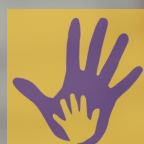


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CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH NETWORK

**2017**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



CHILDREN'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK

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# MESSAGE FROM NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON CEHN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## 25 Years of Unwavering Protections!

The determination, resiliency, and dedication of the CEHN staff could not have been more apparent than in this past year! This Annual Report highlights key aspects of our leadership in the field of child health protection and our success in effective and strategic partnerships to leverage collective efforts. However, all would not be possible without all of you... our funders, collaborators, advisors, staff, champions, and advocates.

Within this last year, CEHN convened a children's environmental health research conference in the DC area for an estimated 150 participants, extended our leadership and expansion in the early learning Eco-Healthy Child Care® arena, advocated for safer products and chemicals, worked to combat climate change and promote cleaner air, supported the importance of Federal agency programs and related funding, completed a 5-year Health-in-all Policies program, increased our work in childhood lead exposure prevention, continued to operationalize critical aspects of the Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action, Coordinated the Second Annual Children's Environmental Health Day of Action, advanced our work in cancer-prevention, and presented key leadership awards at the Eleventh Annual CEHN Child Health Advocate Award Reception!

CEHN's Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Science, Education, and Policy Committees have all remained vital to our advancement and successes. This year we thanked Dr. Cynthia Bearer, as she completed her dedicated service as Board member, for her incredible leadership as past Board Chair, Research Conference Co-Chairs, and Science Committee Chair. I personally have learned so much from Cynthia and have enjoyed working with her to especially advance the peer-reviewed science in the field. Thank you Cynthia!

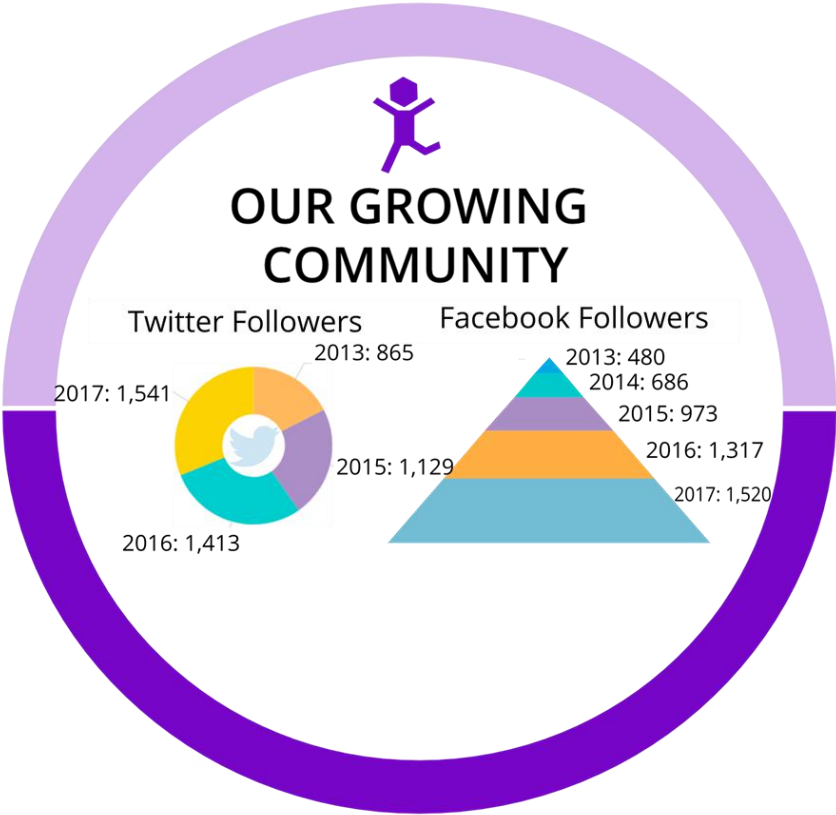
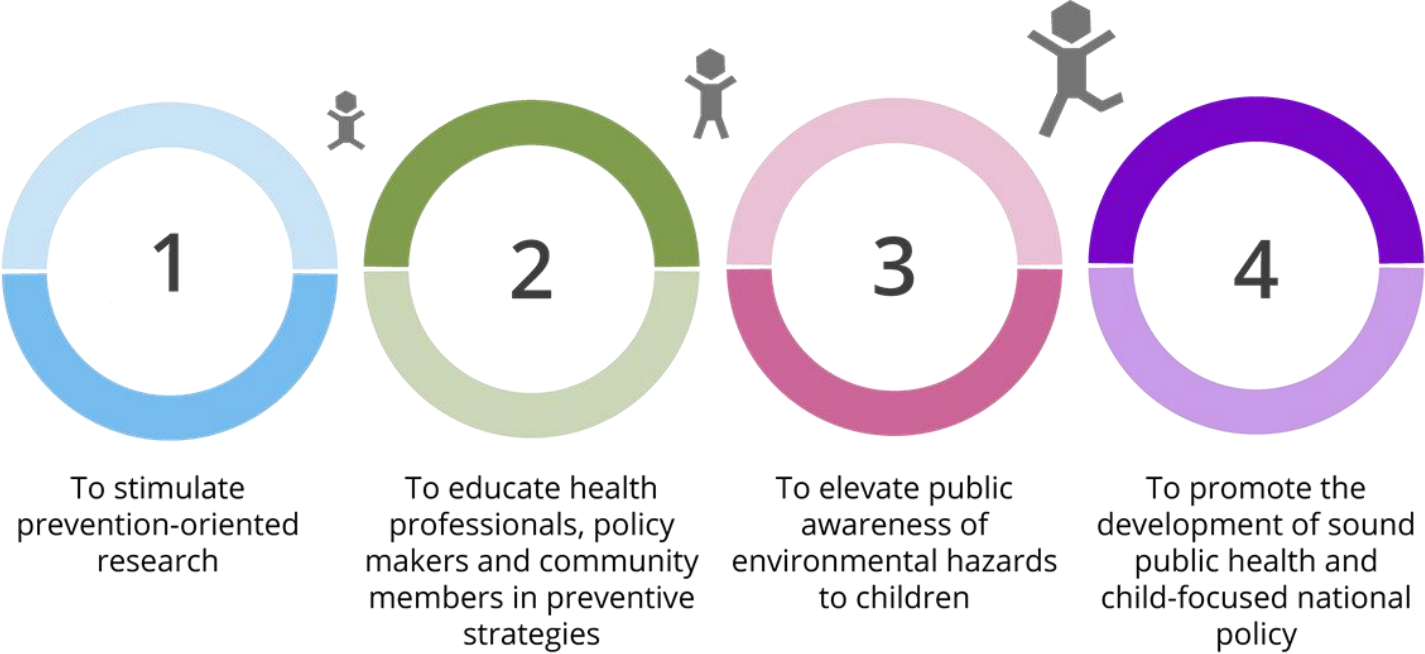
Our work to protect those standards and provisions established to promote safety and public health continue and will consume a good amount of CEHN's work into the future. We stand ready to engage, collaborate, and lead where and when necessary. It has been 25 years of committed and dedicated work, yet the needs are just as great for all children and their futures. Thank you for taking the time to read about CEHN's journey this year and for lending your assistance in our fight!

