Children’s Environmental Health Working Group

Collaborative on Health and the Environment – WA (CHE‐WA)

Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Department of Health and Human Services, Columbia Tower, 701 5th Ave, Seattle

Host/Host group:Carolyn Gleason, HRSA

Speakers/Presentation: Gail Gensler and Lorelei Walker

Topic: Past, Present and Future of CHE-WA. A version of this presentation given by Gail and Lorelei at the WA State Public Health Association meeting in October.

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CHE-WA Children’s Environmental Health Working Group: Our mission is to work collaboratively with diverse groups to eliminate children’s harmful environmental exposures in the Puget Sound region and beyond during their most critical developmental years: preconception to age 8.

**Attendees in person:**

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| --- | --- |
| Cathy Adams-Bomar | Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Health & Human Services (HHS) |
| Aimee Boulanger | Independent contractor working for The Initiative for Responsible Mining |
| Stephanie Edlund | Public Health - Seattle & King County |
|  |  |
| Gail Gensler | Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP) |
| Carolyn Gleason | Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) (host) |
| Marilyn Hair | UW EDGE Center, *Exposures, Diseases, Genomics and Environment* [note taker] |
| Rachel Koller  Stephanie Lecovin  Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen | Independent contractor working on environmental health  President, Peter Kirk Elementary PTA, Kirkland  Local Hazard Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP) |
| Denise Shariey | Public Health - Seattle & King County |
| Fran Solomon  Nicole Thomsen  Heather Trim  Lorelei Walker | The Evergreen State College, Tacoma  Public Health - Seattle & King Count  Zero Water Washington  CHE National |
| Dennis Weaver | Change Your Food Change Your Life ™ |
| Arthur Wendel | Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Division of Community Health Investigations |

Margo Young EPA

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No attendees by phone** |  |
|  |  |

**Opening**

Nicole Thomsen called the meeting to order and announced this meeting is in honor of Gail Gensler. Today is Gail’s last meeting and she is passing on the CHE-WA leadership baton.

CHE-WA Business:

The next meeting will be January 12, 2017 hosted by Arthur Wendel at ATSDR in the Columbia Tower, 701 5th Avenue in downtown Seattle.

The CHE-WA listserv URL has changed. The new URL is: [chewa@lists.healthandenvironment.org](mailto:chewa@lists.healthandenvironment.org).

All CHE-WA information is now on the CHE website at <https://www.healthandenvironment.org>. From the homepage: What We Do > Partnerships > CHE-WA. Direct link is: <https://www.healthandenvironment.org/what-we-do/special-partnerships/che-wa>.

The CHE-WA children’s environmental health list serv is: [collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com](mailto:collabhealthenvwa@gmail.com)

If you are getting daily emails and want the weekly digest version, email Lorelei Walker at [loreleiewalker@gmail.com](mailto:loreleiewalker@gmail.com).

If you have ideas for what information you want on the new CHE-WA website, email Lorelei , Nicole (Nicole.Thomsen@kingcounty.gov), or Arthur (Wendel.Arthur@epa.gov).

New CHE-WA structure:

The new CHE-WA leadership team is:

Nicole Thomsen and Arthur Wendel, Co-Leaders

Stephanie Edlund and Marilyn Hair, Logistics (meeting invitations, agenda, minutes)

**2017 Meeting Schedule:**

Arthur passed out a table of the 2017 meeting sites and hosts:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2017** | **Location** | **Host** |
|  |  |  |
| January 12 | ATSDR, Columbia Tower, 701 5th Ave, Seattle | Arthur Wendel, ATSDR |
| February 9 | UW EDGE Center, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE | Steve Gilbert, INND |
| March 9 | WA Poison Center | Erica Liebelt, WA Poison Center |
| April 13 | LHWMP, 130 Nickerson St | Elizabeth Long, WA DOH |
| May 11 | EPA, 1200 6th Ave, Seattle | Gretchen Stewart, EPA |
| June 8 | UW EDGE Center, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE | Marilyn Hair, EDGE |
| July | Summer Break - no meeting |  |
| August | Summer Break - no meeting |  |
| September 14 | HRSA, Columbia Tower, 701 5th Ave, Seattle | Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington |
| October 12 | Public Health - Seattle & King County | Nicole Thomsen, PHS&KC |
| November 9 | ??? | Megan Dunn, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) |
| December 14 | LHWMP, 130 Nickerson St | Margo Young, EPA speaking on personal care products, green cosmetics |

**Group Discussion**

1. **Cathy Adams-Bomar**

* Cathy is with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a unit under US Health and Human Services (as are ATSDR, HRSA, CDC and CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). The mission of ACF is lifting families out of poverty. Headstart is under ACF and the agency addresses issues from homelessness to hazards for children who live in shelters. One in five children live in poverty.

