

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Health-General Article, §13-1501-1506, Annotated Code of Maryland

2008 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 five unfilled positions on the Council.

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 2008 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, and birth defects. The Council received and reviewed the following regulations from the following promulgating units:

COMAR 26.16.01 Accreditation and Training for Lead Paint Abatement Services

- COMAR 26.04.10 Management of Coal Combustion Byproducts
- COMAR 26.11.06 General Emission Standards, Prohibitions, and Restrictions
- COMAR 26.09.01 Maryland CO2 Budget Trading Program

The Council also discussed proposed legislation on a number of issues. Legislation reviewed includes:

HB 15 Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality Standards

HB 56 Phthalates and Bisphenol-A-Prohibitions-Toys and Child Care Articles

HB 62 Lead Containing Products – Prohibition

HB 438 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Birth Defects Research-Medical Information

Letters of support for the regulations for the Disposal of Coal Combustion Byproducts, HB 438 (Birth Defects Research) and HB 56 (Phthalates and Bisphenol-A) were sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Chairman of the House Committee on Health and Government Operations. These letters can be found in 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:

- “Coal Combustion Byproducts Regulations”
Stephen Pattison
Assistant Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
- “Children's Health Conference State Capacity Building”
Prentice Ward
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- “Maryland Healthy Schools”
Pamela Bauer
Ramona Trovato (U.S. EPA, Retired)

Accomplishments

The major accomplishment of the Council this year is the completion of a report, *Maryland's Children and the Environment*, that was released to the public during an October press conference. The report, started by the Council in 2003, 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. It is modeled after a 2000 report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *America's Children and the Environment*. The report was prepared by members of the Council and the Departments of Environment and Health and Mental Hygiene, and was supported financially by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection. Its publication was also supported through the U.S. CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Project in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Maryland's Children and the Environment (Appendix C) identifies a number of indicators of children's health related to the environment, and discusses critical gaps in the State's current surveillance systems. It points out where the State has made progress in improving environmental conditions known or believed to be related to children's health, and also where more improvements could be made.

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 *Maryland's Children and the Environment*, and the parallel effort to identify surveillance system capacity, is to help the Council to effectively meet its statutory mission of incorporating children's environmental health considerations into the development of State policies.

One other issue must be raised, and that is that the Council now has several critical vacancies. The Chair is actively soliciting recommendations for membership on the Council and will be making a concerted effort to fill these vacancies in the near future.

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 2008

<p>Maryland Senate The Honorable Nancy Jacobs Maryland Senate</p>	<p>Licensed Pediatrician 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 Veronika Carella MD PTA Health & Environmental Issues Chair</p>
<p>Department of the Environment Richard Eskin Director, Science Services Administration</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 Vacant</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 Vacant</p>