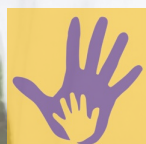

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH NETWORK

2019
ANNUAL
REPORT



CHILDREN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
NETWORK

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MESSAGE FROM NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON CEHN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I first would like to extend my personal gratitude for all of you and the many important ways that you support the mission of CEHN! The importance of our effective focus on the health and well-being of all children is more vital than ever and we are greatly strengthened by our collective efforts. This second year of our Children's Environmental Health Movement has offered increased opportunities for CEHN to lead efforts to place children first in all actions. Part of the movement is Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day, a day of action for and with children to assess our successes and realign ourselves to overcome various challenges yet ahead. The Third Annual CEH Day provided increased partnerships, city and state proclamations, and activities across the country for children. Another part of our movement includes an educational platform where we partner with other organizations to highlight areas of concern and the direct actions anyone can take to make a positive impact for children in those areas. This year we launched our education to action webinar series.

This year Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) continued our vital work with the National Center for Healthy Housing and the National Association for Family Child Care to create policies and worksheets to support home-based child care professionals in reducing or preventing children's unnecessary exposure to lead. Additionally, our EHCC program continued to partner with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to support state health departments across 25 states develop programs and initiatives around safe siting considerations. New this year was CEHN's work with Mount Sinai in Puerto Rico to train child care professionals

A considerable amount of CEHN's time has been spent partnering with key organizations to fight various rollbacks around environmental health protections and advancing the work of strategic collaborations in clean air, clean water, lead prevention, and cancer prevention.

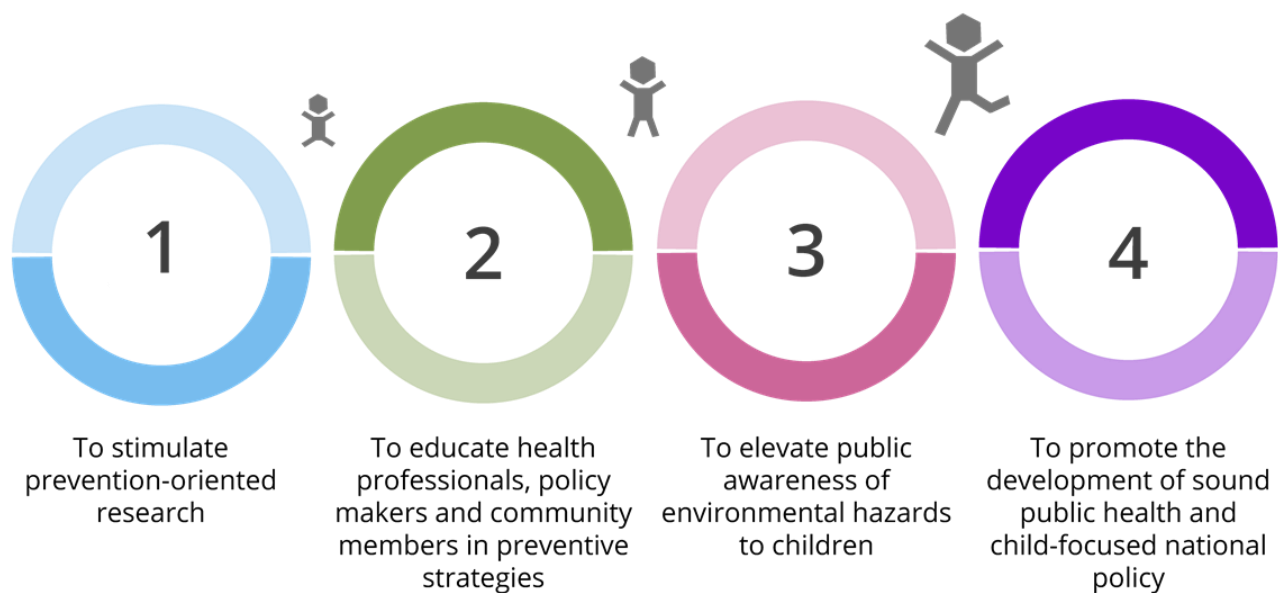
CEHN's leadership in the Cancer Free Economy Network was highlighted by the launch of a climate and toxics focus this past year along with direct engagement with cancer researchers on the need for prevention. CEHN is preparing to engage in a new pediatric cancer prevention initiative into the new year which will allow for much needed targeted attention to the growing childhood cancer rates in the country.

