



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes February 4, 2008 James Senate Building Annapolis, MD

Attendees:

Members

Peyton Eggleston
Ben Gitterman
Del. Hubbard
Judy Lakind
Clifford Mitchell

Lorne Garrettson
Phil Heard
Sen. Jacobs
Alicia Mezu

Guests

Ruth Quinn
Lee Woods
Ramona [REDACTED]

Madeleine Shea
Karen Milman

Staff

Rachel Hess-Mutinda

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Cliff Mitchell provided welcoming remarks at 2:30pm to Council members and guests. Dr. Mitchell gave an overview of the Council's mission and goals for the coming year. Members and guests introduced themselves. Dr. Mitchell also voiced the need to fill numerous vacancies on the Council.

Minutes

Minutes from the December 2007 meeting were distributed. Judy LaKind and Ben Gitterman stated that they had attended the December meeting but their names were not a part of the meeting minutes. Rachel will amend the minutes to reflect their attendance. Minutes were approved and adopted.

Legislative Review

✓ HB 15 Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality Standards

This Bill will be heard on February 5, 2008. Dr. Lakind began the discussion regarding this bill by highlighting that it would be very difficult to conduct a study of air quality of ALL classrooms in the State. Dr. Garrettson agreed that this would be difficult and costly and wondered if independent and private schools would be included. Dr. Garrettson suggested

it would be more useful if a statistical sampling of classroom air quality could be done. Dr. Mitchell highlighted issues surrounding lead responsibility of the cited Task Force. Sen. Jacobs suggested that money should be used for school maintenance rather than a study of indoor air quality. Discussion also included the idea of CEHPAC or another taskforce take responsibility for making recommendations, highlighting best practices and researching examples from other cities and states regarding improvement of indoor airquality of classrooms. Most CEHPAC members agreed with this idea. Del. Hubbard also suggested that standards for new school construction be developed, implemented and distributed throughout MSDE and other State agencies.

CEHPAC members supported a motion for Chairman Mitchell to draft a letter to Del. Rice regarding HB 15 with concerns and suggested action steps.

✓ **HB 56 – Phthalates and Bisphenol-A-Prohibitions-Toys and Child Care Articles**
Senator Jacobs began the discussion by asking “How harmful are these chemicals?” Many members discussed the issues surrounding these items with the conclusion that there is a known risk to children and babies-though more research needs to be done. Dr. Lakind brought up issues related to woman who are pregnant—do these chemicals effect the child in utero? Discussion also focused on issues associated with alternative chemicals that may be used to replace phthalates and bisphenol A. Dr. Lakind voiced her concern that not enough information is available on the alternatives to know that they are safer than the present chemicals.

Chairman Mitchell asked for a vote to support or oppose the bill. Four members voted to support the bill, two members voted to oppose the bill; Dr. Mitchell will write a letter in support of the bill on behalf of CEHPAC.

✓ **HB 62 – Lead-Containing Products – Prohibition**
Del. Hubbard gave overview of bill and reason for creation. Some members questioned specific language in the legislation. Del. Hubbard said he would take these suggestions back to his committee. Dr. Lakind asked if the list of lead products can be posted on the internet and available to the public. She also suggested that any item that is found with lead is actually destroyed, not just removed from a store.

Chairman Mitchell asked for a vote to support or oppose the bill. The bill was unanimously supported by Council members. Chairman Mitchell will write a letter in support of the bill on behalf of CEHPAC.

✓ **HB 438 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Birth Defects Research – Medical Information**
This bill would allow for surveillance of birth defects recorded within Maryland. All regulations within the bill pass HIPAA laws. Numerous professional groups support the bill. Questions and discussion were raised regarding language indicating solely a mother’s medical record will be requested-excluding information of the father. Dr. Garrettson

pointed out that the feasibility of obtaining medical records of the mother is much easier than obtaining those of the father.

Chairman Mitchell asked for a vote to support or oppose the bill. The bill was unanimously supported by Council members. Chairman Mitchell will write a letter in support of the bill on behalf of CEHPAC.

Children's Environmental Health Indicators Report

Dr. Mitchell discussed the status of the report. He has inserted a section on radon as a result of Sen. Jacob's feedback and suggestion. The most updated version will be circulated to Council members shortly.

Membership

Dr. Mitchell discussed the need to fill vacant slot on the Council. Doug Bradham, health economist, has recently resigned due to relocation to Kansas. Del. Hubbard strongly voiced the need for a health economist on the Council as that knowledge is necessary to move numerous pieces of legislation and regulation in the right direction. Dr. Mitchell and Rachel will work on filling the open positions.

New Business

Ramona [REDACTED] suggested the need for CEHPAC to be a voice for the children whose school environments are not adequately healthy-equating schools to a child's work environment that is unregulated. Ramona would like to let CEHPAC know more of what can be done in schools. Dr. Mitchell has invited her to speak at an upcoming CEHPAC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

**The next CEHPAC meeting will take place on:
April 7th 9am at the Maryland Department of the Environment**

Minutes submitted by: Rachel Hess-Mutinda