



**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
11:00am – 1:00pm**

**Join with Google Meet**

[meet.google.com/pkk-oxaj-sri](https://meet.google.com/pkk-oxaj-sri)

**Join by phone**

(US) +1 224-572-8028 PIN: 889 531 852#

**Minutes**

Members in attendance:

- Cliff Mitchell
- Kelly Love
- Kristen Rawlett
- Christina Drushel-Williams
- Alicia Mezu
- Paul Ferraro
- Megan Latshaw
- Nse Witherspoon
- Laura Allen
- Ben Gitterman

Guest in attendance:

- Bonnie Raindrop
- Cassie Shirk
- Shweta Sharma
- Veronika Carella
- Theodora Scarato

## Notes

- Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
- Motion to approve the minutes from January 2022 by Christina Drushel Williams (seconded by Kristen Rawlett). Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve the minutes from February 2022 by Christina Drushel Williams (seconded by Nse Witherspoon). Motion carried unanimously.
- Schools Workgroup Update
  - Workgroup has been going through the IPM documents sent by MDA.
  - Discussion of original intent of Schools Workgroup - originally established to look at air quality and ventilation concerns in the context of COVID, including looking at the current status and where CEHPAC could fill any gaps and provide guidance to schools and parents. One area that they looked at was IPM laws, including responses to letters sent by CEHPAC. MDA provided a status report (900 page document).
  - Summary of Findings of MDA IPM documents - Identifies gaps and areas of concerns. Includes “exhibits” which includes IPM violations, and index of schools and page references, and IPM contacts for each of schools. Workgroup still going through information, and no workgroup recommendations are ready yet. Education training is one area the workgroup is exploring, such as how CEHPAC can provide technical assistance to schools. Also considering direct outreach to schools to offer them the opportunity to make updates. Recognizes that schools are overburdened with COVID-19 still, but there may still be environmental health concerns for children. Some parents may be opposed to pesticide use while others are in favor, leading to conflicting pressures on school personnel and IPM coordinators. How might CEHPAC assist agencies which are charged with implementing and enforcing laws related to school environmental health and IPM policies.
  - Original charge of workgroup was to look at larger picture of school health and COVID, to which IPM was one component but not the only focus (e.g. air quality, ventilation). CEHPAC requested a number of things from MSDE, and MSDE has responded to CEHPAC and indicated that they do not feel they have a response outstanding to CEHPAC.
  - The spreadsheet and information provided by the workgroup may not be complete, as some of the records may have been expired due to MDA’s retention schedule, and it may not be accurate. 15 out of 24 school systems have been reviewed this year by MDA.
  - It was clarified that the purpose of the workgroup is not to conduct any sort of audit or check for compliance with legal requirements. The purpose is to look at what CEHPAC can do to provide guidance and advice on how to improve children’s environmental health.
  - Suggestion to engage with a single school system (with MDA, MSDE) to look at

training materials and gain feedback from school personnel with the intent of developing guidance, updating materials, and offering technical assistance. Suggest identifying 1-3 specific things that the workgroup wants to achieve and a timeline. MDA suggested approaching Howard County. (Megan says “Yay!”) Suggestion to pick two school districts that vary on geography, size, demographics.

- Discussion about how to also engage child care programs.
- Reminder to complete financial disclosures.
- Asthma / SIHIS Update - MDH expanding home visiting programs to Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County (starting July 2022). Most LHDs are resuming normal activities, including home visiting. Had first Asthma Community of Practice meeting with around 60 people; discussed efforts across the state, including care coordination and referral for home visiting programs, Green and Health Housing Initiative programs/awards, managed care organizations, primary care providers, and others about asthma, asthma management, and environmental controls. MDH writing CDC grant for Environmental Public Health Tracking with an emphasis on asthma, including housing and health equity. Goal to reduce asthma emergency room visits and to close the black/white gap. Suggestion to have the director of student health centers speak with CEHPAC. Discussion of the importance of shedding light on existing environmental health issues and progress made on asthma prevention.
- Brief review of legislation that passed in 2022.
- Cliff and Camille talked at Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission about shared interests of LPPC, CEJSC, and CEHPAC, specifically around housing. There has been a lot of engagement with the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the federal Infrastructure Bill will have a significant impact on housing. Cliff suggested a joint meeting with CEJSC and LPPC around housing and children’s environmental health. As more resources are provided, and a new administration begins, what are the markers that we should look at for children’s environmental health and housing. An opportunity to set an agenda for the three bodies to look at together from different perspectives. Suggestion to look at where resources will be going, how infrastructure work will be implemented, and what the plans are to spend the resources so that CEHPAC can encourage equitable distribution of resources. Suggestion that one person put out a one-page thought piece about the importance of a meeting, which highlights specific policy questions the three groups could address and expresses a commitment for CEHPAC to address this issue. Nse and Ben volunteered to work on this by the third week of May.
- Discussion about updating the Children’s Environmental Health Report from 2008. There are several materials that have been written/updated, but these have not been put together yet. Children’s Environmental Health Network has an intern creating a two page profile of children’s environmental health in Maryland that will be done this summer.
- EMF Exposure Guidance - No edits have been made since January meeting. It is requested that if members had proposed edits they complete those edits within the next two weeks.

## Action Items

- Invite director of student health centers to talk about asthma in schools
- Schedule joint CEJSC, CEHPAC, and LPPC meeting on housing and children's environmental health
- Ben and Nse to draft one-pager on housing and children's environmental health by third week of May
- Members to make edits to the EMF Exposure Guidelines document within next two weeks

## Public Comment

- Theodora Scarato
  - Thanks CEHPAC for work on EMF Guidance document. Requests CEHPAC revisit issue of including non-ionizing radiation in guidance document. There is a lot of research sponsored by the industry that disputes other research which links health issues to non-ionizing radiation. A meta analysis came out recently that evaluated impacts of ELF, especially from charging devices.
- Veronika Carella
  - Requests that CEHPAC share and post workgroup status report and information MDA provided to CEHPAC, as well as all responses to letters sent by CEHPAC to state agencies. Notes that not all information requested by CEHPAC has been provided by state agencies and the Board of Education, and notes that if there is an absence of information that is also of concern. Notes that some pesticides listed in the plans are of specific health concerns. Suggestions that handouts and agendas are posted online for the public.
  - Notes that CEHPAC has to review and comment on existing rules, regulations and standards to ensure they adequately protect children's environmental health. CEHPAC also to recommend guidelines for state agencies to improve protection of children's environmental health.
  - Please take action to ensure vacancies are filled.
    - Response from Kelly Love: MDA has no problems with public information provided to be on a website, but MDA agrees that summary data and workgroup documents are not complete or accurate. The Green Cleaning Rules are not part of MDA's regulations.
- Bonnie Raindrop (bonnieraindrop@gmail.com)
  - Requests that MDA supplied documents be posted online for public access, as well as the summary of findings.
    - Response from chair: Okay posting MDA-supplied documents, but workgroup documents are working documents and are not official CEHPAC documents or work products unless they are adopted and approved by CEHPAC.

- Response from Megan: Suggestions for how to get more participation from parent representative, put ELF on agenda to discuss further, and put public comment at beginning of meeting. Suggestion to set additional time for public comments and responses to those comments.

Motion to adjourn (Kristen Rawlett), seconded (Megan Latshaw), and carried unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:44pm.