There is much more to say and I thank you for taking the time to read about our work over this year. As always, we welcome your input, thoughts, and support as we move forward into this next era for all children!

In Peace and Health,

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH

GOALS OF THE CHILDREN’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK





CHILDREN'S HEALTH IN THE HEARTLAND

CEHN has been instrumental in the June launch of an ambitious research project, the [Children's Health in the Heartland](#) ("The Heartland Study"). This hospital-based study is investigating associations between rising herbicide use in the Midwest, including reproductive problems and birth defects. It currently has enrolled 2,000 mother-infant pairs, and the scientific team will track the health and development of the newborn babies through at least age three. The goal is to have a steady flow of scientific results to start disseminating by the end of 2020. The Heartland Study will provide rigorous science needed to better inform herbicide regulation and weed management in our agricultural communities, in order to best protect children's health and development.

CEHN has served as the administrator of this project and has helped to recruit and confirm core members of the medical and research team, to secure and expand funding, and to organize and connect the various partners. As research findings are released, CEHN will be critical to the dissemination and any resulting advocacy efforts.



**Eco-Healthy
Child Care®**

ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE® (EHCC)

EHCC LEADERSHIP

CEHN staff members chair the EHCC National Advisory Committee (NAC). Since 2008, the EHCC NAC has ensured the growth, 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. Committee members advise effective and efficient strategies for embedding children's environmental health considerations throughout recognized best practice standards for early care and learning environments. The NAC committee also reviews materials to ensure appropriate content, supports outreach to child care professionals and parents, and ensures that the program is culturally sensitive.

EXPANDING PROVIDER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE— EPA REGION III GRANT

The Eco-Healthy Child Care® program received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency Region III to increase awareness amongst child care providers of environmental hazards commonly found within child care settings and to provide realistic suggestions for reducing potential exposures. Through this grant we conducted six trainings and four site assessments.

We trained providers in Maryland--Baltimore City and Prince George's County, D.C. and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania via partnerships with JHU/Maryland Excels, Maryland Family Network, Maryland State Department of Education, American Federation of Teachers, Southeast Regional Key - PA Quality Rating Improvement System, and Prince George Child Care Resource and Referral Agency. We also conducted site visits in Region III of currently EHCC endorsed providers to offer on-site technical assistance to child care providers who are working to reduce environmental hazards within their facility.

NEW USER-FRIENDLY FAQs FOR PROVIDERS AND PARENTS

With the assistance of the Eco-Healthy Child Care®'s National Advisory Committee, EHCC developed eight user-friendly, two-page FAQs for child care providers and the public. EHCC FAQs are created in response to questions from providers and the general public on environmental health topics of importance. The new FAQ topics include: styrofoam, sun safety, drying hands the eco-healthy way, keeping bugs away safely, BPA, safer dolls, PVC/Phthalates in food packaging, and PFAS in food packaging.