In Peace and Health,

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH



# GOALS OF THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK





# COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

To adopt effective and child-protective policies, we, as a society, must maintain a solid understanding of current scientific research. To aid in this endeavor, CEHN highlights recent research articles every month through the Article of the Month series. This series is specifically designed to help journalists, policy-makers, child care providers, parents, and the general public better understand complex scientific findings within the field of pediatric environmental health. CEHN's Articles of the Month cover a broad range of current, high-priority children's environmental health topics, and are hand-picked by CEHN's Science Committee for their relevance and scientific rigor. Study findings are translated for a lay audience, and their potential policy implications and importance are summarized.

Each Article of the Month is posted at the beginning of the month on CEHN's web site, <http://www.cehn.org/our-work/articles-of-the-month/> and promoted through CEHN's e-mail mailing lists and social media outlets.



## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

CEHN organizes conferences in order to bring children's environmental health researchers together to: highlight emerging science in the field of children's environmental health; foster scientific collaboration and communication within and across disciplines; identify research gaps and develop ideas on how future studies may be designed to fill those gaps; and to discuss the potential public health and policy implications of key research presented. CEHN research conferences also provide an excellent platform for new investigators to share their scientific findings. Efforts to encourage junior investigator participation include reduced student and post-doctoral registration rates, encouragement of student abstract submission, and awards for top junior investigator posters.

The overarching goal of CEHN's research conferences are to promote communication and collaboration among advocates, public health officials, and researchers across disciplines who investigate matters relevant to children's environmental health. This will lead to increased understanding of children's vulnerabilities to environmental hazards as well as to the translation of research findings into effective prevention strategies to protect children's health and development.

CEHN's 2017 research conference, titled "Children's Environmental Health Translational Research Conference: New Challenges" (#CEHN2017), highlighted recent research pertaining to some of the most critical continuing and emerging children's environmental health issues such as climate change, increasing agricultural herbicide use, lead poisoning, and the microbiome. Approximately 150 participants convened for the event in Arlington, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC, on April 5-7, 2017 and enjoyed a stimulating and varied program delivered via a lively mix of keynote presentations, expert panels, 8 full organized sessions, 4 sessions of contributed oral presentations, a poster reception, and even a special film preview and discussion session about climate change and children's well-being. Attendees with a particular interest in advocacy participated in an early morning discussion about the opportunities and challenges of moving research findings into action that was held on the last day of the conference.

