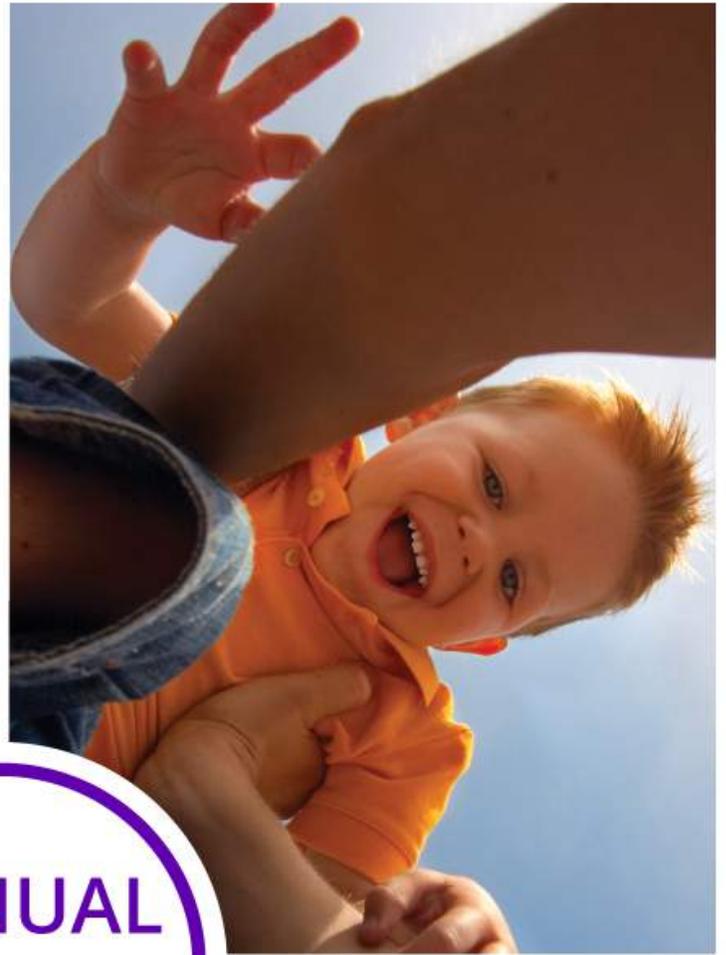




**CHILDREN'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015**

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# MESSAGE FROM NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON CEHN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



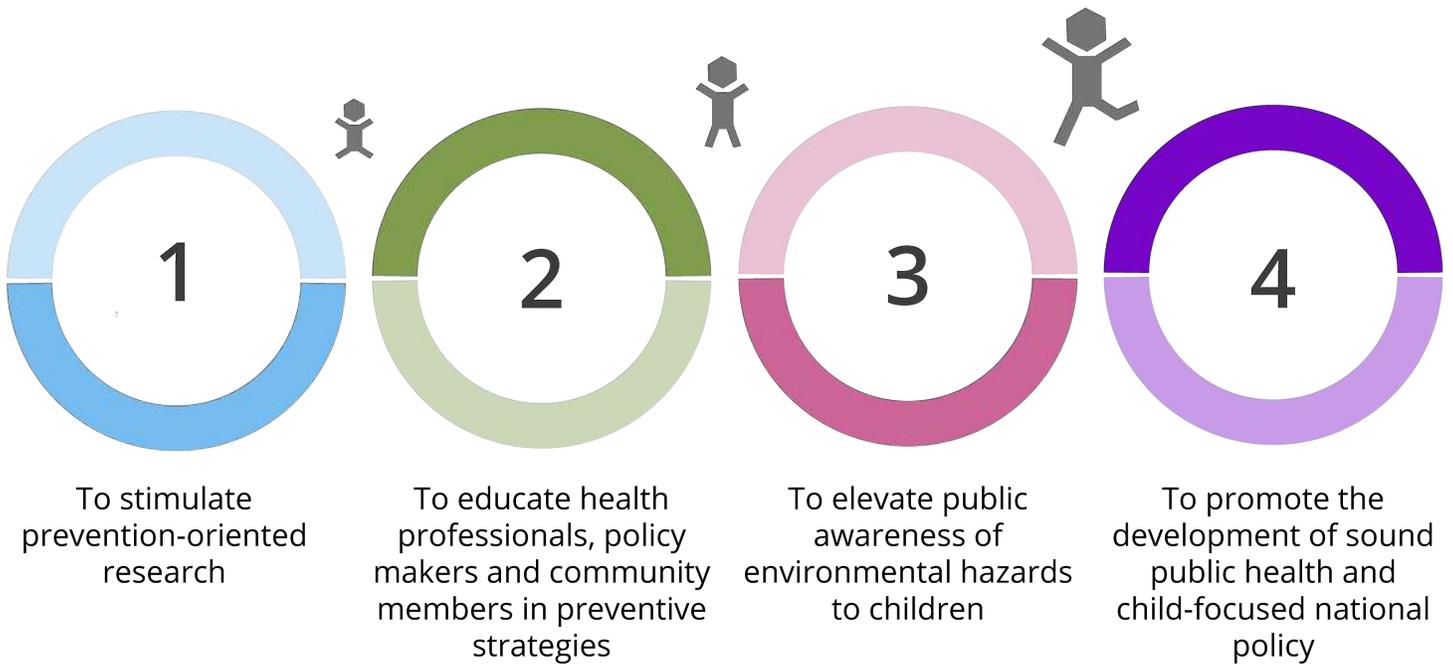
CEHN's vital efforts to protect children's environmental health continue to gain momentum in key areas. In addition to our important program work (outlined throughout this Annual Report) CEHN completed a number of milestone events in 2015 that were key to advancing our mission to protect children's health. Last October, CEHN hosted a monumental Wingspread Summit that brought together key leaders representing various disciplines. The goal of this Summit was to consider how we can better protect children's health from environmental hazards. Out of the Summit came a renewed Vision Statement and an outline for what is now the Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action. In February, CEHN hosted our 2015 Pediatric Research Conference, titled "Children: Food and the Environment", in Austin, TX. This unique event facilitated discussions regarding emerging science and related public health practice and policy implications. In May, CEHN co-hosted a Climate Forum with American University. This Forum focused on children's environmental health and economic implications related to climate change. CEHN is also very proud of the work we have begun as Co-Chair for the Collaborative Network for a Cancer-Free Economy. This effort is working to leverage peer-reviewed environmental health science as a foundation for preventive strategies that can be utilized by the general public to reduce cancer diagnoses and other illnesses.