ONLINE CURRICULUM

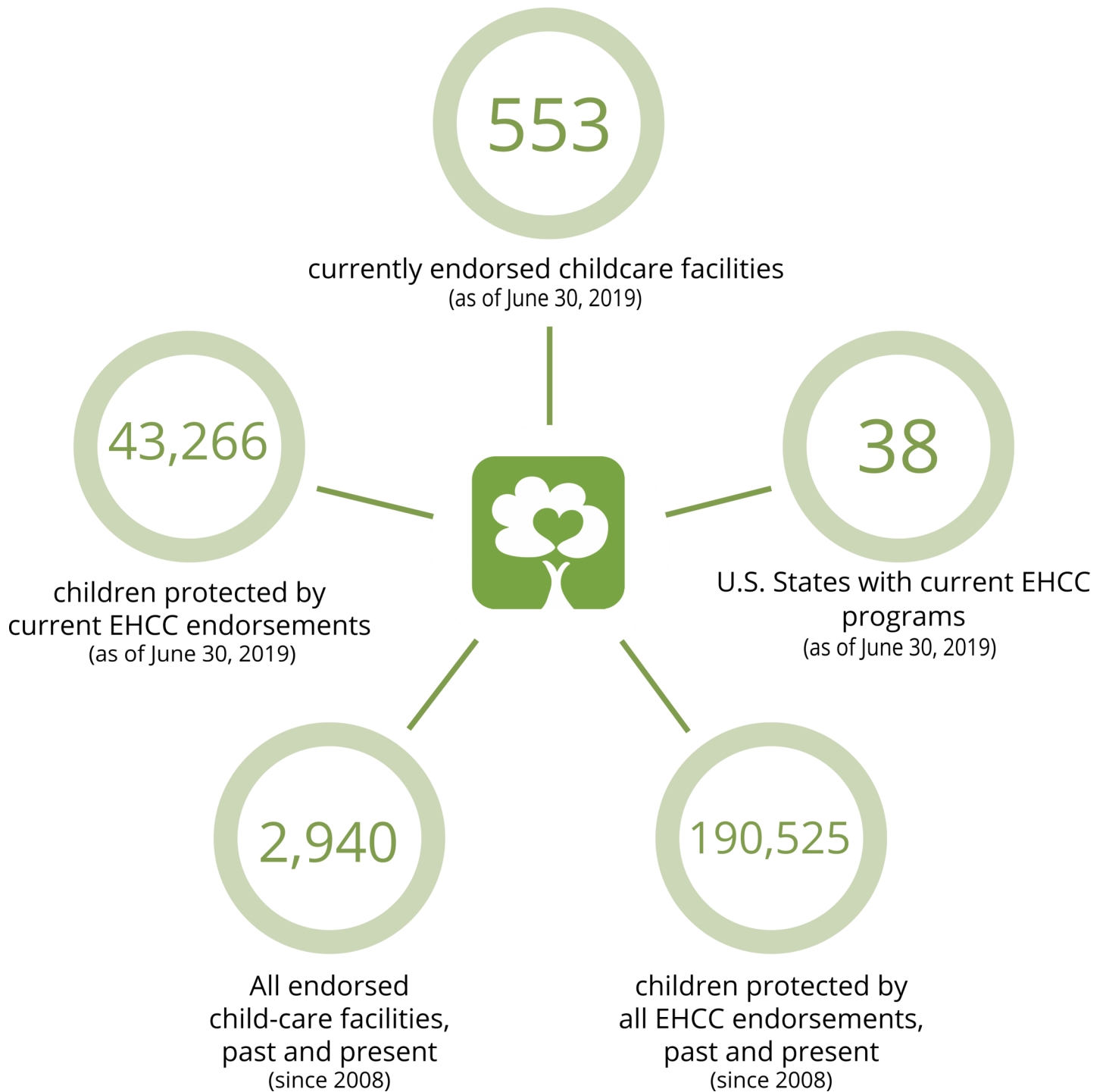
Eco-Healthy Child Care®'s e-learning course launched in April of 2017 and is available through ProSolutions. The course is engaging and interactive. Learners discover how children are exposed to chemicals in their everyday environments, why these exposures are concerning and best practices for immediately reducing potential exposures to known environmental health toxicants. This course is ideal for providers, parents/caregivers, school administrators, nurse and health consultants, child care licensing professionals, and anyone interested in protecting children from environmental hazards commonly found in early learning environments.

ProSolutions, one of the primary e-learning hubs for early childhood education professionals, offers the course. The 3-hour course is broken into three 1-hour segments. Forty-eight states recognize the EHCC e-learning course and offer adult learning clock hour credit to those who have successfully completed it. The cost to take the course is \$30. Upon course completion, learners are equipped with realistic strategies for implementing easy and effective changes to improve the environmental health of settings where many children spend the majority of their time.

EHCC Train-the-Trainer

The EHCC Train the Trainer (TtT) curriculum is scientifically based, peer reviewed, and comprehensively covers environmental health hazards within child care settings. Between July 2018 and July 2019, 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 Louisiana, Colorado and North Dakota. Since 2008, the EHCC TtT has been offered in 32 states. EHCC staff have trained 1,429 upper-level child care professionals using the EHCC TtT curriculum.

