



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023  
10:00am – 12:00pm**

**MINUTES**

Attendees:

Cliff Mitchell  
Del. Lehmann  
Sen. Gile  
Camille Burke  
Devon Dodson  
Jovonne Walker  
Kelly Love  
Laura Allen  
Megan Latshaw  
Jack Daniels  
Eamon Flynn (staff)  
Kylan Simpson (staff)

Guests:

Veronika Carella  
Michael Ichniowski  
Rich H  
Ruth Berlin  
Zakiyyah Holmes  
Emmanuel Asenso  
Jessica Koontz  
Glenn Belmore  
Hannah Donart  
Bonnie Raindrop

Notes:

- Welcome and introductions. A quorum was established.
- Motion to approve July minutes by Devon Dodson, seconded by Kelly Love. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve August minutes by Camille Burke, seconded by Kelly Love. Motion carried unanimously.
- Chair proposed to schedule another meeting in November in-person at MDA to discuss pesticides and IPM law. CEHPAC would then develop, if necessary, a work product summarizing the issue. The purpose of this meeting would be to ask questions about the IPM laws, not to request a formal audit of MDA's implementation or enforcement of those laws. The chairs emphasized that the AAG for MDA is an impartial and unbiased party to this conversation.
- Council reviewed questions drafted for discussion with the MDA AAG.

- MDA notes many of the questions have already been addressed by MDA. Chair notes it would be helpful to review the previous responses.
- Chair asks if there is an effort to review and revise the guides at MDA. MDA notes that they have hired someone in certification and training who will be looking at and updating the guides within the next 6-12 months. Chair asks if there will be an external review of those guides, which CEHPAC would be interested in participating in. MDA welcomes any help and feedback in reviewing those guides.
- Question about the use of disinfectants for cleaning versus disinfecting, and the language in the law differing from federal law. How does MDA distinguish between cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting, and are those definitions consistent with EPA/federal law? If a school uses a disinfectant for cleaning purposes, is this inconsistent with federal designation of disinfectants as pesticides?
- Megan recommends adding: "'Does the MDA State Chemist currently approve pesticides for use in Maryland at his own will and discretion, without any oversight, guidance, regulations or consideration of children's health (and protection), public health and the impact to ground water (or the environment)?" Reword: What is the process for the State Chemist to approve pesticides and what they can be used for in Maryland, and is there input from other groups or bodies as part of that review process? EPA label governs use. Does MDA have the ability to alter use over and above what is on the label?
- Motion to submit questions to MDA, with above edits, by Devon Dodson, seconded by Del. Lehmann.
  - Suggestion to ask State Chemist to attend November meeting. Suggestion to invite Pesticide Advisory Council to meeting.
  - Request to set a timeline for when any follow-up by MDA should be provided. Suggestion that follow-up be provided at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with CEJSC.
  - The motion carried unanimously; chair abstains.
- Discussion about returning to in-person meetings, including in different parts of the state and for the joint CEHPAC/CEJSC meeting.
- Discussion of priority areas for CEHPAC to focus on. Suggestions include synthetic turf (including use of PFAS chemicals), built environment (such as improving opportunities for walking/biking to school), climate change, ground cover for playgrounds.
  - **Invite representative from the Department of Planning to discuss efforts related to environmental health, climate change, and health (Chuck Boyd).**

#### Public Comments

- Hannah Donart – Suggested topics: turf, shredded tire mulch, playground surfaces, construction on school sites, filter-first approach for PFAS/lead in water, microplastics, climate change.
- Ruth Berlin – Notes that since the IPM law passed there have been new information about the impact of pesticides on health, as well as new exposure pathways and types of pesticides. Notes that MDA's aim is to support farmers and agriculture, including their use of pesticides. Note importance of updating the MDA manuals. Notes it is important to have an independent review of MDA's implementation of the IPM law.

- Laura Stewart – In Montgomery County, some playgrounds used shredded mulch, but it degrades quickly and the tire mulch comes loose and exposed. Three playgrounds tested high for lead. Heat can also lead to hot surfaces and burns.
- Michael Ichniowski – Stresses importance of clarifying definitions of cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection, and consistency between those definitions with federal definitions. Notes need for documentation of pesticide applications and exposures as part of IPM plans, including parental notifications. Notes natural turf sprayed with PFAS chemicals may also be a health hazard.
- Bonnie Raindrop – Reiterates need for an independent review of IPM law. Notes article on 9/11 in Maryland Matters about IPM in schools.
- Veronika Carella – Requests March and May minutes be updated with workgroup status reports. Notes that 2009 letter from CEHPAC, based on 2002 OAG letter of advice, recommended MDA take action, which resulted in the errata sheet but no further action. Recommends CEHPAC ask OAG for letter of advice regarding IPM law, including actions for both MDA and MSDE. Supports requesting clarity about using disinfectants for cleaning purposes and electrostatic sprayers. Notes there were additional recommendations from the Health in All Policies workgroup, including water and construction.
- Glenn Belmore – IPM coordinator who discussed their practices to implement IPM program, including practices to reduce exposures and the inspections and recommendations from MDA. Notes that there is a QR code posted publicly to provide the Material Safety Data Sheets.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.