As far as leadership transitions, CEHN is very appreciative for the 7 years of incredible service that Dr. Cynthia Bearer provided as Board Chair. In May, Cynthia stepped down from this position and Dr. James Roberts filled the CEHN Board Chair role. Dr. J. Routt Reigart, Founding Board Chair for CEHN, rotated off the CEHN Board after 20 years of dedicated service and now serves on the Advisory Board. New Board member, Kourtney Whitehead was also welcomed to the CEHN Board. Among the CEHN staff, our beloved Carol Stroebel had to transition from her role as National Training and Policy Director to focus on her health needs and Robin Joseph was brought onto the team as our new Eco-Healthy Child Care® Engagement Manager.

This year, CEHN also re-established our Education Committee. CEHN now has Science, Policy, and Education Committees to provide additional guidance and advisory capacity to our staff and Board. Members of those committees can be found on the CEHN website ([www.cehn.org](http://www.cehn.org)).

As always, we very much appreciate all of the incredible support provided to CEHN throughout 2015! While we, collectively, are making progress in the lives of many children, there is more than enough work to still do! Onward...

# 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 implications and importance are summarized.

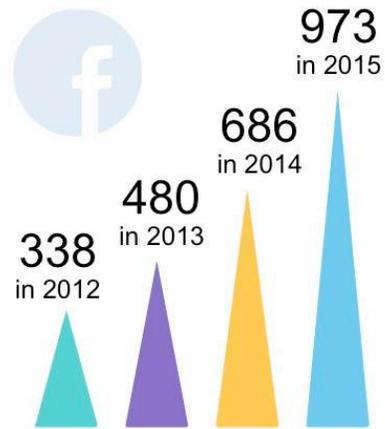
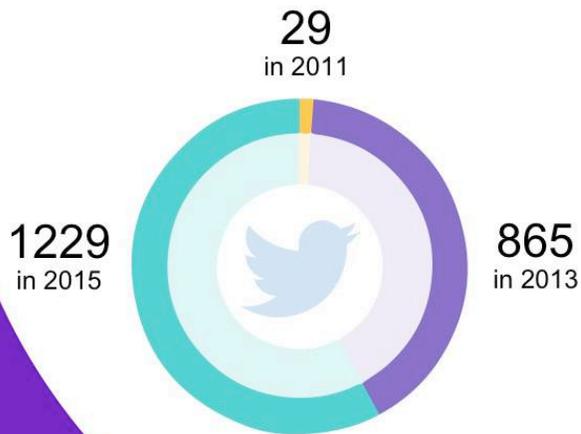
Each Article of the Month is posted at the beginning of the month on CEHN's web site, <http://www.cehn.org/resources/articlesofthemonth> and promoted through CEHN listservs, e-mail mailing lists, and social media outlets.