Dr. Richard J. Jackson of UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health provided a stimulating opening keynote address that laid the historical and inspirational foundation for participants to contextualize the scientific presentations throughout the remainder of the conference. Dr. Joshua Sharfstein of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health provided our second keynote address in which he discussed how new sources of data from healthcare create new opportunities for rapid assessment, analysis, and evaluation of pediatric environmental health challenges. Dr. Matthew W. Gillman of the National Institutes of Health provided the final keynote presentation about the federal agency's seven-year initiative, the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program and the IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network, and the exciting work being conducted and opportunities ahead that these efforts present.

Attendee feedback on the event was very positive, with over 98% of survey respondents indicating that their overall expectations of the conference were fulfilled. Photos from the event can be found in CEHN's flickr [2017 conference album](#).





**Eco-Healthy  
Child Care®**

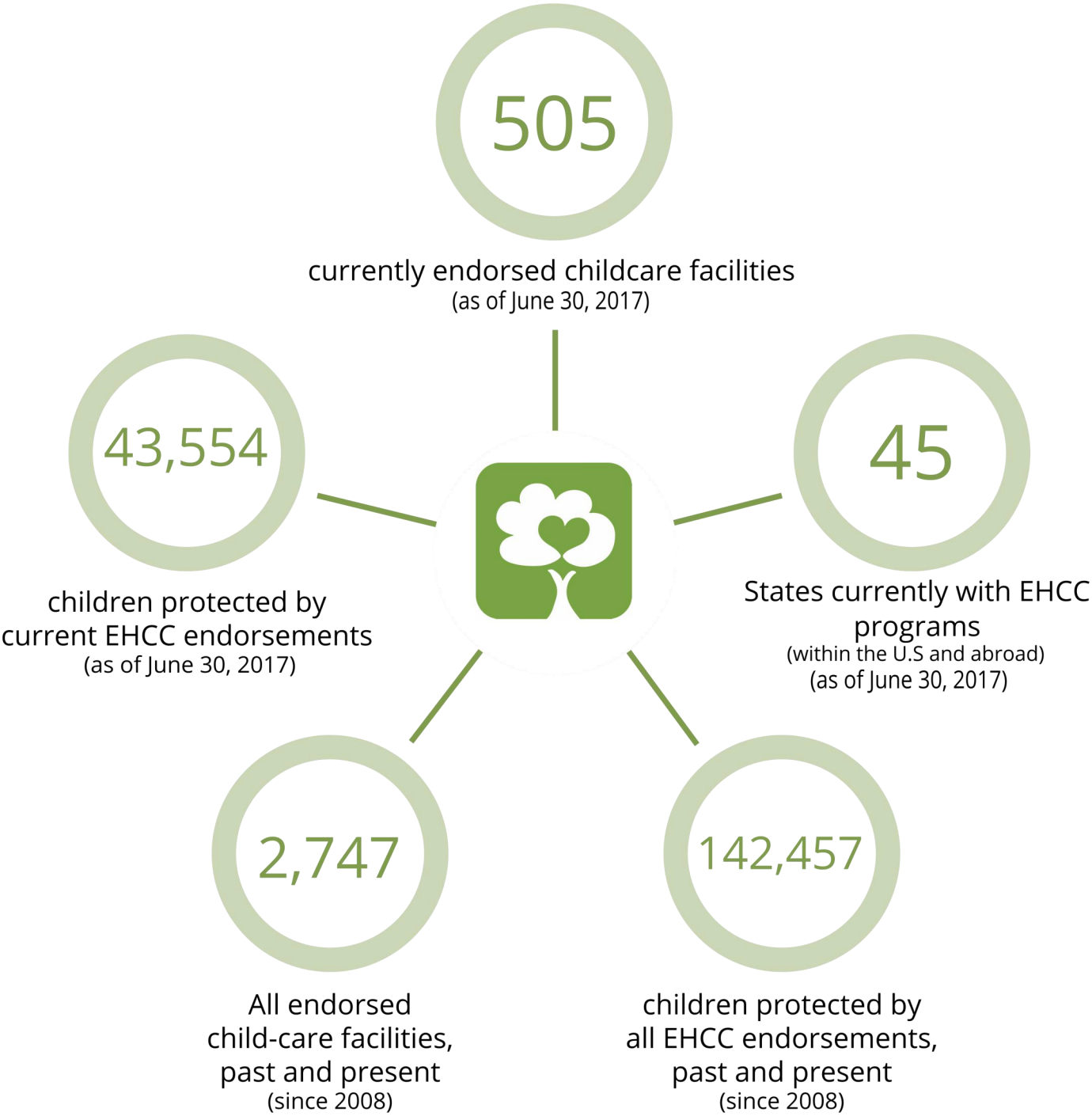
## ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE®

Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) is a national program that partners with child care professionals to eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards found in child care facilities, thus improving the environmental health of children. EHCC supports child care providers as they make simple choices that benefit the health and well-being of all children in their care. The program offers training, technical assistance, resources, marketing, and an endorsement. By reducing exposure to toxicants like pesticides and lead and improving indoor air quality, the program creates healthier environments in and around child care facilities. EHCC remains the sole, self-directed, national environmental health endorsement program for child care providers.