EHCC ENDORSEMENT





EHCC MILESTONES AND COLLABORATION

ATSDR - CHOOSE SAFE PLACES

In 2017, CEHN's Eco-Healthy Child Care® program began collaborating with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to assist the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in providing support and assistance to their 25 APPLETREE (ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure) grantees (state health departments), and other unfunded local and state partners in implementing the "[Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education](#)" guidance manual. The manual encourages child care providers to consider environmental hazards when locating center-based early learning facilities. In year two of the project, EHCC staff and partners increased the reach and impact of the Choose Safe Places project within the child care field by presenting with ATSDR at conferences related to child care, environmental health and public health on the progress and lessons learned; co-hosting webinars with key national child care organizations including Child Care Aware of America, the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Association for Regulatory Administration; developing two new educational resources on safe siting; and incorporating safe siting guidance recommendations within national child care standards, Caring for Our Children.

IMPROVING EHCC PROVIDER OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

As of March 2018 child care providers can now apply [online](#) to become an Eco-Healthy Child Care® endorsed provider. The CEHN website has also been upgraded to include a [Map](#) of endorsed facilities making it easier for families to find an endorsed Eco-Healthy Child Care® program in their community. These new features will increase the reach of this national program by letting more parents and families know about all of the great work endorsed providers do to protect childrens' environmental health.

Between July 2018 and July 2019 EHCC awarded 184 endorsements to family and center-based child care providers. These providers utilized EHCC's best practices checklist to reduce environmental hazards like lead in water and unsafe plastics in their child care settings--thus creating safer and healthier early learning environments for the children they care for. The *Eco-Healthy Child Care® Provider Spotlight Series* showcases a sampling of endorsed 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. Each Spotlight is featured via CEHN emails, social media and our [EHCC webpage](#).

Eco-Healthy Child Care® is partnering with the American Federation of Teachers' online website, *Share My Lesson* to distribute environmental health educational materials including fact sheets and FAQs. EHCC has also developed several blogs for the website on safer art supplies and air pollution. The *Share My Lesson* website has 1.5 million members and more than 420,000 Toddler-Grade 12 resources which have been downloaded more than 13 million times.

CONFERENCES (7/2018 - 7/2019):

- 1) National Association of County and City Health Officials
- 2) National Association for Regulatory Administration Licensing Seminar
- 3) National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual
- 4) CityMatCH, A National Organization of Urban Maternal and Child Health Leaders
- 5) National Environmental Health Association
- 6) Maternal and Child Environmental Health (MCEH) Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CollIN) Conference
- 7) National Association for Family Child Care Conference Annual Conference
- 8) National Association for the Education of Young Children Learning Institute
- 9) National Head Start Association Conference
- 10) N4C, National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers



PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH POLICY

Within the policy realm, this past year was full of challenges: proposed rollbacks to critical environmental regulations; a government shutdown; attacks on science and scientists; setbacks to federal efforts to combat climate change and more. CEHN and partners rallied together to meet these challenges, stand for public and children's health protections, and to support the programs and people that are essential to these protections.



UPHOLDING U.S. EPA'S MISSION

This past year, CEHN engaged in activities in opposition to efforts that would undermine the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to uphold its mission to protect public health. Concerns included: organizational re-structuring; filling advisory seats with industry; and manufacturing doubt around sound science.

CEHN's Executive Director provided oral comments on EPA's proposed "transparency" rule, which if enacted would exclude important epidemiological research from rulemaking and thereby threaten children's health protection. CEHN also signed on to a letter to EPA in opposition to this rule.

CEHN also acted to prevent EPA's National Center for Environmental Health Research (NCER) from being dissolved as a standalone office and incorporated with two other unrelated offices. NCER manages key research funding programs, including the STAR grant program which provides funding for the 24 Children's EH Research Centers throughout the country. CEHN's Deputy Director worked with Senator Casey's office (PA) to draft a letter in support of NCER for Senators Murkowski and Udall, Chairperson and Ranking Member of the Senate's Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. They were able to obtain 15 Senator sign ons to the letter.

CEHN's Deputy Director also led a sign on letter effort to Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, EPA Office of Research and Development with concerns about the possible dilution of NCER's mission and efficacy with the planned restructuring and redeployment of long term NCER staff. Medical, public health, and environmental justice organizations signed on with CEHN.