# OUR GROWING COMMUNITY

Twitter Followers

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## **FORUM: THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH**

On May 11th, CEHN, the Center for Environmental Policy at American University's School of Public Affairs, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars co-hosted a half day forum: *The Social and Economic Costs of Climate Change on Children's Health: What Do We Know and What Can We Do?* The forum included two panels of experts and over 60 attendees from multiple sectors and backgrounds to discuss the impact of climate change on children's health. These discussions provided a necessary foundation to develop recommendations regarding the preparation for and mitigation of climate change.

The discussion began with welcoming remarks and introductions from Sandeep Bathala, of the Environmental Change and Security Program, Maternal Health Initiative, at the Wilson Center; Dr. Daniel Fiorino, Director of the Center for Environmental Policy at American University's School of Public Affairs; and William K. Reilly, former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Senior Advisor to TPG Global, LLC.

The first panel, moderated by Nsedu Witherspoon, was titled: "Impacts of Climate Change on Children's Health". This panel included: Dr. Sylvia Brandt (University of Massachusetts), Dr. Pat Breyse (National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry), Ms. Lisa Palmer (Woodrow Wilson Center), and Dr. Leonardo Trasande (New York University School of Medicine). The four panelists discussed children's unique vulnerabilities to adverse health effects, innovative research on climate change, and children's environmental health intersections. Panelists also discussed missing pieces of the economic analysis of children's health in the face of climate change.

The second panel, entitled: “What Can We Do to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change on Children’s Health”, was moderated by Dr. Fiorino. Throughout this panel discussion, the four panelists provided insight on successes and challenges regarding climate change preparation and mitigation. Panelists included: Dr. Ruth Etzel (EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection), Ms. Lisa Brown (National Association of County and City Health Officials), Ms. Leslie Fields (Sierra Club’s Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships), and Ms. Maaike Jansen (United Nations Environment Programme).





## DC CHILD CARE AIR ASSESSMENT PILOT STUDY

CEHN recently collaborated with the University Of Maryland School Of Public Health (UMSPH) at College Park and the University Of Maryland School Of Nursing (UMSN) at Baltimore to conduct an environmental assessment in 14 licensed child care centers located in the District of Columbia. The primary objectives of this study were 1) to quantify and characterize air pollutants (volatile organic compounds) across different child care facilities, and 2) to understand how air pollutants vary across different socioeconomic and neighborhood levels. Factors such as traffic density and presence of industries were also considered.

Each site visit consisted of a walkthrough of the facility, completion of an environmental health questionnaire, and collection of air samples in one area where children spent most of their time. Monitors collected air samples over a 10-hour period between 9:00AM and 9:00PM. Each center's VOC profile (represented by Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and o-xylene) and assessment report were shared with the center directors, and a manuscript is currently being drafted for publication. This pilot project resulted in a joint NIH R01 proposal submission with the UMSPH, College Park and UMSN Baltimore.



## 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, the program creates healthier environments in and around child care facilities. EHCC remains the sole self-directed 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.

The program goal is to prevent and reduce adverse health effects from exposure to: pesticides; lead; mercury; arsenic in treated wood and water; radon; mold and mildew; poor indoor air quality; and harmful chemicals in household or consumer products including plastics; furniture and carpets; cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products; and art supplies in child care facilities across the nation.



## **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 July 2014 and June 2015, CEHN staff offered five-hour EHCC TtT sessions to child care trainers, child care health consultants, licensing staff, and child care resource and referral staff in Texas and Nevada (two trainings were delivered in each state due to high interest). Since 2008, the EHCC TtT has been offered in 28 states: AK, AL, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NE, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, TX, VT, and WA. EHCC staff have trained 915 upper-level child care professionals using the EHCC TtT curriculum. We look forward to working with child care professionals in Illinois and Maryland in 2016. Additionally, the EHCC materials are now more accessible, as the EHCC checklist and 16 fact sheets have been translated into Spanish.

## **EHCC MILESTONES AND COLLABORATION**

### **Non-Regulatory Initiatives and Programs**

EHCC staff continue to research individual state Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRISs) to learn how curriculum is chosen for inclusion and how programs are referenced. The entire EHCC program has been incorporated into PA's highly-regarded *Keystone Stars* QRIS. As a result, using EHCC as a foundation, PA agencies have generated draft policies and reference pages (referencing the relevant PA Department of Public Welfare Child Care Regulations and related standards from [Caring for Our Children: National Health & Safety Performance Standards \(3rd Edition\)](#) that address all 30 items on the [Eco-Healthy Child Care<sup>®</sup>](#) checklist. PA child care providers are encouraged by the state to participate in the EHCC program.