EHCC has received several awards for our innovative and effective approaches. Awards include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award in 2006, the Childcare and School IPM Recognition Award from the IPM Institute of North America, Inc. in 2010, and the Environmental Health Innovation Award from the National Environmental Health Association in 2013.



EHCC ENDORSEMENT



## EHCC TtT

The EHCC Train the Trainer (TtT) curriculum remains scientifically based, peer reviewed, and comprehensively covers environmental health hazards within child care settings. Between June 2016 and July 2017, CEHN staff offered five-hour EHCC TtT sessions to child care trainers, child care health/nurse consultants, licensing staff, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) staff in Maryland, Arizona and California. Since 2008, the EHCC TtT has been offered in 32 states: AK, AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MS, NC, NE, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TX, VT, and WA. EHCC staff have trained 1,251 upper-level child care professionals. We look forward to working closely with child care professionals in California, New York and Washington state between July 2017- June. 2018.



## EHCC MILESTONES AND COLLABORATION

### ONLINE CURRICULUM

The Eco-Healthy Child Care®'s e-learning course launched in April of 2017 and is available through [Healthy Housing Solutions](#) (HHS)! This 3 hour online course, which includes 13 modules, is engaging and interactive. Learners will discover how children are exposed to chemicals in their everyday environments - home, school and early learning settings, and why these exposures are concerning. This course is ideal for providers, parents/caregivers, school administrators, nurses, child care licensing professionals, and anyone interested in protecting children from environmental hazards commonly found in early learning environments. The e-learning course has been designed to ensure that the curriculum content can be quickly and easily digested, and a certificate of completion is available for those who complete and pass all modules. Upon course completion, learners will be equipped with best practices for implementing easy and realistic changes to improve the environmental health of settings where children spend the majority of their time. EHCC looks forward to partnering with [ProSolutions](#), one of the primary e-learning hubs for early childhood education to also offer the course. More than forty-five states recognize ProSolutions courses and offer adult learning clock hour credit.

## NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY ACTION (NAPECA)

With the goal to address environmental health concerns locally and to directly support communities across North America, CEHN's EHCC program was awarded funding from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) under the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) program. Within the purview of this 18-month grant, the entire EHCC Train the Trainer (TtT) curriculum was translated into Spanish. Additionally, EHCC's 5-hour TtT session was delivered to child care professionals in U.S.-Mexico Border States: Arizona and California.



Arizona was excited to offer the EHCC training to their child care professionals in November of 2016. [First Things First](#), a section of Arizona's Department of Education, hosted the training in Phoenix, AZ and 36 individuals attended. The mission of *First Things First* is to "create a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health and early education of all Arizona's children birth through age five". The training was so well received, that the Director of Arizona's statewide Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) asked that EHCC staff return to conduct another training. In March of 2017, 59 QRIS program assessors from around the state met in Phoenix to take the 5-hour EHCC TtT. The second training in Arizona was funded by Quality First. Quality First is a signature program of First Things First and partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona.

EHCC also conducted a training in California. In June of 2017, EHCC staff delivered the 5-hour Train the Trainer course to 49 participants in Sacramento, CA. The attendees varied from trainers, to health/nurse consultants to child care licensing staff. EHCC worked closely with staff from the California Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network to ensure the training was a success.





## OUTREACH THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA - PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT SERIES

The Eco-Healthy Child Care® Provider Spotlight Series launched in the fall of 2016. The series showcases a sampling of child care programs that have gone above and beyond the best practice suggestions listed within the Eco-Healthy Child Care® Checklist. Programs are recognized for their commitment to protecting the health and well-being of the children within their care. Child care providers that are highlighted in the Eco-Healthy Child Care® Provider Spotlight Series are identified by nominations and EHCC site assessments. EHCC staff conduct informational interviews with a sampling of EHCC endorsed facilities that are nominated by child health advocates and fellow child care providers. Each Spotlight is featured via EHCC's monthly emails, on the CEHN website, and on our [EHCC Facebook page](#).

