

Protecting All Children from Environmental Hazards & Promoting a Healthier Environment

The Voice in Washington for
Children's Environmental Health

2011 Annual Report



Children's Environmental Health Network
(CEHN)



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Message from Board Chair and Executive Director

CEHN 2011 Annual Report



2011 was another exciting year of growth and opportunities for CEHN! We welcomed Dr. James Roberts to the CEHN Board of Directors and as the new Chair of the Science Committee. Dr. Roberts is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Roberts has expertise in a variety of children's environmental health exposures including lead, pesticides, and contributors to asthma. CEHN also increased our staff capacity by adding two new positions to our team. Carol Stroebel, long-time Health Policy Specialist for CEHN, was brought on as Director of Training and Policy and Hester Paul was brought on as the Director for the National Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program. In addition, Kristie Trousdale was brought on as CEHN's new Program Assistant.



CEHN remained very busy this year in our efforts to increase the awareness and visibility of the vulnerabilities that children have to environmental hazards. In preparation for our 20th Anniversary in 2012, we began initial plans for our 2012 conference, "Contributions of Epigenetics to Pediatric Environmental Health." A fantastic planning committee began working on the conference. The effort is co-chaired by CEHN Board Chair Dr. Cynthia Bearer and Dr. Rachel Miller, Associate Professor of Medicine (In Pediatrics) and Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University. CEHN also began a valued partnership with UC Berkeley's Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment (CIRCLE), allowing the increased visibility to the connections between the disease and exposure.

In our efforts to bring our important message to Congress, CEHN provided testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee along with the House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee. CEHN also provided written testimony, submitted docket comments, and made visits to key Capitol Hill offices to educate policymakers.

During this year, CEHN launched the National Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program, building upon six years of previous work accomplished in California, Georgia, Washington, DC and Texas. We are proud to run one of the only comprehensive programs in the country working to train child care professionals on environmental hazard identification and reduction while also promoting environmental health and safety in child care facilities across the nation.

CEHN maintained its two listservs, began a quarterly e-newsletter, launched our new website became more active on social media with Facebook and Twitter.

All would not be possible without the key partnerships, collaborations, leadership roles, and funders described in the attached report. CEHN remains very excited about our work and the contributions we are making to the field as we prepare for a year of celebration and increased opportunities in 2012!

Protecting Children Through Policies

Do government policies -- at the local, state, and Federal level -- adequately protect children from environmental toxicants? Are children's unique vulnerabilities, exposures and behaviors considered when our decision-makers write laws, regulations, standards and other policies that impact our children? Unfortunately, too often the answer to these questions is "No."

Yet progress is being made. Thanks to the work of the Network and an increasing number of organizations and individuals, awareness is growing among our policy-makers that children are not just little adults, and that "one size fits all" protections do not protect our most vulnerable, including our children. The Network is proud that its leadership as the Voice for Children's Environmental Health in our nation's Capitol continues.

Congressional highlights

CEHN Board Chair Cynthia Bearer brought the Network's message to Congress. She testified before the Senate **Environment and Public Works** Committee on how well EPA is protecting children.



Dr. Cynthia Bearer (center)

She also testified before the House Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS) **Appropriations Subcommittee** on FY2011 appropriations as part of the Network's support for adequate funding for Federal agencies and programs that support children's environmental health. Other activities include submitting testimony to House and Senate appropriations subcommittees and meeting with key Capitol Hill offices to educate them about problems and opportunities to better protect children from environmental hazards.

The Network also endorsed:

- Senate legislation that would create the Children's Environmental Health Interagency Task Force in statute;
- "Healthy Kids from Day One" legislation that includes an initiative on fighting obesity in child care centers; and
- Senate legislation on disease clusters.

The nation's principal law regulating most chemicals -- the **Toxic Substances Control Act** or **TSCA** -- was drafted more than 30 years ago and does not adequately protect human health. Reform of this outdated and ineffective law has been a priority for the Network and for others in the fields of health and environment. The Network continued its efforts to educate decision-makers about the inability of TSCA to protect children's health and the need to improve this statute. For example, the Network and the Pesticide

Action Network of North America (PANNA) wrote and distributed a joint op-ed column in support of strong TSCA reform provisions.

The Network also co-sponsored a Congressional briefing on research around environmental health funded by the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

Leadership

National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures: The Network's Executive Director continued to serve as the Co-Chair of the Leadership Council for the National Conversation, a multi-year public engagement initiative supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). In June 2011, the National Conversation released a well-received and substantial *Action Agenda* with clear, achievable recommendations to help government agencies and other organizations strengthen their efforts to protect the public from harmful chemical exposures. For more information, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation/index.html>.