Maryland has determined that they will work to incorporate the EHCC program into their state QRIS. Maryland plans to offer an "Eco-Friendly" badge for licensed child care facilities through their *Maryland Excels Eco-Friendly Achievement Program*. Within their new *Excels* program, a child care facility will have the opportunity to attain a badge for meeting the criteria of one of four eco-friendly endorsements or

certificates. The four program options will include: Children's Environmental Health Network's EHCC Program, the National Arbor Foundation "Nature Explore" Program, the National Wildlife Federation "Eco-School Program", and the Maryland Green School Program.

Vermont is interested in following suit. [Informed Green Solutions](#) has been tasked by key child care stakeholders with drafting a plan for incorporating environmental health into Vermont's QRIS. Similar to the plan for Maryland, Vermont would like to offer an extra achievement for child care providers who meet the criteria of EHCC. We aim to continue using these modes and lessons learned to support other states in the same manner.

### **On-line Curriculum Development**

CEHN is currently working with a design and development firm to put EHCC's 5-hour curriculum online. It is anticipated that EHCC's five-hour in-person TtT course will be distilled into approximately 2 ½ hours of on-line learning. The e-learning course will be available to everyone, but is designed for child care professionals. The course is broken into 13 small modules; to date, all 13 modules have been developed and are undergoing review by CEHN staff and select committees of scientific, child care, and communication experts. Feedback will be synthesized and incorporated into the modules. The completion goal date for this project is spring of 2016.



### **Expanded Training Partnerships**

EHCC has formed a strong partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH). NCHH is a premier provider of healthy homes/healthy indoor environment trainings in the U.S. for public health and housing professionals. NCHH has developed curricula for 10 different, successful and well-regarded trainings. Instead of creating another training on protecting children from environmental health hazards, NCHH chose to adopt the EHCC curriculum. Their 56 training partners across the nation can now routinely offer the EHCC training.



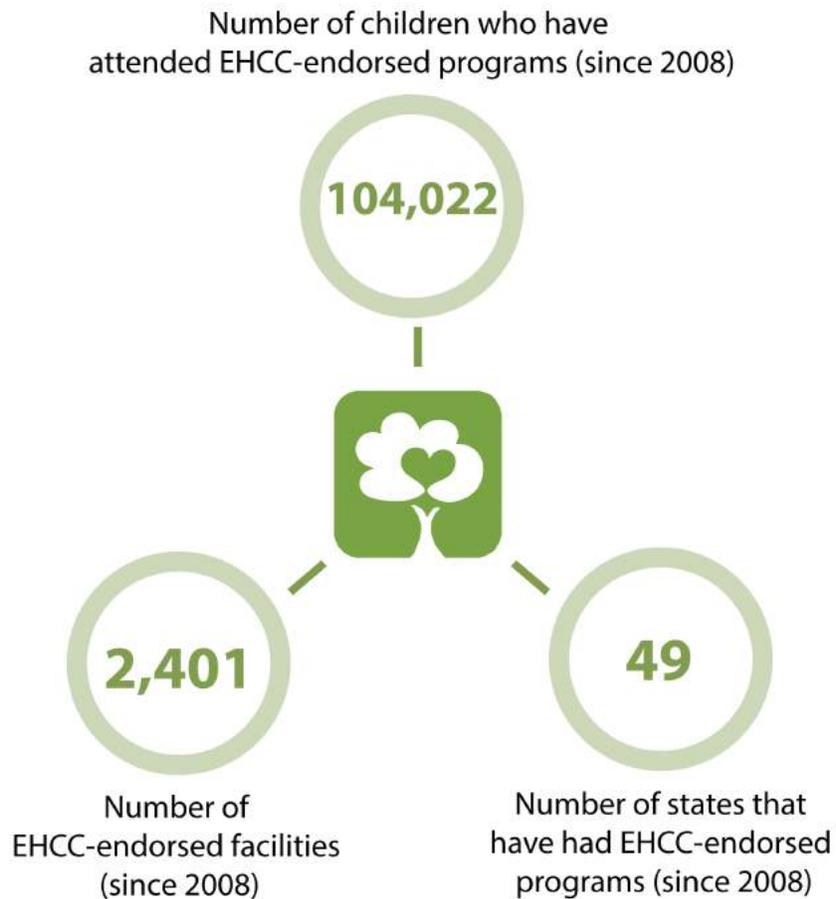
## **Environmental Health in Child Care State Policies Report**

CEHN collaborated with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) to advance environmental health (EH) policies for child care. This project, funded by the Kresge Foundation, included the creation and dissemination of a report offering a comprehensive review of state child care EH policies and related non-regulatory activities across the United States. The report, *Reducing Environmental Exposures in Child Care Facilities: A Review of State Policy*, (released 1/2015) addresses several key indoor environmental quality (IEQ) issues in licensed child care facilities – secondhand smoke, radon, carbon monoxide alarms, mold and dampness, ventilation and temperature, pesticides, lead-based paint, asbestos, other chemical exposures, and site/location hazards. For each issue, the report provides an overview of current policy, highlights examples of policy strategies for states to consider, and describes notable non-regulatory initiatives that are being implemented by state agencies. The report is designed for policymakers, agency officials, non-governmental organizations and associations, and others who work to promote quality child care and advance children’s health. Download the report here: <http://www.eli.org/buildings/reducing-environmental-exposures-child-care-facilities>.