## EHCC CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

CEHN staff presented at 11 national, regional, and state conferences between 6/2016 – 7/2017:

- ◆ National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, San Antonio, TX - June 2016
- ◆ The BUILD Initiative 2016 Quality Rating and Improvement System National Meeting, New Orleans, LA - July 2016
- ◆ National Association for Regulatory Administration Annual Licensing Conference, Portland, OR - September 2016
- ◆ National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference and Expo, Los Angeles, CA - November 2016
- ◆ Maryland Head Start Association Conference, Columbia, MD - November 2016
- ◆ Kentucky Children's Environmental Health Summit, Florence, KY - December 2016 \**Keynote*
- ◆ National Council for Science and the Environment Conference, Washington, DC - January 2017
- ◆ Office of Head Start Winter TTA Professional Development and Head Start Collaboration Meeting, Washington, D.C. – March 2017
- ◆ National Association for the Education of Young Children Professional Learning Institute, San Francisco, CA - June 2017
- ◆ National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, Grand Rapids, MI - July 2016
- ◆ National Association for Family Child Care Conference Annual Conference, Mobile, AL - July 2017



## EHCC LEADERSHIP

CEHN staff members chair the EHCC National Advisory Committee (NAC) and the EHCC Science Task Force. Since 2008, the EHCC NAC has ensured the growth, development, and rapid adoption of the EHCC program. Leaders of both state and national child care agencies and national children's environmental health organizations comprise this committee, including: Child Care Aware of America, The National Association for the Education of Young Children, The National Association for Regulatory Administration, The National Association for Family Child Care, and the Environmental Law Institute, among others. EHCC's Science Task Force, a committee of eight nationally renowned pediatricians, toxicologists, and other children's environmental health experts, advise the EHCC curriculum with regard to the latest scientific research.



# PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH POLICY

Protecting the health of children, and the environments where they live, learn and play, through policy is an important aspect of CEHN's work. The past year brought unprecedented challenges – including attacks on science, proposed and real cuts to important Federal agencies and programs, rollbacks to climate and clean air legislation, weakened TSCA implementation, and concerns over Federal leadership positions. CEHN and partners persevered – working hard together to uphold child protective policies and programs and to defend science.



## COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURING CLEAN AIR

As a member of the Healthy Air Coalition (led by the American Lung Association) CEHN signed onto numerous letters and joined several activities on Capitol Hill in support of clean air and climate mitigation policies, and in opposition to rollbacks to the clean power plan, methane rule and more. CEHN joined a long list of major medical and health groups and signed onto a Declaration on Climate and Health. CEHN also partnered with Mom's Clean Air Force on a climate action play-in on Capitol Hill, joined the US Climate and Health Alliance, and became a partner in APHA's year of climate and health.



## FOSTERING HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES - YEAR 5

CEHN completed a 5-year (2011 – 2016) Health in All Policies (HiAP) cooperative agreement in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) entitled “Healthier Environments in Child Care Technical Assistance Initiative”. During the fifth and final year, CEHN’s Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) program focused on providing technical assistance and capacity building to advance environmental health best practices in child care settings (the same focus as in years 3 and 4). CEHN collaborated with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI).

NAEYC, a 501(c)(3), national accreditation body for child care providers, has over 80,000 members and over 7,000 early childhood programs accredited nationwide. During Year 5 of this cooperative agreement, CEHN supported NAEYC’s Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation team in developing a process/protocol for reviewing and updating NAEYC’s Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria.

During this process, NAEYC expanded upon the original 14 existing accreditation standard criteria (which included 28 indicators) and created 4 entirely new criteria. At the completion of this project, 31 *new* indicators were generated. Guidance and other ancillary resources were also expanded. NAEYC received final approval from their Council on Accreditation to release the new and updated accreditation standards in April 2017. Throughout the collaborative project, NAEYC communicated the initiative to over 27,000 stakeholders and members by: publicizing and hosting a CEHN webinar; and featuring a series of 6 environmental health articles in NAEYC’s monthly accreditation e-Update.

Additional accomplishments included the development of a bibliography of resources and references for environmental health practices relevant to child care programs. This bibliography offers research citations from the past 10 years supporting environmental health practices. Undoubtedly, this document will help child care facilities in making informed decisions about creating and maintaining healthy environments for children as they strive

to comply with the new accreditation requirements. A state by state document on federally regulated and state regulated environmental health best practices was also developed. This document will support NAEYC members and assessors in knowing which environmental health practices are monitored and maintained through federal, state and/or local agencies.

The [Environmental Law Institute](#) is an internationally recognized, non-partisan research and education center working to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide. ELI and CEHN conducted informational interviews with state licensing representatives in Arizona, Colorado and Maryland to assess what types of resources and technical assistance are most helpful in strengthening state policies on environmental health in child care. As a follow-up to these interviews, CEHN shared resources from the Eco-Healthy Child Care® program and as well as those of our partners.

The “Healthier Environments in Child Care Technical Assistance Initiative” activities were supported by Cooperative Agreement number EH11-1110 through the CDC.

### *National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education*

The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC), a nationally known and trusted resource for the early care and education community, worked with CEHN to create an Environmental Health Standards collection in 2014. The collection, entitled *Caring for Our Children: Environmental Health in Early Care and Education*, includes approximately 123 nationally recognized health and safety standards that have the greatest impact on environmental health in early care and education settings. These materials and the associated 8 Appendices are a subset of materials available in *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 3rd Edition (CFOC3)*.