2. **Aimee Boulanger**

* Aimie is an independent contractor, presently directing The Initiative for Responsible Mining ([www.responsiblemining.net](http://www.responsiblemining.net)), a project launching in 2017 to address social and environmental concerns around mining. Among their partners are UNICEF, Human Rights Watch and Microsoft. Issues range from child labor, to recycling and materials. Microsoft is involved because they purchase tin for their phones and computers.

3. **Stephanie Edlund**

* Stephanie is working halftime for Public Health-Seattle & King County in the DERT Program, working on communication around legacy arsenic from the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

4. **Aileen Gagney**

* Aileen was terminated from the American Lung Association in a downsize in June
* Working as a regional trainer for Tribal Health Housing Network at Tulalip
* Tribal Health Housing Network is holding an 8-week healthy homes training beginning in February 2017. Contact Aileen if interested.
* Aileen’s new contact info:
  + [AileenGagney@gmail.com](mailto:AileenGagney@gmail.com)
  + 206 290-5548

5. **Gail Gensler**

* Guest of Honor. She has been reminding the group for a year that she will no longer be able to attend or facilitate CHE-WA meetings after today’s meeting
* Gail announced that after 24 years with LHWMP, she is retiring at the end of this month.
* Gail hasn’t decided what she wants to do next, besides teach more yoga classes, such as gentle yoga and yoga for Parkinson’s patients. She asked for guidance and got many suggestionsh. One idea was to take a “gap year” and try lots of things before settling on what she wants to do.
* She said, “Think of me when there’s something good I might be interested in”.
* Gail is looking for movie partners and travel partners.
* Gail’s new contact info:
  + [glgensler@msn.com](mailto:glgensler@msn.com)
  + 206 300-8140 (cell)
  + 206 789-7944 (home)

6. **Marilyn Hair**

* After last month’s presentation about marijuana and pesticides, Marilyn toured Confidence Analytics with the owner, Nick Mosely. The lab analyzes cannabinoids, pesticides and terpenes and reports results to the grower (who ordered the testing) and WA State. Nick Mosely attended the CHE-WA meeting last month.

7. **Rachel Koller**

* Rachel has championed safe cleaning supplies in schools. Seattle Public Schools has adopted her recommendations, and Rachel’s guidelines are posted on the WA DOH website, http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/ClassroomCleaning
* Rachel is looking for a job in environmental health.

8. **Stephanie Lecovin**

* Stephanie is a dietitian
* She is the PTSA President at Peter Kirk Elementary in Kirkland
* In October the Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution related to environmental health. Here’s the link: <http://wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>. Scroll down until you find the title, “Mitigating Environmental Hazards and Contaminants in Schools”.

9. **Sharon Schoenfeld-Cohen**

* Sharon works at LHWMP with Nicole on environmental health and on lead exposure in home renovations.

10. **Fran Solomon**

* Fran is teaching a course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the UW, C*hemicals That Disrupt Hormones: Health Impacts and How to Reduce Exposure.* The topic is endocrine disrupting chemicals. The class will meet 4 Mondays beginning January 23 from 1-3pm at the Burke Museum. Registration is $40 at [www.osher.uw.edu](http://www.osher.uw.edu). The program is for those age 50+ but all ages can register; if you have difficulty, email Fran at [fran@enviroteach.com](mailto:fran@enviroteach.com).

11. **Nicole Thomsen**

* After the November presentation about marijuana and pesticides, there has been interest at Public Health - Seattle and King County to see the presentation. Marijuana and pesticides are both hot and sensitive topics in King County, pertinent to smoke-free indoor environments.

12. **Heather Trim**

* Heather began as Executive Director of Zero Waste Washington on October 1st
* She’s working on secure medicine ordinances concerning drop-off locations for unwanted prescription medicines
* King County will implement a secure medicine ordinance in January
* WA state legislature is being lobbied to make ordinances are statewide. This would give rural areas take-back opportunities and publicity about the program would apply statewide.
* Other Zero Waste Washington topics:
  + Toxics in consumer products
    - Are there toxics in car seats?
    - E-waste
    - Phthalates
      * Source control in Duwamish River
        + Zero Waste Washington is surveying occupants of buildings along Duwamish River to find out what’s outside their buildings
      * Phthalates in orange traffic cones and exterior caulking
      * Phthalates in plastic sheets used on roads

13. **Lorelei Walker**

* CHE national provides monthly partnership calls about environmental health topics. Past calls with presentation slides are posted here: <https://www.healthandenvironment.org/#home-feeds-calls>
* CHE Executive Director Elise Miller for more than 20 years, is stepping down
  + Karen Wang will become CHE Executive Director beginning April 1, 2017. She lives in California. Karen will work (remotely) on science advocacy in the new federal administration and ways to change health behaviors and policy.