## **EVALUATION AND PUBLICATION**

Evaluation is a key element of the EHCC program. We continually assess the impact of our work, as we strive to improve the program’s reach and effectiveness in educating child care professionals and in guiding them towards the adoption of environmental health best practices. To this end, CEHN has been working with researchers at the University Of Maryland School Of Nursing to evaluate the effectiveness of our educational efforts by analyzing data collected from EHCC’s Train-the-Trainer (TtT) sessions’ pre- and post-tests in five previous expansion states (FL, ID, KS, TX, and VT). Analysis of the data revealed that a half-day training program on environmental hazards in the child care setting can significantly improve knowledge for upper-level individuals (trainers, licensing staff and health/nurse consultants) in the child care industry. More than 99% of participants of the EHCC TtT reported that they would recommend that their colleagues take the training! To assess our reach and effectiveness with regard to child care

providers' practices and actions, we analyzed completed endorsement checklists submitted by child care programs seeking EHCC endorsement. Forty states plus one US territory, three Canadian territories, and two locations in Australia were represented in the data. Analysis revealed that 70% of the providers seeking endorsement had an 80% or higher compliance rate with our checklist of best practices. In addition, all but ten checklist items were implemented by 90% of the programs. The *Journal of Environmental Health* published our article on the latter study, "[Evaluation of the Children's Environmental Health Network's Environmental Stewardship Checklist Responses](#)", in March 2015.



## **EHCC CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

EHCC staff presented at 10 national, regional, and state conferences during this year.

Conferences (7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015)

- ▶ **National Environmental Health Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV – July 2014**
- ▶ **National Association of School Nurses, San Antonio, TX – July 2014 (\*keynote)**
- ▶ **National Association for Regulatory Administration Licensing Seminar, Orlando, FL – September 2014**
- ▶ **American Public Health Association, New Orleans, LA - November 2014**
- ▶ **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference and Expo, Dallas, TX – November 2014**
- ▶ **University of Rochester, Rochester, NY – February 2015**
- ▶ **National Head Start Association, Washington, DC – April 2015**
- ▶ **National Lead and Healthy Housing Conference, Orlando, FL – April 2015**
- ▶ **Association for Early Learning Leaders, St. Louis, MO – April 2015**
- ▶ **NAEYC National Institute, New Orleans, LA – June 2015 (collaboration with PA's QRIS Keystone Stars)**



## 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 Head Start Association, and the U.S. EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection, among others. Committee members review materials to ensure appropriate content, provide advice on how to conduct effective outreach, and make sure that the program is culturally sensitive. EHCC’s Science Task Force, a committee of eight nationally renowned pediatricians, toxicologists, and other children’s environmental health experts, provide advice on the EHCC curriculum with regard to the latest scientific research.

## PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH POLICY

To ensure that children have safe and healthy environments in which they can grow, learn, and play (including clean water to drink, quality air to breathe, and nutritious, affordable food to eat), health-protective policies must be implemented at federal, state, and local levels. Unfortunately, children’s vulnerabilities and developmental trajectories are rarely considered when decision-makers write laws, regulations, standards, and other policies that impact children. Policy-makers also routinely fail to consider children’s unique behaviors and environments, which subsequently exposes children to higher levels of environmental chemicals compared to adults. This year, CEHN continued its work to educate decision-makers about the unique vulnerabilities of children and to advocate for child-health-protective policies and programs. CEHN strives to create safe and healthy environments in which all children can thrive.



## COMBATting CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURING CLEAN AIR

As highlighted by several key reports released this past year (including the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Assessment and the Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change in June 2015), climate change is one of the leading public health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. CEHN agrees with the scientific consensus that climate change is happening and that it is causing significant impacts on children's health. This year, CEHN engaged in numerous endeavors to combat climate change, to support cleaner air, and to establish CEHN as a national leader on climate change and children's health.

CEHN joined healthy air partners and signed on to several letters in support of clean air regulations and climate mitigation, such as support of USEPA's Clean Power Plan and health professionals' letter on ozone regulations. In association with these sign-on letters, CEHN leadership participated in several key meetings with the Administration and participated in the White House summit on climate change and public health. CEHN also signed onto the American Public Health Association's (APHA's) climate and public health infrastructure bill, and drafted and submitted comments on a key draft federal report on health and climate change (led by the United States Global Climate Change Research Program) - highlighting the unique vulnerabilities of children and supporting research.