In September 2016, with CEHN’s assistance, the NRC released the revision of 18 Environmental Health standards in the [CFOC3 database](#) (hyperlinks available below).

[3.1.3.3: Protection from Air Pollution While Children Are Outside](#)

[3.2.1.4: Diaper Changing Procedure](#)

[3.2.1.5: Procedure for Changing Children’s Soiled Underwear/Pull-Ups and Clothing](#)

[3.2.2.1: Situations That Require Hand Hygiene](#)

[3.3.0.1: Routine Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting](#) – revisions made to rationale and comments only

[4.2.0.11: Ingestion of Substances that Do Not Provide Nutrition](#)

[4.3.1.3: Preparing, Feeding, and Storing Human Milk](#)

[4.3.1.5: Preparing, Feeding, and Storing Infant Formula](#)

[4.3.1.9: Warming Bottles and Infant Foods](#)



[4.5.0.3: Activities that Are Incompatible with Eating](#)

[5.1.1.2: Inspection of Buildings](#) – revision made to rationale and comments only

[5.1.1.5: Environmental Audit of Site Location](#)

[5.2.1.1: Ensuring Access to Fresh Air Indoors](#)

[5.2.1.6: Ventilation to Control Odors](#)

[5.2.9.11: Chemicals Used to Control Odors](#)

[5.2.9.12: Treatment of CCA Pressure-Treated Wood](#)

[7.5.8.1: Attendance of Children with Head Lice](#)

[9.2.3.1: Policies and Practices that Promote Physical Activity](#)



## **ADVOCATING FOR SAFER PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS**

As a foundation for work on toxics, CEHN finalized and posted a toxics policy statement. CEHN was invited and joined USCF's Reproductive and Environmental Program Rapid Response Network. The network includes many prominent researchers and environmental health professionals and is focused on defending the science that supports children's environmental health. Through the RRN, CEHN submitted comments on EPA and Regulatory Reform in strong support of children's environmental health protections across the agency as well as within TSCA. CEHN also submitted comments on TSCA's New Chemicals Review Program expressing strong support of the program in protecting children's health.

## ZIKA

Through the Zika Coalition, led by March of Dimes, CEHN signed on to numerous letters in support of funding for protection and preparedness from the Zika virus. In September 2016, a funding package for Zika preparedness was passed -- a big victory for public health. Since then, proposed federal agency budget cuts threaten preparedness efforts as well as much needed research.



## SUPPORTING FEDERAL FUNDING AND PROGRAMS

*Appropriations:* CEHN worked with the CDC coalition, Friends of NIEHS and other groups on letters in support of appropriations that support children's health and safety.

*Hill Visits:* CEHN's Executive Director, with Project TENDR (Targeting Environmental Neurodevelopmental Risks) made visits to 10 Congressional offices promoting the need to end childhood lead poisoning once and for all and supporting EPA's budget. Needs, especially the Offices of Child Health Protection, Air, and Water.

*Congressional Briefings:* CEHN co-sponsored a briefing the first day of our Research Conference (April) with UCSF. The focus of the Briefing was to review major protections to children because of EPA's regulations. In May, CEHN co-sponsored a briefing with the American Lunch Association, the Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment and the American Public Health Association that focused on protecting the Clean Air Act and EPA's needed budget. Also in May, CEHN participated in Project TENDR's briefing on the National Childhood Lead Prevention Strategy, as outlined in the new publication by Project TENDR in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

*American Public Health Association:* CEHN co-lead the writing of two policies submitted to the American Public Health Association, which were passed. One policy has a general children's environmental health focus while the other is focused on protecting children in schools and child care facilities.



## CHILDREN AND LEAD EXPOSURE

In the aftermath of the Flint lead in drinking water crisis, 25 diverse organizations have come together to form the [Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative](#) (“Collaborative”). The Collaborative’s goal is to accelerate full removal of the lead pipes providing drinking water to millions of American homes. Collaborative members include national public health, water utility, environmental, labor, consumer, housing, and state and local governmental organizations.

In January 2017, the Collaborative released an online toolkit to help communities voluntarily develop and implement lead service line (LSL) removal programs. The Collaborative’s toolkit includes a roadmap for getting started, suggested practices to identify and remove LSLs in a safe, equitable, and cost-effective manner, policies to consider to support local efforts, and links to additional resources that may be helpful when developing local programs. The Collaborative is currently seeking feedback on its toolkit, particularly from communities who are engaged or interested in LSL replacement initiatives.

The Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN) has served on the Collaborative Steering Committee since 2016. Tools developed and made available for communities and interested lay and professional audiences include a website that provides a roadmap for full LSL replacement, and information on replacement practices and policies and funding examples from across the country. Several webinars, conference presentations, and other outreach efforts and events have also helped to bring awareness of the LSLRC toolkit to interested communities.

Resources are geared to parents, public health professionals, community members, and elected officials, and emphasis is intentionally focused on matters of accessibility and health equity. Several resources are currently undergoing translation in Spanish.

