

Joint Meeting
Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council
May 26, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aeris Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Cliff Mitchell, Ben Grumbles, Rebecca Rehr, Benoy Thomas, Merrick Moise, Larissa Johnson, Vernice Miller Travis, Andrew Fellows, Arabia Davis, John Quinn, Subha Chandar
- Participants: Delegate Angela Angel, Dr. David Bishai, Veronika Carrella, Dr. Gregory Diette, Dr. Benjamin Gitterman, Julian Levy, Dr. Jed Miller, Nse Witherspoon, Allison Rich, Lorne Garrettson, Jeaneen Logan, Laura Rogers, Lisa Nissley, Rachel Hess Mutinda

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves. Dr. Mitchell welcomed both groups; discussed the charge and overview of groups.

Welcome by Secretary Grumbles

- *Secr. Grumbles stated that he was thrilled to be a part of mtg; gave his background including Assistant Administrator for Water at EPA
- *Secr. Grumbles sees national protections for children through environment and health
- *There will continue to be a focus on lead, Marcellus Shale, air quality impacts – local and regional, ozone transport and cumulative impact projects under leadership of Secr. Grumbles
- *CEJSC leadership thanked Secr. Grumbles for coming, want to make sure cumulative impacts and focus on enviro justice

Discussion of Council and Commission Business

- *Dr. Mitchell stated that this annual mtg is relevant for both groups and that it is the first time discussing under new Administration
- *Both CEHPAC and CEJSC are independent advisory groups to give advice to Secr, Gov and Legisl.

Lead Strategy Update and Regulation Review - Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell

- *C. Mitchell provided review of screening and testing process and recommendations; background of why changes—picture of lead risk and level has changed; CDC recommendations and guidance has changed recently also
- *Universal screening/statewide screening of ALL 1 and 2 yr olds in State over the next 3 years will be a key part of the strategy
- *Re-evaluate where exposures are seen after three years and decide if just need targeted or still do universal.
- *Children entering child care, pre-K or Kind. Must submit paperwork from medical provider stating that lead test completed – new proposal will just include child care providers
- *Nse Witherspoon suggested that there are loop holes that include “unlicensed” child care providers who would not be in the catch group (40%); what about uninsured children? Target the provider community to make sure all are tested or atleast screened not just focus on child care providers.
- *Lorne Garrettson – Reflect back on Secr. Grumbles comments on lead testing and air quality; then gave lead Hx; after much success, the “mop” up process is harder to catch the remaining kids – not as easy; also be aware of immunization level – educate population on lead effects and will see an increase in testing
- *CEJSC member – Any way to make sure a child who transferred into MD schools to be tested? C. Mitchell says that medical providers will be guided to always ask question no matter the age of the child to catch such children who are new to Maryland
- *B. Gitterman – Universal lead testing is not controversial at all; longterm goal to get kids in kinship care, but must focus now on kids in licensed care – low hanging fruit; should reach out to WIC (co-located service office) as they have many services and are doing blood tests for anemia; must focus on prevention rather than testing as secondary
- *Vernice – Discussed ambient sources of lead and lead in soil, along with industrial sources – MDE should strictly enforce air standards; different populations labeled differently when affected by lead – ADHD vs. Behavioral Issues (white vs. black/latino) – need to focus on identifying issues – “prison pipeline” concept
- *C. Mitchell – DHMH is updating regulations and will share with groups for input; verbal input given now will be included in first round of updates; formal request for input will be sent in September 2015
- *CEJSC leadership / A. Fellows – Will regs address lead in drinking water? C. Mitchell: No, MDE addresses lead in drinking water; Secr. Grumbles – not sure of status of drinking water program at MDE; A. Fellows noted that lead in drinking water is often a residential water pipe / service line issue
- *D. Bishai – utilize maps as tool to move dial; C. Mitchell – working on EPHT sub-county data; B. Gitterman – make sure providers don’t use maps against increased testing - providers might say “not in my county” but C. Mitchell says that maps will reflect the testing rates which will show that we don’t have the whole picture and will display projected rates.
- *Vernice – an important issue is lead in products at Dollar Store – toys, food etc. Keep on radar screen
- *Merrick Moise – must include faith communities to get education materials on lead
- *Del Angel – WIC clinics or schools to have mobile clinics for parts of State – utilize these resources to get the word out
- *J. Levy – can we have a combined mtg in Fall to address this and regs? R. Rehr – action item needed in between

*Allison – what are the joint issues to work on in between mtgs

Marcellus Shale Letter on Proposed Regulations – Final Review

*Proposed regulations submitted by MDE, comment period has passed

*CEHPAC letter and comments shared; could be considered by both CEJSC and CEHPAC as review of cumulative impacts

*V. Carella points out mis-numbering of bullets; C. Mitchell approves renumbering – Page 4, bullet #8 should begin with “The proposed regulations for allowing...” – bullet #7 ends at “...in the revised regulations.”

*Andy, CEJSC leadership – impressed by CEHPAC comments, hopes CEJSC will support or submit comments in alignment

*Secr. Grumbles – Welcome all comments until Oct. 2016

*R. Rehr – involved in the advocacy portion of the MS; moratorium has been changed to short amount of time and health studies

*C. Mitchell – joint letter with CEJSC? J. Levy – should submit separately, seconded by B. Gitterman; CEHPAC will submit letter on own.

*V. Carella – letter becomes a public document, suggests separate letters but refer to each other letters

*CEHPAC voted to accept the letter on Marcellus Shale regulations. Ultimately the Commission decided not to sign onto this letter, but may consider doing an EJ specific letter.

Update on CEHPAC issues (synthetic turf fields, wifi in schools)

*Synthetic turf fields – will be putting together workgroup; exposures to children playing on field

*Pesticides –no specific considerations at present but ongoing priority

Group Discussion

*The members discussed how they might work together more. Perhaps we need more meetings together?

Other ideas included:

*Place based issues – Children’s environmental health concerns & complex mixtures

*Cumulative exposures

*Common process issues for both groups related to implementation of statutory responsibilities

Meeting Adjourned