Regulations and standards

The Network's scientific expertise guided our review of Federal agency proposals that would affect children's environmental health. Topics on which the Network submitted docket comments this year include:

- **Mercury** and the EPA proposal to limit emissions of mercury and other toxics from power plants.
- **Healthy Buildings:** EPA's proposed weatherization protocols to help homeowners and residential contractors protect health and indoor environments when they weatherize residences.
- The next edition of **EPA's children's environmental health indicators report**
- EPA's **farm worker** risk assessment
- **Pesticide drift** regulations
- Labeling of **pesticide inert** ingredients
- Protecting farm workers and **farm worker children** from pesticides.
- **PCBs** in caulk
- Regulating **perchlorate** in drinking water

After reviewing the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff report regarding **cadmium** in children's toys and jewelry, the Network sent a letter to the CPSC regarding our concerns about the proposal. The Network's letter was co-signed by several partner groups, including the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Trust for America's Health.

At the state level, the Network endorsed Maryland legislation that would A) ban lead tire weights; B) ban Bisphenol A from children's products, and C) ban the fire retardant Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether (DecaBDE or DECA).

Cooperation and Collaboration

Public interest organizations know that the most effective way to be heard on Capitol Hill is to bring others to the table. The Network continued to work with many partners to advance improved policies. For example, the Network participated in two related efforts coordinated by the American Lung Association (ALA). The ALA circulated a coalition letter to Congress in support of the Clean Air Act and ran a related advertisement in Hill publications, both of which CEHN supported. The Network was one of four organizations mentioned in the related news release, where our Board Chair was quoted.

The Network signed onto an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) coalition letter in opposition to legislation which would weaken the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) and lead to increased levels of lead in children's toys and products. The Network used its listservs to alert pediatric environmental health professionals to the opportunity to sign on to an AAP letter for health professionals on the same topic.

Other efforts which CEHN supported include:

- Funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and related Federal environmental health programs and activities;
- EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gases;
- Limiting mercury emissions from cement kilns;
- Banning the pesticide Lindane;
- A more protective ozone standard; and
- An amendment to the Senate health care bill (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) which would create a pilot program to use child care settings to fight childhood obesity.

The Network's policy efforts would not have been possible without the support and dedication of the Network's Board, Advisory Board, Policy Committee, Science Committee, and, in spring 2010, Prof. Mary Rivkin of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, who spent her sabbatical working on Network policy projects.

Childhood Leukemia Project

CEHN has partnered with the University of California at Berkeley (UC Berkeley) to provide research translation and community outreach services for their scientific research on childhood leukemia and environmental exposures. CEHN is working to assist in translating this research and making it accessible and actionable through integration into on-going outreach and training for various stakeholders including care providers, health care professionals, parents, individuals concerned with children's environmental health, and policy-makers. This partnership specifically works with the Children's Environmental Health Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment (CIRCLE) based at UC Berkeley and funded by NIEHS and EPA.

For the first time, CEHN is building a database of peer-reviewed research articles focused on childhood leukemia and environmental exposures and is assisting in the development of the narrative to provide content for the research translation plan. The Network has identified a number of opportunities within CEHN to incorporate and communicate key childhood leukemia findings and cancers among children overall, including via staff and Board presentations, the Article of the Month series, designation as a specified theme for our 2012 research conference, periodic postings on our listservs, Facebook and Twitter accounts, and a new section on our website.



NIEHS
National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences





In October 2010, the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) launched its national Eco-Healthy Child Care® program (EHCC). This exciting program 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 a two-year endorsement. By reducing exposure to toxics, the program creates healthier environments in and around child care facilities, and in doing so, it creates healthier kids.

EHCC emphasizes low-to no-cost solutions to common environmental health hazards and empowers providers to maximize their children's potential. EHCC is made possible through generous support from funders including: The Cedar Tree Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and The Kresge Foundation.

EHCC's 30-member National Advisory Committee (NAC) supports the development and growth of this national program. The NAC includes representatives from the National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Head Start Association (NHSA), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), among others.

- More than 1,900 facilities, serving over 61,000 children within 48 states, five Canadian provinces, five Australian states and Puerto Rico have qualified as Eco-Healthy.
- EHCC has trained over 2,000 child care providers, trainers, directors, administrators and child care consultants.
- By the end of 2011, the EHCC program staff had expanded into VT, FL, ID, KS, and TX and made presentations at over 10 major child care conferences and workshops.
- Every year, thousands of visitors come to our Website seeking information about Eco-Healthy Child Care®.
- EHCC received the 2010 Childcare and School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Recognition Award from the IPM Institute of North America, Inc.

EHCC has merged the two premier U.S. programs which offered comprehensive environmental health standards for child-care facilities: Oregon Environmental Council's award-winning Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) Program, which began as an Oregon-based initiative in 2005, and the Healthy Environments for Child Care Facilities and Preschools program (HECCP), created by CEHN. HECCP reached centers serving more than 3,000 children in California, Georgia, Washington, DC, and Texas from 2004-2010.