CEHN recognizes that the struggle over climate change will likely be an ongoing issue, and that CEHN's leadership is vital to preserving global health. As such, CEHN released an updated policy statement on climate change and children's health in October 2015, as one of several activities to observe Children's Health Month.



## FOSTERING HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

The Children's Environmental Health Network has a five-year (2011 – 2016) cooperative agreement, *Health in All Policies* (HiAP), through the CDC. In year four (10/2014 – 9/2015), CEHN focused on providing technical assistance and capacity building to advance best practices in environmental health in the child care setting (this was the same focus as in year 3), the "Healthier Environments in Child Care Technical Assistance Initiative". Three child care associations/organizations partnered with CEHN through this project. These include: the Association for Early Learning Leaders (AELL), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA).

AELL, a national accreditation body for child care providers, asked EHCC to assist with the continued revision of their accreditation standards. AELL's accreditation is available to center-based child care providers; currently, they accredit over 1,000 facilities within 40 states, Washington, D.C., and the Department of Defense overseas. During Year three of our HiAP cooperative agreement, AELL (in partnership with CEHN) worked to draft and incorporate new and updated environmental health accreditation standards and indicators reflecting all 30 of EHCC's checklist best practices. These draft standards were reviewed by AELL's Policy Committee and several external reviewers who are leaders in the field of children's environmental health within the child care setting. During year four, CEHN staff supported AELL in responding to the feedback and advice provided by the executive committees. Through this collaboration, four new standards and over 50 new indicators have been incorporated into all six of AELL's Component Areas! Additionally, 20 new glossary terms have been incorporated to support the new Standards and Indicators. Finally, EHCC staff traveled to Florida during August 2015 to train 13 of AELL's lead validators.

NAEYC, a national accreditation body for child care providers, identified three goals for this collaborative project: to update and expand NAEYC's environmental health content, reflecting current evidence-based

findings; to construct a bibliography of resources for environmental health practices relevant to child care programs; and to identify regulated environmental health practices. Using the EHCC checklist as a content framework, CEHN staff suggested content updates and additional new content, and NAEYC staff worked to best fit the revised content within NAEYC's existing standards, criteria, and guidance. As a result, all 14 existing NAEYC criteria related to environmental health were updated and expanded. Four additional new criteria were developed incorporating environmental health practices. NAEYC communicated the initiative to stakeholders in several ways. NAEYC publicized and hosted a CEHN webinar titled "Eco-Healthy Child Care<sup>®</sup>: Small Steps to Improve Children's Environmental Health". NAEYC also featured a series of six environmental health articles sent to 27,000 NAEYC subscriber/stakeholders who receive NAEYC's monthly accreditation e-Update. To meet the second goal, CEHN staff prepared a list of environmental health references and resources. The list included research citations from the past 10 years supporting environmental health practices and included secondary resources such as one-page information sheets that can be linked to NAEYC criteria in order to provide more detailed information to stakeholders needing additional guidance. The third goal was aimed at enhancing NAEYC's understanding of the regulatory environments supporting environmental health practices. Thus, CEHN staff prepared a document outlining current state and federal regulation, laws, and bans, on environmental health practices. Knowing which practices are monitored and maintained through federal, state or local agencies can help NAEYC focus on program improvement efforts on those environmental health practices that are newer, more challenging to meet, and/or not as likely to occur through force of law.

CEHN supported NARA, an international professional organization dedicated to promoting excellence in human care regulation and licensing, in crafting strategies and practices to better address environmental health through child care licensing. Several initiatives have resulted from this collaborative partnership (HiAP year three and year four): an 'Environmental Health' track (offering four sessions) on environmental issues in out of home care has been developed and will take place during the 2015/2016 NARA Licensing Seminar; goals pertaining to environmental health have been incorporated into NARA's Strategic Plan; a quarterly environmental health webinar series has been implemented; and an environmental resource center on the NARA website is being developed. The online environmental resource center is being targeted to both NARA members and non-members and it will go live in the fall of 2015.



## SUPPORTING FEDERAL FUNDING AND PROGRAMS

Federal agencies, offices, and programs that focus on children's health provide critical support and leadership on children's health across the country. Each year, many of these programs are in jeopardy of losing necessary funding and support. CEHN continues to champion these efforts on behalf children. This year, CEHN submitted testimony for the record to the House Labor/HHS and U.S. EPA Appropriations subcommittees in support of key offices and programs that focus on children. CEHN cosigned coalition letters circulated by Friends of NIEHS and Trust for America's Health to relevant House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of funding for programs especially important to children, such as lead and healthy housing and research centers.