CEHN led a sign-on letter to Senate and House Appropriations Committee concerning the discontinuation and reduced funding to the 13 NIEHS/EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center. Many public and environmental health partners signed onto the letter including the Friends of NIEHS.

CEHN also developed an e-messaging campaign—asking individuals to write their elected officials about the importance of supporting the EPA/NIEHS Children's Environmental Health & Disease Prevention Research Centers, and of protecting and empowering EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection.

ACTION ON CLEAN WATER

As part of the Clean Water for All Coalition, CEHN's Executive Director, who is also a steering committee member, participated in several activities including a video response to the Administration's Infrastructure Plan released in March, a facebook Live Chat on equity related issues with Congressman Raul Grijalva (AZ), Ranking Member House Committee on Natural Resources in April, a Health Roundtable with Congressman Grijalva and presented on webinar for over 25 funders (also this past April).

CEHN partnered with the Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment (ANHE) on a pilot project: hosting two community forums, one in Philadelphia on October 30th and the second in Toledo, OH, at the beginning of November, on water issues and solutions. CEHN assisted in securing a pediatrician, Dr. Tim Fete from Columbia Missouri, as a speaker for a press conference on the Dirty Water Rule press in Kansas City. CEHN also contributed to Op Eds and other communications to oppose this proposed rule. CEHN signed onto a community letter opposing EPA's Water Polluter Loophole urging EPA to withdraw its interpretive statement exempting point source pollution discharges through groundwater to surface water.

CEHN joined APHA and others on a letter to Administrator Wheeler, EPA and Assistant Secretary James, Department of the Army, Civil Works in support of the current definition of the Water of the United (WOTUS) noting that changes to this definition would be harmful to public health.

CEHN joined NRDC in support of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 and, in strong opposition to the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for perchlorate, urging a more protective standard.

ACTION ON CLEAN AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CEHN was an active member of the Healthy Air Coalition and signed onto several letters and comments in support of ozone regulations, cleaner cars, regulating methane, mercury and air toxics, and other greenhouse gas emissions, and in opposition to rollbacks of these important standards.

In response to the Administration's intention to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, CEHN joined the American Lung Association (ALA) and many other partners in support of a bill, the International Climate Accountability Act introduced by U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Tom Carper (D-DE). The Bill directs the Administration to meet the standards established by the historic Paris Climate Agreement and to mitigate the long-term damage caused by the Trump administration's anti-environment actions.

CEHN submitted individual comments to EPA on the importance of the Clean Air Act to children's health and the adverse impacts on the proposed changes to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS). CEHN joined several collective comments on MATS including comments from ALA healthy air coalition and UCSF Program on Reproductive Health.

CEHN supported ALA's Year of Air and Health Pollution Campaign and was an active partner for two of the months (April, State of the Air and June, Impact of Moms and Kids).

As an alliance organization of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health, CEHN sponsored and attended the consortium's annual meeting.

CEHN joined many public health and medical organizations in a letter to Senator Markey and Representative Cartwright on the reintroduction of the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT (TSCA)

CEHN continued its participation in University of California San Francisco's (UCSF) Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment Rapid Response Network, which covers pressing issues related to toxics, TSCA and more.

CEHN signed onto a letter to the acting EPA administrator Wheeler calling for better systemic review of toxic chemicals by the EPA.

CEHN worked with EDF, AAP, APHA and other partners advocating for protections to vulnerable populations in the implementation of TSCA. In late spring, the group submitted a letter to EPA Administrator Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Dunn (Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution) requesting full protection of vulnerable populations including children and pregnant women.

APPROPRIATIONS

CEHN worked with the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) coalition, Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and other groups on letters to the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of appropriations for FY20 that promote children's health and safety.

CEHN signed onto a CDC coalition letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee in support of increased FY20 funding levels for CDC's NCEH.

CEHN signed the Friends of NIEHS letter also to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee in support of NIH and NIEHS funding for FY20, as well as a letter to the Chairman and Ranking members of the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill specifically in support of funding for NIEHS's Superfund Program (SRP).

