Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)









2014 Annual Report

Protecting All Children from Environmental Hazards & Promoting a Healthier Environment

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Message from Nsedu Obot Witherspoon CEHN Executive Director

CEHN was founded in 1992 in response to alarming evidence that the health and development of the nation's children was being increasingly damaged by rising levels of pollution, toxins, and other environmental hazards. Since our creation, illuminating research has expanded our understanding of children's environmental health to include facets such as the built environment and climate change.

CEHN translates peer-reviewed science into action. In 1999, we built the first pediatric environmental health curriculum based on peer-reviewed science (titled *Putting It Into*

Practice: Pediatric Environmental Health Training Resource). Throughout the last year, we expanded this curriculum to include more content areas and updated the format to include Power Point modules with accompanying user guides. CEHN has also continued to produce monthly articles highlighting new research in the field as part of our "Article of the Month" series. Our goal in producing these articles is to communicate recent scientific findings and public health implications in a way that is accessible to the general public, policymakers, and CEHN partners. In addition to the above efforts, CEHN has devoted a great deal of time and effort toward planning for our February 2015 Pediatric Research Conference, titled Children: Food and the Environment. CEHN staff, Board, and advisors continue to work very hard on this unique national meeting that will be held February 2015 in Austin, TX.

CEHN's leadership in the area of children's environmental health continues to expand, particularly in regard to education and training. An excellent example of this is CEHN's Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) program. EHCC is an award-winning, national program that provides training and endorsement to childcare providers. Throughout the last year, the EHCC program has continued to expand its reach by providing endorsement and training to childcare providers in additional states.

Despite the many recent accomplishments at CEHN (and in the field of environmental health more broadly), today's children continue to face an epidemic of illnesses and chronic diseases linked to environmental exposures. To address this urgent issue, we must take bold and ambitious steps to protect our children today and in the future. CEHN began taking these steps in September when we held a meeting to discuss our future Wingspread Summit. In this meeting, we brought together a small, but influential, group of leaders throughout various areas of research, advocacy, policy, environmental justice, public health, and law to assist CEHN in developing key aspects of the future Wingspread Summit. This effort is working to develop a Renewed Blueprint to Protect Children from Environmental Hazards in the U.S.

Within the realm of policy, CEHN is also working to identify priorities and opportunities for effective public health policy improvements. Please read below for key ways that we have contributed toward child protective policy efforts, as well as for more about our accomplishments throughout the last year. We are excited about the important work ahead of us!

If you are not already connected to CEHN, please reach out to us as we work together to ensure that our children are protected from environmental hazards.



Putting it into Practice: Pediatric Environmental Health Training Resource

The CEHN Training Manual on Pediatric Environmental Health: Putting it into Practice was originally published in 1999 as a resource to assist health care faculty in incorporating pediatric environmental health into their teaching programs. It proved to be a very popular resource, and as the burden of chronic disease among young children continues to increase in the United States, the need to continue educating future generations of health care professionals in pediatric environmental health remains great. CEHN has now revised, updated, and expanded the resource. It incorporates the latest peer-reviewed science and includes topics not covered in the original resource.

Twelve, stand-alone PowerPoint modules and accompanying user guides cover environmental health hazards of concern, and can be downloaded for free. These modules include the following:

- A Developmental Approach to Pediatric Environmental Health
- · Advocacy for Pediatric Environmental Health
- Air Pollution: Effects on Children
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Children and Nature (via the National Environmental Education Foundation)
- Children and Solvents
- Endocrine Disruptors and Children's Health
- Environmental History Taking
- Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma: Guidelines for Health Care Providers (via the National Environmental Education Foundation)
- Mercury, Arsenic, and Cadmium Toxicity in Children
- Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Pesticides and Children's Health

Each slide-set module is designed to take approximately one hour, making it an ideal length for presentation during a class, noon conference, or grand rounds. The accompanying user guides provide talking points, discussion questions, suggested assignments, key resources, and other tips to aid instruction.

"Putting it into Practice" offers clinicians and health care professionals valuable tools to help better understand pediatric environmental health issues. As such, this curriculum is a vital component of public health efforts aimed at protecting children's environmental health from the negative impact of environmental pollutants.

"Putting it into Practice" was researched, written, and revised by leading experts in the field of pediatric environmental health, and was funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

For more information and to download the training resource, visit: http://www.cehn.org/resources/HealthCareProfessionals/PediatricTrainingResource.