Read more about the [Collaborative](#).



# PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST—A NATIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION



## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY

Despite a better understanding about the connection between environment and health and the unique vulnerabilities of children to these impacts, the health of children today is no better than it was a decade or more ago. Further, children from families with low incomes, and children of color, experience multiple health stressors and exposures, and as a result face an increased risk for poor health outcomes.



In 2015 CEHN, together with children's environmental health advocates, partners, and leaders, developed a new proactive vision and framework for children's environmental health for the 21st century, [A Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action](#). The Blueprint emphasizes urgent action to make children's health a priority for our nation. It outlines the steps that are necessary for progress towards protecting children's environmental health, and for developing a solid foundation to support future commitments moving forward.



A key priority action item from the Blueprint is the development of a children's environmental health (CEH) movement to put these critical issues in the forefront of the national consciousness and decision-making, with a particular focus on action and equity. CEHN is uniquely positioned to lead in the creation of the CEH Movement, and has initiated efforts towards this end.

The CEH Movement, titled: #ChildrenAtTheCenter would operate under the following Goals:

- 1) Increase awareness and understanding of children's environmental health among key audiences
- 2) Mobilize action on children's environmental health issues
- 3) Establish/expand the community and network of partners working on children's environmental health issues

The first key element of the movement CEHN spearheaded was the establishment of Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day (observed the 2nd Thursday every October which is Children's Health Month)

The CEH Day goals are:

- 1) To serve as a day of recognition and action
  - a. A day for organizations, communities, and individuals to spread awareness and to participate in activities that highlight and promote children's environmental health
- 2) To serve as the anchoring event for the CEH Movement
  - a. A day for leaders in the field to celebrate recent achievements and to announce new initiatives
  - b. A day for to track new progress on CEH issues year to year
  - c. A day to attract and engage new partners

CEH Day is intended as a day of raising awareness and of motivating society to advocate for child protective policies and practices and to take action themselves in creating healthier environments for children and promoting wellness. The Day is also intended to create a strong network of advocates, including a more connected and vibrant CEH community. Finally, CEH Day is meant as a Day to anchor the Movement, **#ChildrenAtTheCenter**.

The inaugural CEH Day began with a breakfast event that was attended by approximately 70 CEH champions, a capacity crowd at Busboys & Poets. Images from the event are available [here](#).

In addition to the morning's event, CEHN established an online presence for CEH Day, to serve as a precursor to a larger hub for the CEH community. Visitors to the CEH Day webpage were asked to endorse the Day, and over 100 endorsements from individuals were received.

CEHN also hosted a robust 30 minute CEH Day Twitter chat (#CEHchat) in the afternoon. Chat partners and promoters included EHP online, EHP Journal, EPA Research, CDC Environment, NIEHS, Mom's Clean Air Force, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the Endocrine Society, Black Millennials for Flint, and the American Lung Association.

CEHN looks forward to continuing to improve on and grow CEH Day and the CEH Movement, thereby nurturing a powerful, unified voice of CEH professionals, researchers, decision makers, educators, parents, community leaders, and youth committed to healthy environments, healthy children, and a healthy future for all.



### CANCER FREE ECONOMY NETWORK

CEHN continues to serve on the Steering Committee and as the co-lead for the Health/Science Node of the Cancer Free Economy Network (CFEN) along with the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and the Silent Spring Institute. The CFEN was formed to consider the systems changes needed to create an equitable shift from toxic chemicals that cause cancer toward cancer prevention to decrease cancer and long-term illness prevalence in our society over a generation (The North Star Goal). The CFEN is organized into three key focus areas: shifting the market, changing the story around cancer, and organizing/ movement building to be inclusive of groups and communities that may not have the opportunity to otherwise engage.

The Health/Science node currently has priority projects focused on:

- Providing accurate health and science information to all CFEN organizations and nodes and cultivating different voices and platforms to talk about the role that toxics play in today's cancer burden and potential solutions.

- Identifying and engaging with both cancer focused organizations and health focused organizations to listen and collaborate on shared priorities around cancer, primary prevention, and environmental carcinogenesis
- Serving and helping to build the Cancer-Free Economy Network so that it can attract and add value to organizations working to reduce the use of toxic chemicals and scale safer alternatives
- Bring new power to toxics use reduction/development of safer alternatives by activating health and cancer-focused scientists, leaders and constituencies, including those disproportionately exposed and impacted--a "champions" strategy--in work towards the North Star goal
- Changing the story of cancer research and advancing an expanded cancer prevention research agenda

CEHN serves as the administrator for the Health/Science node where work continues to engage health professional and cancer-focused organizations, support and leverage available cancer prevention science, and provide technical assistance to a variety of current and future partners.

