

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE
FAMILY HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Health-General Article, §13-1501-1506, Annotated Code of Maryland

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

John M. Colmers
Secretary
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment

The Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC or Council) was established in 2000 by Health-General Article, §13-1501-1506, Annotated Code of Maryland. The Council advises the Governor and the General Assembly on environmental issues that may pose a threat to children. The growing knowledge that children are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards was the impetus for establishing the Council. This statute places Maryland at the forefront of the broad issues related to children's environmental health.

Mission

The Council seeks to identify environmental hazards that may affect children's health and to recommend solutions to those hazards through interdisciplinary problem solving and coalition building. The Council goals were developed in 2001 and are reaffirmed annually. They are to:

- Ensure that the rules, regulations, and standards of the State protect children from environmental hazards;
- Educate involved parties regarding the environmental hazards that impact children's health and the means to avoid those hazards; and
- Enable children in Maryland to grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

Membership

The Council is composed of members from State agencies and private sector representatives with interest and expertise in the area of children's health and the environment. Members, and the position that they represent, are noted in the table included in Appendix A. There are currently four unfilled positions on the Council. With the retirement of the formerly appointed Chairperson, Dr. Maureen Edwards, in August 2006, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) has appointed Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH as the new Chairperson. Dr. Mitchell is the Director of the Environmental Health Coordination and Public Health Residency Programs within the Community Health Administration. He joined DHMH in June 2006, after 14 years on the faculty of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences in, including directing the occupational medicine residency program (1998-2006), at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Other Maryland Councils and related groups:

Members of the Council represent CEHPAC on:

- ◆ Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission
- ◆ Maryland Asthma Control Program
- ◆ Maryland State School Health Council
- ◆ Maryland Pesticide Advisory Committee
- ◆ Maryland Council on Cancer Control
- ◆ Air Quality Control Advisory Council

Council Activities

The Council has convened in public session six times within the last 12 months. The meetings enabled the Council to discuss pending legislation, review proposed regulations, and

provide educational presentations for members. During the 2007 legislative session, the Council monitored bills related to children's environmental health, including bills associated with indoor and outdoor air quality, compounds in consumer products, radiation, and car emission standards. The Council received and reviewed the following regulations from the following promulgating units:

COMAR 26.11.27	Emission Limitations for Power Plants
COMAR 26.11.32	Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Consumer Products
COMAR 26.11.13	Control of Gasoline and Volatile Organic Compounds from Storage and Handling
COMAR 26.11.28	Clean Air Interstate Rule
COMAR 26.11.08	Control of Incinerators
COMAR 26.12.01	Radiation Protection

The Council also discussed proposed legislation on a number of issues such as phthalates, lead, and clean indoor air. The Council continues to monitor developments on these issues, so as to be prepared to offer comments on these and other issues in the future, where appropriate. Of particular importance to the Council was Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007, which was signed into law on May 17, 2007. The purpose of the Act is to preserve and improve the health, comfort, and environment of the people of Maryland by limiting exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. The Act prohibits smoking in indoor areas open to the public except in limited circumstances. The Act specifically prohibits smoking in public meeting places, public transportation vehicles, and indoor places of employment. The Council also reviewed and commented on the proposed regulations for the Clean Indoor Air Act (see Appendix B).

To educate the Council concerning the broad issues involved in children's environmental health, Council meetings include educational presentations. Topics and presenters this year included:

- "Indoor Environmental Quality in Schools"
Ms. Barbara Bice
School Facilities Branch Chief
Maryland State Department of Education
- "State of Surveillance Report: Assessment of Children's Environmental Health Indicators"
Dr. Simone Porter
Preventive Medicine Resident
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- "The Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007"
Dr. Simone Porter
Preventive Medicine Resident
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Accomplishments

The Council has continued to work with State agencies and the Office of Children's Health Protection of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a report profiling children's environmental health in Maryland, similar to a report issued by the EPA regarding children's environmental health nationwide. This effort reflects the Council's goal to educate involved parties regarding the environmental hazards that impact children's health and to protect children from environmental harms.

Another related focus of this year's efforts has been centered on the creation of a separate report regarding surveillance and data mechanisms to assess children's environmental health in Maryland. This report will: describe whether the State's surveillance systems adequately capture the information needed to guide efforts to reduce environmental health hazards to children; identify barriers to adequate surveillance; identify resources needed to achieve adequate surveillance; and provide recommendations to achieving adequate surveillance. Members of the Council are currently reviewing a draft outline of the report.

Recommendations and Future Priorities

In establishing the Council, the General Assembly clearly identified children's environmental health as a priority for the State. In addition to complying with its mandate to review and comment on State regulations that may affect children's environmental health, the Council has increasingly seen the need for effective surveillance of children's environmental health. The goal of both the report profiling children's environmental health, and the parallel effort to identify surveillance system capacity, is to permit the Council to effectively meet its statutory mission of incorporating children's environmental health considerations into the development of State policies.

Conclusion

The Council will continue to review proposed regulations and legislation to ensure that Maryland's children are protected from environmental hazards that detrimentally impact health. The Council also will continue to educate its members and other interested parties regarding the growing body of knowledge related to children's environmental health.

APPENDIX A:

MEMBERSHIP 2007

<p>Maryland Senate The Honorable Nancy Jacobs Maryland Senate</p>	<p>Licensed Pediatricians Cecilia T. Davoli, MD, MPH Kennedy Krieger Institute</p> <p>Benjamin A. Gitterman, MD Children's National Medical Center</p>
<p>Maryland House of Delegates The Honorable James W. Hubbard Maryland House of Delegates</p>	<p>Allergy/Asthma Expert Peyton A. Eggleston, MD The Johns Hopkins Hospital</p>
<p>Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Clifford Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH Environmental Health Coordination & Public Health Residency Programs (Chair)</p>	<p>Parent or Guardian Vacant</p>
<p>Department of the Environment Phil Heard, MD, MPH Technical and Regulatory Services Administration (Vice-Chair)</p>	<p>Environmental Epidemiologist Christopher A. Loffredo, PhD Lombardi Cancer Center Georgetown University</p>
<p>Department of Agriculture Mary Ellen Setting Assistant Secretary Plant Industries & Pest Management</p>	<p>Economist Douglas Bradham, DrPH University of Maryland School of Medicine</p>
<p>Department of Education Alicia Mezu School Health Services</p>	<p>Environmental Toxicologist Vacant</p>
<p>Department of Human Resources Roosevelt Jordan Out of Home Services</p>	<p>Maryland Association of Counties Vacant</p>
<p>Department of Housing and Community Development Vacant</p>	<p>Private Industry Judy S. LaKind, PhD LaKind Associates, LLC</p>