CEHN also signed onto the Friends of The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) effort to protect the NCHS budget (NCHS is housed within CDC, is the nation's principal health statistics agency and provides critical data on all aspects of public health and the health care system through data cooperatives and surveys); and appropriations letters for EPA's Healthy Schools Program and for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

OTHER POLICY MATTERS IMPORTANT TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH

As part of the Getting Ready for Baby Coalition, EHCC asked our "EHCC Friends" list to sign a petition urging the retailer buybuy Baby to remove harmful chemicals from the products they sell to children and babies.

CEHN signed on to a letter organized by the Ecology Center requesting that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration update their car seat regulations to eliminate harmful flame retardants from child protective seats and used social media to disseminate a petition with the same ask.

CEHN submitted a letter to Acting EPA Administrator Wheeler on the "Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts" released by the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. This letter raises concerns about the plan and insufficient protection for children as well as recommendations for the implementation strategy.

CEHN joined numerous public health groups on letters, led by Trust for America's Health (TFAH), to the President and Members of Congress on some of the health impacts of the shutdown.



ELIMINATING LEAD RISKS IN SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES

CEHN, together with the Healthy Schools Network and the Learning Disabilities Association of America, organized a facilitated workshop in December 2017. The 40 participants were experts in varied fields—toxic chemicals, pediatrics, economics, education, environment, and public health—who came together for the first time to learn, discuss, and map near-term steps in a comprehensive strategy for eliminating lead exposure in schools and child care facilities.

After a well-facilitated workshop process, seven ambitious strategic areas emerged as priorities:

1. Win policies to eliminate sources of lead risks in schools and child care facilities.
2. Improve, promote, and enforce regulations and standards for these settings.
3. Encourage or persuade the private sector to commit to lead-free solutions.
4. Identify and prioritize sources of lead in schools and child care facilities.
5. Press for increased government funding to eliminate lead exposures at school and child care facilities.
6. Develop a strong message and communications campaign on lead for diverse audiences.
7. Seek expanded foundation and other sources of support for NGO campaigns and actions to eliminate risks of lead in school and child care facilities.

A full report on the workshop with expansion on these identified strategic areas, short-term goals and 5-year indicators of success, can be found on the CEHN website at: https://cehn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Eliminating-Lead-in-Schools-and-Child-Care_2018_WEB.pdf.

It will take considerable funding in order to effectively and comprehensively reach these collective goals. In the meantime, CEHN continues to advance efforts to reduce lead

exposures in child care settings. This includes our work: managing the Eco-Healthy Child Care® program; advising the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs as they build state capacity to improve systems of care to address the needs of maternal, infant and child populations that are at risk for or experience exposure to lead; and serving on the steering committee for the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative.

Protecting Children from Lead Exposures in Family Child Care Environments

In 2018, CEHN's Eco-Healthy Child Care program in partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), received a two year grant from The JPB Foundation to help home-based child care professionals prevent children's exposure to lead in paint, dust, water, soil and consumer products. As part of the project, CEHN, NAFCC and NCHH will develop an online Lead-Safe Toolkit for Home-Based Child Care Providers with the goal of increasing awareness of lead exposure prevention. The project team will also help providers establish lead prevention policies for their home-based child care programs. By targeting family child care providers, the Protecting Children from Lead Exposures in Family Child Care Environments project has a unique and crucial opportunity to provide home business owners with tools and resources they need to protect their own families and their child care kids from the dangers of lead.

Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative

In the aftermath of the Flint lead in drinking water crisis, 26 diverse organizations came together to form the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative ("Collaborative"). The Collaborative's goal is to accelerate the 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.

CEHN continues to serve on the Collaborative's Steering Committee, and lead efforts to engage public health professionals in helping to accelerate full lead service line replacement in their communities by using the Collaborative's online toolkit materials including: 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 work of the LSL Replacement collaborative is grounded in the following principles:

- Removal of lead service lines in contact with drinking water provides an opportunity to significantly reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.
- LSL replacement initiatives must be designed to ensure residents are protected during and after the removal and that the work is done in a cost effective manner.
- LSL replacement initiatives should address barriers to participation so that consumers served by LSLs can benefit equitably, regardless of income, race or ethnicity.
- A collaborative, community-based approach, built on contributions from residents, health officers, utilities, community leaders, local elected officials, can help provide the strong foundation needed for successful action.
- Innovative models are needed to help communities find the tools, strategies and resources needed to replace LSLs based on the latest science and current best practices.