In addition, the Network, along with hundreds of national, state, and local organizations, signed on to a NDD (Nondefense Discretionary) United letter urging Congress to build on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and stop sequestration from taking effect in fiscal year (FY) 2016. NND programs are core services that the government provides for the benefit of everyone - including medical research, public and environmental health, infrastructure and education.



## ADVOCATING FOR SAFER PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS

For several years, CEHN has led efforts to help ensure EPA's Safer Choice Program (formerly Design for the Environment, Safer Products Program) is indeed "safe" and allows consumers to purchase products that do not contain harmful agents. This year, CEHN submitted comments – with the American Lung Association and the American Thoracic Society, on the Implementation of New Labels: Design for the Environment Safer Product Labeling Program. The comments reiterated concerns regarding the inclusion of the "fragrances" category of chemicals for commercial and consumer cleaning products as well as allowance of skin sensitizers above acceptable levels "under certain conditions" associated with the safer products label.

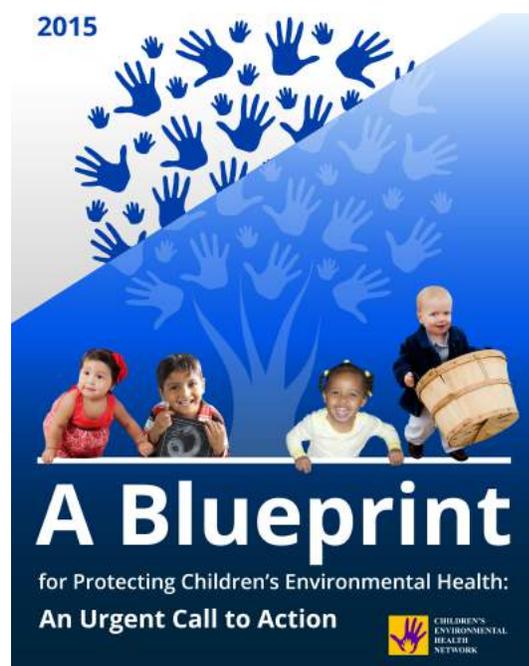
CEHN (along with 8 other partners) signed a petition seeking to amend a food additive regulation to remove FDA's approval at 21 C.F.R. § 176.170 of the use of long-chain perfluorocarboxylate oil and grease repellents in paper and paperboard.

# PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST - A NATIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

More than 20 years ago, CEHN was instrumental in the creation of the field of children's environmental health, as well as behind the impetus to move policy and practice to protect children's environmental health. Recognizing that support for child protective policies have waned considerably over the past decade -- and that today's children face an epidemic of illnesses and chronic diseases linked to environmental exposures -- the Network embarked on an effort to renew the Nation's commitment to children's health. Namely to create a proactive vision and blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Significant progress has been made in developing the Blueprint this year.

As the first step of this effort, CEHN convened a historic meeting at Wingspread, headquarters of the Johnson Family Foundation, in Racine, Wisconsin on October 21-23, 2014. The purpose of this meeting was to convene visionary leaders representing diverse perspectives in urgent recognition that children are now suffering from an array of illnesses and chronic diseases linked to environmental exposures and to discuss how to address this issue.

Over 2 days, amidst this beautiful and serene setting, over 30 leaders - from science, non-profit advocacy, environmental justice, child health, urban planning, academia, public health, business, economics, public policy, law, and agriculture - drafted and signed onto a dynamic vision statement "A Vision for Protecting Children's Environmental Health" calling for transformative change through renewed and collective action to provide all children with the protections from harm that they deserve. They also developed an outline of a blueprint for action that places children at the center of all key decision-making moving forward. In the weeks, and year, that followed the retreat, a "Blueprint for Action" to move the vision to reality was developed. The Blueprint contains 5 key recommendations: mobilize "society" to take action on children's environmental health - place a strong priority on children and families; create knowledge essential for effective action and make use of the knowledge we have, marshal the engine of the economy to achieve environments in which children can thrive and enjoy abundant opportunity for building a sustainable, economically secure future; build the political will in our institutions of government for child centered policies; and establish a connected and vibrant children's environmental health community. In addition, key partners and influencers are identified that are necessary actors in this effort. The year-long process of developing the Blueprint included extensive review by federal partners, leading authorities and researchers, policy experts, and more, as well as input by several Wingspread participants. This coming year, the intent is to move the blueprint into action - to convene a coordinating body, to garner support and funding for the Blueprint, to form workgroups for each of the recommendations and lots more.