14. **Dennis Weaver**

* Dennis’ Change Your Food Change Your Life™ CD has now been heard in 157 countries, most recently in Fiji and Latvia, spreading the organic good food news.

15. **Arthur Wendel**

* ATSDR has a new initiative on preventing toxic exposures in childcare siting
* Arthur is the host and speaker at the January meeting and will present on the new initiative

16. **Margo Young**

* Project Manager for EPA’s Bristol Bay Pebble Mine program
* Brian Feder-Check has assumed Margo’s former role in Children’s Environmental Health at EPA. Gretchen Stewart also continues her work at EPA Children’s Environmental Health

**Networking break**

* Nicole served a luscious gluten-free cake in Gail’s honor. The cake was from New Flowers Bakery on Capitol Hill
* The group shared memories of Gail over the 9 years she led CHE-WA
* Gail’s overarching theme has been networking - it’s what makes the group work
* We will miss you, Gail! Keep in touch!

**Presentation**

Find the PPT presentation at: <http://chewa.org/CEHgroup.html> and attached to the January CHE-WA meeting invitation email.

Materials on the CHE-WA website are being migrated to the CHE-WA page on the CHE website. In the future, CHE-WA materials will be available at: <https://www.healthandenvironment.org/what-we-do/special-partnerships/che-wa>

**Past, Present & Future of CHE-WA**

* Gail and Lorelei gave a speed - version of the presentation they gave for CHE-WA at the Washington State Public Health Association meeting in October
* It was inspiring to review all the great activities and partnerships CHE-WA has facilitated

Arthur and Nicole passed out post-it notes and asked the group to write where we would like to see CHEWA go next year.

One potential resource for the group is a Public Participation Grand (PPG) from Ecology, for $20,000-$30,000. This grant supported past CHE-WA Forums.

This is a compilation of suggestions for where participants would like to see CHEWA go next year:

1. Networking / Education

* Share what’s working
* Innovative partnerships
* Joint session with other partnerships to further networking
* Build partnerships with other groups like Best Start for Kids, Equal Start Coalition
* Continue to host regular networking opportunities between diverse people working on the intersection of health and environment
* Present how people and organizations networked by way of this meeting
* Continue our current format in CHE-WA meetings:
  + Speaker, roundtable updates, and networking time
* Continue to meet monthly
* Surfacing Hot Topics in policy and consumer awareness
* Invite more environmental health instructors & teachers who can share information to their students
* CDC - try webinar postings
* Like the idea of TED-like talks
* Forums - bring in voices from underrepresented communities
* Plan a ½-day or 1-day Forum for 2017 zoning in on a specific children’s environmental health topic
* Do a Forum using TED talks
* Do a presentation on CHE-WA at another professional conference like we did at the WA State Public Health Association in October, 2016
* I know CHE-WA is not political, but does the organization educate legislators on any of these topics, especially if the topics connect with upcoming legislation around chemicals and health?
* Intentionally reach out and get regular attendance at meetings from people in eastern Washington

2. Special Projects and Events

* Small projects we can do!
* Facebook Page for Non-Scientists (moms, workers in industry, teachers, etc.). Post simple messages about hot topics
* Film festival
* Special info/resources that CHE has already developed, for example green cleaning, through PTA. Present at annual WA State conference?
* Share this important knowledge and resource with the community, prioritizing low-income, ethnic and marginalized communities
* Identify cross-cutting projects first, or group of CHE-WA members to further CHE-WA mission
* CEH trainings across the state
* Discuss at early 2017 meetings how we can continue our mission/vision under the Trump administration. How can we move forward?
* CHE-WA CEH participating groups collectively have a lot of credibility. Develop list and strategy for how this credibility can be used for positive influence in particularly important (and too often reluctant) sectors:
* School districts, Physicians, Nurses, County health departments (outside King County)
* Strategize for how to positively inform and influence these groups to do good
* Host a speaker series on CEH, maybe 4/year, perhaps in different locations around the city or region, to get the word out to more people.
* Another 1-day Forum! It’s how we grow
* Forum, with the idea of drawing in a target audience on a specific topic, like we did with nurses

3. Administrative & Other

* Mini-grants to forward projects
* Find national conferences and share the CHE-WA model
* Expand diversity of this group
* non-profits, i.e. REWA, Paras los Ninos, etc.
* Ethnic and cultural diversity
* I would love CHE-WA to create a chapter in Spokane and have a west-side branch representative participate to help connect resources through an east/west partnership