- By providing models for LSL replacement, it is possible to advance support for initiatives at all levels of government and in different types of communities.
- Successful LSL replacement initiatives will take careful planning and time.
- This effort is focused on mechanisms to support local action not on EPA's efforts to revise the Lead and Copper Rule.

The Collaborative's website and online toolkit resources are geared toward parents, public health professionals, community members, water professionals, and elected officials, and emphasis is intentionally focused on matters of accessibility and health equity. Select pages, resources, fact sheets, and even webinars from the toolkit have been [translated into Spanish](#).

Several webinars, conference presentations, and other outreach efforts and events have helped to promote awareness of the LSLRC toolkit, and the Collaborative continues to seek feedback, particularly from communities who are engaged or interested in LSL replacement initiatives.

Read more about the [Collaborative](#).

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MOVEMENT (CEH MOVEMENT)

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 inaugural CEH Day was held on October 13, 2016.

CEH Day is intended as a day of raising awareness and 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. It serves as a new platform, one with a specific child health lens, for partners to galvanize their efforts across disciplines, sectors and levels of government towards the common goal of clean air and water, safer food and products, and healthy places for all children. Finally, CEH Day is meant as a Day to anchor the Children's Environmental Health Movement, (CEH Movement, or **#ChildrenAtTheCenter**)



The third annual CEH Day was observed on October 11, 2018 and began with a breakfast event that was attended by approximately 100 CEH champions at Busboys and Poets in Washington, DC. Images from the event are available [here](#). The event program was well received, especially a youth panel of local high school students and emerging professional leaders who shared their unique perspective on environmental health issues.

CEHN developed a proclamation toolkit for individuals and organizations to use to easily request CEH Day proclamations each year from their mayors and/or governors. With the dedicated help from leaders throughout the country, fifteen cities and states proclaimed October 11, 2018 as Children's Environmental Health Day. Over 25 organizations and federal agencies endorsed the Day as well.

In addition to the proclamation toolkit, CEHN established additional online tools for folks to use to take action for CEH Day, including downloadable postcards and an electronic messaging platform to send quick messages to elected officials; a portal to share personal CEH stories and thus help build a narrative to mobilize society; and a promotional toolkit with ready-to-use social media posts to amplify the Day.

CEHN also hosted a robust one-hour CEH Day Twitter chat (#CEHchat) in the afternoon. View and share the [#CEHchat Summary and Insights](#) on youth engagement where more than 80 Twitter accounts participated sending 287 tweets in just one hour.

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MOVEMENT - EDUCATION TO ACTION

CEHN launched the CEH Movement (#ChildrenAtTheCenter) in 2018. The Movement has two components: 1) CEH Day and 2) an [Education-to-Action series](#).

Throughout 2018 the Education-to-Action series took shape as a monthly guest blog installment from one or more partner organization(s) that raised awareness on a specific children's environmental health issue (or "theme"). Related partner resources and campaigns were elevated, as were simple calls to action that individuals and/or organizations could undertake to either advocate for child-protective policies or to promote children's wellness.

The Education-to-Action series took a different approach in 2019. CEHN hosted a 5-part webinar series to align with each of the 5 recommendations borne out of [A Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health: An Urgent Call to Action](#). These webinars highlighted advancements, or promising efforts underway, within: 1) CEH research and research translation; 2) growing a strong and diverse CEH community; 3) building the business and economic case for protecting CEH; 4) mobilizing and CEH advocacy; and 5) building the political will for child-protective policies. Each webinar teed up relevant calls to action for viewers. In both 2018 and 2019, CEHN worked with our Education-to-Action partners to promote the series' installments.

CEHN looks forward to continuing to improve upon 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

This year CEHN participated in our fourth collaborative year as the Co-Lead for the Science and Health Node for the Cancer Free Economy Network (CFEN). The CFEN is cultivating an inclusive movement to prevent people from developing cancers associated with exposure to harmful chemicals in the places they live and work. The network is committed to expanding the movement to protect people from chemicals that can cause cancer by uniting advocates and researchers working on issues as diverse as public health, fossil-fuel reduction, and economic justice.