## CANCER FREE ECONOMY

CEHN is playing a leadership role in the Cancer Free Economy Network (CFEN). CFEN, founded in 2014, is a group of diverse organizations and funding partners that seek to address the problem of toxics exposures through a cancer and disease framework. The CFEN overall goal (the “North Star” goal) is: Within a generation we will lift the burden of cancers and other diseases by driving a dramatic and equitable transition from toxics to effective clean and safe alternatives. A key tool used in this network is a “systems map,” which all participants in 2014 built together to describe the current dynamics among institutions, sectors, organizations and interests that influence the existence and impacts of toxic chemicals in the economy.

CFEN includes working groups organized around one area of the systems map (“clusters”) or one area of capacity (“hubs”) that are gathering to develop strategic plans aimed at shifting the system dynamics towards the future we all desire, as captured in the network’s North Star goal (see above). The purpose of this network, which all CFEN leaders are committed to, is to increase impacts by adding value and capacity to existing efforts, and to support collaborative innovations, avoiding duplication of – and competition with – other existing organizations and networks. Together, the clusters and hubs aim to:

- ▶ promote prevention of cancer and other diseases caused by chemical exposures;
- ▶ shift the supply and demand chains to safer chemicals and safer jobs;
- ▶ create diverse, “non-traditional” partners, holding equity as a highest-order principle of all we do; and
- ▶ develop interconnected communications, popular education, organizing, policy and fundraising strategies.

The Clusters that will do this work, focusing on different sections of the map, are Health; Supply; Demand. The cross-cutting capacity Hubs are Communications; Organizing/Popular Education/Movement building; Policy; Fundraising).

CEHN co-leads the Health Cluster. The Health Cluster Objective (within the North Star Goal) is to: Contribute to a national effort to eliminate exposure to toxics to prevent cancer and other chronic diseases and promote healthy and healing environments, particularly for overburdened and vulnerable populations, by expanding the focus of all health-related organizations to include an understanding of the role of chemicals in contributing to the disease process, and a commitment to promoting primary prevention.

### **ATSDR**

EHCC collaborates with Federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). ATSDR's current priorities include reducing child exposures to harmful chemicals. Formerly, working with Connecticut state officials, the Agency generated guidelines for the safe siting of child cares. Previous activities at or near a child care site may have resulted in contamination by chemicals such as mercury or benzene. EHCC will work with ATSDR to better promote these guidelines for adoption by state and local governments. A formal 'Safe Siting' meeting will be held in November 2015 in Washington, D.C.

### **CEHN 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Health Advocate Awards Reception**

CEHN's 9th Annual Child Health Advocate Award reception took place on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We enjoyed a lovely evening catching up with longtime supporters and friends of the Network as well as making new friends while honoring six individuals who have made impressive contributions to the field of children's environmental health:

**Science Award:** Dr. Tracey Woodruff, UCSF School of Medicine

**Policy Award:** Dr. Richard Jackson, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

**Community Award:** Dr. Barbara Minzenberg, Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning and Ms. Maureen Murphy, Pennsylvania Key



**Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award:** Mr. Nathan McEmrys and Ms. Roxana Reisch

Our generous sponsors this year included: Brenda and Muhammad Afzal, Philip Landrigan, Carol Obot, Steve Gladis Leadership, TechImpact, Visionary Consulting Partners, and Audacious Inquiry, as well as gift donations from Capital BikeShare DC and Babytime! by Episencial. Thank you to all! Pictures from the award event can be found here: <http://bit.ly/CEHN2014AwardsPics>.

We hope to see even more of you at our 10th Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception next year!

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### Summer 2014

Rebecca Ciciretti  
Rebekkah Brainerd  
Rachel Spiegel

### Spring 2015

Maggie Wilk  
Yasmin Gill

### Summer 2015

Maren Johnson  
Jonathan Dugal  
Allie Hackley

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Dr. Cynthia Bearer  
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Kourtney Whitehead  
Lisa Woll

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## INCOME

### Grants

Government/Federal - \$160,126

Foundations - \$490,000

Contributions - \$14,561

Research Conference - \$21,717

Program Fees - \$10,989

Carry Over from FY 2014 - \$175,000

**Total Income = \$872,393**

## EXPENSES

Personnel/Labor Personnel - \$441,877

Payroll Taxes - \$22,521

Professional/Consultant Fees - \$86,520

Program Expenses - \$102,889

Travel - \$39,340

Insurance - \$4,965

Rent - \$41,459

Utilities - \$344

Phone - \$12,832

Equipment Rental - \$6,282

Postage/Delivery - \$3,647

Printing & Reproduction - \$5,869

Computer/Web Services - \$11,144

Office Supplies - \$15,709

**Total Expenses \$795,398**

**Net Income \$75,995**