### ATSDR CHILD CARE SAFE SITING INITIATIVE

In November of 2015, CEHN's staff attended a formal 'Safe Siting' stakeholders meeting hosted by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) in Washington, DC. Since that meeting, ATSDR has worked to develop comprehensive guidance for states as they consider the development and adoption of strategies for ensuring that child care facilities are located in safe places. Careful consideration of the location of an ECE program, including an investigation of the site's previous or current uses, can help prevent a new ECE program from opening in a building that once housed toxic chemicals that were never thoroughly cleaned. Health departments, and environmental departments, can play a central role in ensuring that safe places are chosen for new ECE facilities. State health departments can also work to ensure that existing ECE facilities are safely located and that environmental hazards are addressed so that children are protected.

In May of 2017, CEHN staff were invited to participate in a meeting at the CDC Headquarters in Atlanta, GA with ATSDR employees as well as ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) grantees from 25 different state health departments. This long-standing CDC cooperative agreement gives states resources and guidance to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving exposure to hazardous substances in the environment. CEHN staffers presented on Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) program projects, training materials and resources that have been created and successfully implemented in an effort to best support child care professionals in

protecting the environmental health and well-being of young children in child care settings. The purpose of this invitation was to introduce CEHN and the EHCC program to the APPLE-TREE grantees as part of planning to launch technical assistance work with the state grantees.

At the end of this report coverage period, CEHN was awarded a grant to work with the above partners. CEHN's Eco-Healthy Child Care® program, the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) look forward to working with ATSDR state grantee health departments to ensure that ECE facilities are safely located and environmental hazards are addressed.

## 11th Annual Child Health Advocate Awards Reception

CEHN's [11th Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception](#) took place on the evening of Thursday, October 13th, at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, DC. This was the first year that CEHN presented its Policy Award under its new name, the Carol Stroebel Health Policy Award, in honor of last year's recipient, Carol Stroebel, a devoted advocate for children's health and former CEHN Director of Training and Policy, who sadly passed away in January, 2016.

The event brought together guests, friends, and longtime supporters of the network to honor five deserving individuals for their impressive contributions to the field of children's environmental health.

**Science Award:** Dr. David Bellinger, Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

**Carol Stroebel Health Policy Award:** Dr. John Balbus, Senior Advisor for Public Health at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



**Child Health Advocate Award:** Dr. Gail Christopher, Senior Advisor and Vice President at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Community Award:** Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Director of Hurley Children's Hospital's Pediatric Residency Program

**Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award:** Ms. Nidhi Bhaskar, founder of Project-NBYOUTH



As part of our Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception program we also highlighted one of our Eco-Healthy Child Care® endorsed providers for their commitment to providing healthy environments for children. Terri Harding-Campbell, Director of Fingerprints Child Development Center, a Bright Horizons Family Solutions center in Washington, DC, was recognized this year.

At the reception, Ms. Harding-Campbell shared thoughts on her dedication to protecting the health and development of children in her care, and her devotion to providing children the opportunity to grow and learn in a safe environment.

**CEHN's generous award event sponsors included:** Richard and Suzanna Finnell, Jerry and Gwen Paulson, Leslie Fields, Laura Anderko, Brenda and Muhammad Afzal, Scott and Emily Afzal, David Bellinger, Rebecca Dzubow, Erik Olson, Paul and Elizabeth Locke, Richard Liroff, Sally Darney, John Balbus, Kathy Sykes, James and Jennifer Roberts, Crystal Romeo Upperman, Lynn Goldman, Mona Sarfaty, Ruth Etzel, Janice Nolan, Kathy Sykes, Kourtney and Terrence Whitehead and Rebecca Rehr. Thank you to all! Pictures from the event can be found here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskFAAVbn>



Terri Harding-Campbell, Director of Fingerprints Child Development Center and Hester Paul, Eco-Healthy Child Care® National Director



*CEHN Executive Director, Nsedu Obot Witherspoon presents Dr. Gail Christopher with the Child Health Advocate Award*

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## INCOME

### Grants

Government/Federal - \$81,996

Foundations -\$676,138

Corporations - \$40,000

Contributions -\$11,229

Research Conference -\$49,618

Program Fees - \$15,595

FY 2016 Carry Over = \$11,000

**Total Income = \$885,576**

## EXPENSES

Personnel/Labor Personnel - \$350,838

Fringe Benefits - \$58,387

Payroll Taxes -\$26,577

Professional/Consultant Fees -\$30,576

Program Expenses - \$185,521

Travel -\$32,024

Insurance - \$3,908

Rent -\$57,073

Utilities -\$450

Phone -\$5,606

Equipment Rental -\$6,497

Postage/Delivery - \$3,168

Printing & Reproduction -\$8,869

Computer/Web Services -\$6,898

Office Supplies -\$3,009

Research Conference - \$101,211

**Total Expenses = \$937,700**

**Net Income = -\$52,124**

\* Net income amount reflects timing of incoming grant cycles. Majority of CEHN's grants post over the summer and fall months.