The long-term CFEN goal (our “Guiding Star”) is deliberately audacious: *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.*

CFEN currently operates in several areas across many fields that influence the use of cancer-causing chemicals: health organizations, grassroots environmental justice, labor organizing, law, public policy, corporate advocacy, green chemistry, and the development of safer materials. The network is organized into three “nodes:” Building Power, Health/Science, and Market Shift. The nodes receive support from two cross-network hubs that offer expertise in Communications and in Policy and Legal strategies.

We believe the most effective change will unite experts and policymakers with the people who suffer because of toxic chemicals in their homes, jobs, and neighborhoods. We seek to complement existing movements by networking with everyone from farm workers to fire-fighters who are protecting their communities from chemicals that contribute to cancer.

We are committed to continued learning over time, so we can amplify what is working to stop the spread of chemicals that can cause cancer, learn from what isn’t working, and make more progress in a shorter time than would otherwise be possible by working alone.

The Health/Science node is advancing strategies that the network prioritized via a process of mapping the entire system of incentives that influence the use of cancer-causing chemicals:

1. Change the dominant narratives held by health professionals about cancer, its causes, and the role of chemicals;
2. Strengthen the evidence of links between toxic chemicals and cancer, as well as the viability of safer alternatives; and
3. Develop health and scientific champions to bring new authority and power to initiatives to reduce the use of toxic chemicals.

The Health/Science node also provides technical support and science-based resources to the CFEN as a whole.

This year the node expanded the health and science base of the network through the following activities:

Science for the Network and Beyond: The Health Science Node, in particular Silent Spring Institute, U. Mass. Lowell/Lowell Center for Sustainable Production and the Children's Environmental Health Network, contributed to the planning of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Meeting on environmental and occupational contributors to cancer ([Environmental Carcinogenesis: Potential Pathways to Cancer Prevention](#)). Members of the Node worked closely behind the scenes on all aspects of the meeting, including advising on the overall flow of the agenda and suggesting speakers and moderators. Peer-reviewed publications from the meeting are in development.

This is the first time AACR has sponsored such a stand-alone meeting on environmental contributions to cancer. Health Node leaders worked to secure travel support for key health professional and community leaders to attend. There are a variety of examples developing of how the AACR meeting is strengthening the Node's efforts to engage cancer-focused researchers and organizations in integrating environmental carcinogens into cancer prevention.

The node also provided science content for the new CFEN website that launched this year (<https://sites.google.com/garfieldfoundation.org/cfenpublic/home>). The Health Science Node provides the network with information and interpretation of relevant science, both on environmental links with cancer and on the development of new technologies for accelerating the transition away from toxic chemicals and toward safer materials.

Outreach to Engage Health Professional and Cancer-Focused Organizations: The node is bringing new power to the work of the network by activating health and cancer-focused leaders and constituencies, especially those representing people who face the biggest threats from harmful chemicals. This is a "champion building" strategy that inspires and equips health and cancer-focused leaders and organizations to learn about, disseminate information and take action on connections between environmental exposures and cancer.

Catalyzing Research for a Cancer-Free Economy: The node is identifying priorities and opportunities for increased funding for research to fuel the transition from toxic chemicals to safer alternatives. The Climate and Toxics work was launched this year, looking deeper into the petrochemical and plastics industries to weigh how we can best lend our expertise and collective leadership to the communities facing greatest risk.

13th Annual Child Health Advocate Awards Reception

CEHN's 13th Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception took place on Monday, October 22, 2018 at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, DC. The event brought together friends, and longtime supporters of the network to honor five deserving individuals for their impressive contributions to the field of children's environmental health. 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. Luz Claudio, Environmental Medicine & Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Media Award: Barbara Laker, Wendy Ruderman and Dylan Purcell, Reporters on the "Toxic City" series at the Philadelphia Inquirer

Child Health Advocate Community Award: Dr. Susan Hedges, National Association for the Education of Young Children

Child Health Advocate Award: Mustafa Santiago Ali, JD (honoris causa), Climate, Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization at Hip Hop Caucus

The Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (N.O.W) Youth Leadership Award: Ms. Amariyanna Copeny aka Little Miss Flint, Student and activist

CEHN is quite grateful for all who joined us in person and provided support in various ways. Pictures from the event can be found [here](#).

We hope to see even more of you at upcoming Annual Child Health Advocate Award Receptions!



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