For more information on the EHCC Program and to download topical fact sheets please visit www.cehn.org/ehcc.



THE KRESGE FOUNDATION



TEXAS HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOLS PROGRAM (TX-HECCP)

After successful Healthy Environments in Child Care and Preschools (HECCP) programs in California and Georgia, CEHN received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI, in the fall of 2008 to expand the program to Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas. The Texas HECCP program customized trainings to the region and provided support to translate program materials into Spanish for the first time. Trainings were conducted between 2009 and 2010.

The program goal was to prevent and reduce adverse health effects from asthma-related environmental health hazards in licensed child care facilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. This goal was achieved by educating and increasing awareness among child care providers and key administrative staff on identifying and reducing or eliminating potential indoor and outdoor air quality risks in their child care facilities.

Over 250 child care providers were trained in the TX HECCP Program. This program was made possible by the collaborative efforts of CEHN, EPA Region VI, The Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health, Healthy Child Care Texas, Office of Early Childhood Coordination, Camp Fire USA, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Department of State Health Services, Children's Environmental Health Institute, Dallas City Hall, University of Texas – Arlington, Child Care Group, Children's Hospital for Sick Kids and Pediatric Illness, Asthma Coalition of Texas, and North Central Texas Council of Governments.

CEHN is very appreciative for the funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI to make this Program such a great success.

DC ASTHMA GREEN LIGHT PROJECT

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) and the University of the District of Columbia's Department of Nursing and Allied Health jointly launched a Phase II Asthma Green Light® Education Program to help mitigate the effects of asthma upon children in the District of Columbia. The Phase II Asthma Green Light® Education Program was a training program for child care providers and parents of children with asthma that was designed to inform them about asthma and its management and to increase their confidence in helping children with asthma. By training child care providers to understand the environmental exposures that create and exacerbate asthma, the Asthma Green Light Project has helped this community serve the children and families in their care more effectively. The Phase II project included the updating and translation of the English resources created during phase I into Spanish. Phase I of this project was successfully implemented in 2010.

The training program consisted of a curriculum and DVD, based upon evidence-based national guidelines for diagnosis and management of asthma. The phase II project also included the training of Spanish speaking child care providers. A total of 435 DC child care providers were trained. This project was made possible by funding received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through a contract with the DC Department of Health.



Collaborating with Partners

Partnerships are key to leveraging resources for CEHN. Here are some examples of the productive collaborations that have helped us to protect children.

Leadership in the Field

National Institute of Environmental Health (NIEHS)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (EPA)
D.C. Department of Health
Environmental Health Sciences Round Table of the Institute of Medicine (IOM)
Friends of the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health
National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures (CDC/ATSDR)
University of California Berkeley



Communicating the Science

Children's Environmental Health Article of the Month

Understanding the science that supports the field of children's environmental health can be daunting to lay people. The emerging scientific papers are usually highly technical. Judging the priority and translating the results of the growing number and wide variety of articles is confusing. But understanding the science is also key to adopting effective and protective practices and policies

To help journalists, policy-makers and the general public better understand the outcomes of pediatric environmental health research, CEHN's Science Committee launched the Children's Environmental Health Article of the Month. The Article of the Month covers a broad range of current children's environmental health topics hand-picked by the CEHN Science Committee; its findings and importance are summarized for the general public. The Article of the Month is disseminated via our listservs and on the CEHN web site at: http://www.cehn.org/science_aom.htm

Efforts such as these increase communication about children's environmental health to broader audiences, promote the field within the science world and highlight the science world and highlight the science-base of current issues with stakeholders.

Events

Baltimore Dinner Cruise

In September 2010, CEHN Board Member Brenda Afzal hosted a successful dinner cruise in the Baltimore (MD) Inner Harbor. Attendees ranged from those who have known of the Network's work for years to those being introduced to CEHN and its Board members and staff. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all!



CEHN 5th Annual Children's Health Advocate Award

As the field of pediatric environmental health has grown, the Network encountered more and more leaders in this emerging field. To recognize these leaders, in 2006, CEHN launched the Children's Environmental Health Advocate Awards. The purpose of the award program is to raise awareness of the effects of environmental hazards to children's health, to acknowledge effective children's environmental health advocates, and to raise support for our important programs. CEHN has benefited from the kind generosity of individual and organizational contributions each year since.



