and aerosol sprays are allergenic.
- Lorelei D'Huyvetter works with the IPM Institute in Wisconsin. Notes website "pest defense for public schools" and efforts to categorize state efforts to implement IPM laws. Have bi-monthly

webinars, including on topics related to IPM in schools, asthma, and disinfectants. Link to the webinar: <https://bit.ly/SchoolIPM> My email: [ldhuyvetter@ipminstitute.org](mailto:ldhuyvetter@ipminstitute.org) Our website: <https://pestdefenseforhealthyschools.org/>

#### CEHPAC Member Comments

- Megan requests the Summary of Findings from the Workgroup be made public. Kelly Love disagrees because the documents are not accurate. Cliff proposes deferring the conversation until Nse is available.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44pm.

## **CEHPAC IAQ & Schools Workgroup Report to the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council at Large**

**\*\*NOT APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION\*\***

March 17, 2023

The IAQ and Schools Workgroup had two meetings since the last CEHPAC meeting. Our members continue to focus and dedicate our time to identifying the various ways that CEHPAC can be of service to the children of Maryland in the places where they spend the most time outside of home.

We have spent a lot of time reviewing the attached "Summary of Findings," provided as the Workgroup Status Report. This is in response to CEHPAC's ask of this Workgroup to review the December 1, 2022 Maryland Department of Agriculture's Joint Chairmen's Report on IPM in Schools Report, and provide our feedback. At our last meeting a vote was taken to send this spreadsheet along to CEHPAC members, which the majority agreed it was important to do. I will note that Kelly Love with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) does not agree that this spreadsheet is a completely true account of what is happening in schools today. There is acknowledgement that there are areas for needed improvement. The challenge that the Workgroup had is that we can only go on what has been submitted through the over 500 pages of MDA IPM in Schools Report.

Moving forward, there are some suggested ways that the CEHPAC may decide to respond.

- A correspondence to the MD legislature with our review of the MDA JCR IPM in Schools Report requesting support in the full implementation of the 1997 School IPM Law (ie. budget, increased capacity needs for MDA, etc.)
- The IAQ & Schools Workgroup can continue to navigate through primary action needs with specific recommendations to the CEHPAC for further decisions on the best approach forward. Examples of needed actions that have come up through the Workgroup activities (including initial discussions with IPM School Coordinators) include:
  - Education of parents and school systems on the importance of the School IPM Law and need to support the School IPM Coordinators in their work to implement practices.
  - Assisting MDA with updating the related content on their website.
  - Ensuring that school IPM plans that are indicated as "Plan TBD" in the MDA IPM in Schools report are actually followed up with to confirm that the plan was indeed established, with a current copy of that plan available.
  - Considering ways to enhance school construction policies so that wood framing is not kept in a completed new structure. (This has been a problem with termites).
  - Encouraging all School Boards to make all IPM School Plans easily available to the public.