Dr. Martyn Smith



Ms. Marva King



Dr. Sanjay Gupta



Sen. Frank Lautenberg

CEHN's 5th Annual Children's Health Advocate Award Reception took place in October 2010, during Children's Health Month. Guests included distinguished health professionals, public health advocates, researchers, and community-based leaders within the field of children's environmental health. The event highlighted not only the history and work of CEHN but also children's unique vulnerabilities and susceptibilities when they are exposed to environmental toxicants. The Community Health Award was presented to Marva King, a leader in education and community service. The Science Award was presented to Dr. Martyn Smith, Professor, Division of Environmental Health Sciences, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, a long-standing supporter of CEHN and pediatric health research. The Media Award was presented to Dr. Sanjay Gupta, the Chief Medical Correspondent, CNN. The Policy Award was presented to U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ) for his long record of accomplishments protecting health and safety, including as a leader on protecting children's health and the environment. One of his top priorities is to overhaul the Toxic Substances Control Act, which governs industrial chemicals, to better protect the health of children and other sensitive populations.

This event was graciously hosted at Pew Charitable Trusts at their Washington, D.C., facility. CEHN is very thankful for the great support provided by the host, friends, and partners to this now annual event!

Sponsors:



Website Launch

In celebration of Children's Health Month, CEHN released its newly-enhanced website in October 2010. The new website contains several updates that not only reflect current web trends and styles, but it also includes key information for the public communities that visit. All current programs, training events, Social Media 'real time' feeds, and other related news can now be found at www.cehn.org.

You can also follow latest trends on Twitter (@CEHN), or Facebook (facebook.com/CEHNet).

Listserv

Are you interested and passionate in children's environmental health? Do you share our mission to protect children from environmental health hazards and want to get more involved? Join our [listservs](#) through our homepage (www.cehn.org) to get involved in children's environmental health.

CEHN Science Listserv: this group shares and discusses science and research relevant to children's environmental health, as well as conferences and training.

CEHN Community Listserv: this group shares and discusses national, regional, and local developments and the latest information regarding children's environmental health.

Circle of Children's Health Champions

Thank You to Our Donors: 2011 Honor Roll List

Dr. Cynthia Bearer
Dr. J. Routt Reigart
Dr. James Roberts
Dr. Jerry Paulson
Simon Huntington
Dr. Donald Milton
Elise Miller
Thomas J. & Nadine Hamilton
Wendy Gordon Rockefeller
Cassie Phillips
Dr. Howard Frumkin
Dr. Richard Jackson
Center for Health Environment and Justice
Brenda Afzal
Gwendolyn Hudson
Rebecca Dzubow
Veronica Cooper
Joy Carlson
Martha Berger
Leyla McCurdy
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Chair, Community and Preventive Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine



Mark Magaña

Executive Director, National Latino Coalition on Climate Change



James Roberts

Professor of Pediatrics Medical University of South Carolina



Peggy Shepard

Executive Director, West Harlem Environmental Action Inc.

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Tulane University

Elise Miller, M.Ed.

Executive Director, Collaborative on
Health and the Environment

About Us

The Network focuses on policy, education and research. Our goals are to:

- Promote the development of a sound public health and child-focused national policy, with an emphasis on children most at risk;
- Elevate public awareness of environmental hazards to children;
- Educate health professionals, policy makers, and community members in preventive strategies; and
- Stimulate prevention-oriented research.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to harmful chemicals

Children's developing systems, exposure patterns and behaviors put them at risk of harm from chemicals in their environments. An exposure which may result in little or no damage for an adult may cause irreversible harm to a child.

Thus, the Network has been working since 1992 to protect children from exposure to potentially harmful chemicals. We are proud to serve as the voice for children's environmental health in our nation's capital.

The Network's Board and committee members include internationally-recognized experts in children's environmental health science and policy who serve on key Federal advisory panels and scientific boards.

Funders and Sponsors

The Network is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) organization and receives funding from federal sources, private foundations, and individual contributions.

Join us!

To find out more about CEHN, visit our Website: www.cehn.org

You can also join the *CEHN Community List*, which provides discussion about general advocacy within the field of children's environmental health. Scientists and academicians are invited to join the *CEHN Science List*. To subscribe, go to our website homepage.

Financial Statement

Income

Grants	
Government/Federal	\$286,645.88
Foundations	\$381,200
Contributions	\$13,636
Program Fees	\$4,454.77
Total Income	\$ 685,936.65

Expenses

Personnel/Labor	
Personnel	\$288,602
Professional/Consultant Fees	\$34,539.13
Contract Labor	\$4,200
Program Expense	\$25,708.90
Travel	\$15,030.20
Insurance	\$2,761
Rent	\$34,537.29
Utilities	\$237.01
Phone	\$5,406.20
Postage/Delivery	\$3,037.10
Printing & Reproduction	\$15,715.84
Computer/Web Services	\$8,660.20
Office Supplies	\$5,025.42
Administration (please see our 990 for full disclosure)	\$1,420.95
Total Expense	\$444,959

Net Income **\$240,977.65**



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