Oregon Environmental Council Infographics on Environmental



CEHN's Science Committee has assisted the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) on a project designed to raise awareness among the general public regarding environmental contributors to disease, and to make the case for environmental advocacy as health advocacy. CEHN contributed to this project by reviewing a series of draft info graphics and accompanying fact sheets to ensure scientific validity. OEC plans to use these materials in social media and public presentations as part of their "tool kit" to promote chemical policy reform, cleaner energy and transportation technology, and programs to reduce off-target pesticides, among others.

The completed infographics and accompanying fact sheets (reviewed and approved by CEHN's Science Committee) focus on the following topics: asthma, breast cancer, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and autism.

The series is focused on the state of Oregon, but the infographics are "modular"; pieces of them can be pulled out and used separately in other states or nationally. These materials will be very helpful to CEHN in the Network's own outreach efforts. CEHN will serve as an official co-sponsor to the project, and the info graphics will include the CEHN logo.



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, and in doing so, it creates healthier children. 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 2006 Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award, the 2010 Childcare and School IPM Recognition Award from the IPM Institute of North America, Inc., and the 2013 Environmental Health Innovation Award from the National Environmental Health Association. EHCC covers the following content areas: pesticides and pest prevention, air quality, household chemicals, lead, mercury, radon, art supplies, furniture and carpets, plastics and plastic toys, arsenic: treated wood and water, and recycling and garbage storage.

EHCC Endorsement

The Eco-Healthy Child Care® program currently endorses 791 child care facilities, and, as a result, protects 44,330 children within 48 states. A variety of corporate and government child care chains are committed to attaining EHCC endorsement for all facilities. These include Bright Horizons Family Solutions (with more than 800 centers), Childrens' Creative Learning Centers (with more than 100 centers), and General Services Administration – Child Care Operations (GSA; with more than 100 centers).

EHCC TtT

The EHCC Train the Trainer (TtT) curriculum is based on sound, peer-reviewed science and comprehensively covers environmental health hazards within child care settings. During 2014, CEHN staff offered the 5-hour EHCC TtT session to child care trainers, child care health consultants, licensing staff and child care resource and referral staff in Alabama, Connecticut, Nebraska, Nevada and New Mexico. Since 2008, the EHCC TtT has been offered in 28 states: Arkansas, Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. EHCC staff have trained 871 upper-level child care professionals using the EHCC TtT curriculum. We look forward to working with child care professionals in Illinois, South Carolina, and Texas in 2015. EHCC Milestones and Collaboration

EHCC Milestones and Collaboration

QRIS - EHCC staff members continuously research individual state Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRISs) to better understand how curriculum is chosen for inclusion and how programs are referenced. The EHCC program has been incorporated into Pennsylvania's highly-regarded Keystone Stars QRIS. Using EHCC as a foundation, Pennsylvania 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® checklist. Pennsylvania encourages child care providers to participate in EHCC. This past fall, CEHN and Informed Green Solutions (IGS) worked together to draft and submit a proposal to

bring the EHCC program to Vermont. The goal of this to align the Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) with the best management practices of environmental health and safety. The proposal describes how Vermont would follow the lead of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS but would be customized for Vermont by framing it to include Vermont's existing state regulations.

On-line Curriculum Development

CEHN is currently working with Allen Interactions (www.alleninteractions.com) to put EHCC's 5-hour curriculum online. We anticipate that EHCC's 5 hour in-person TtT course will be distilled into approximately 2 hours of on-line learning. The e-learning course will be broken into small modules (5-10 minutes in length) so that child care professionals can digest the content quickly and easily. Our goal for the completion of this project is early 2016.

National Center for Healthy Housing

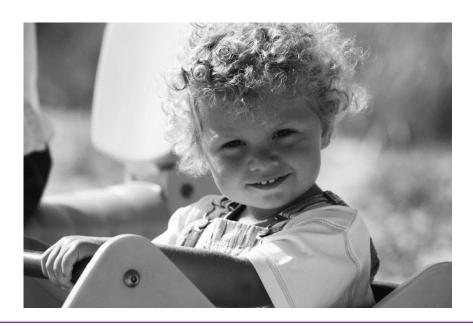
EHCC has formed a strong partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH). NCHH is a premier provider of healthy homes/healthy indoor environment trainings in the U.S. for public health and housing professionals. NCHH has developed curricula for 10 different successful and well-regarded trainings. NCHH has adopted the EHCC curriculum; as such, their 56 training partners across the nation will routinely offer the EHCC training. The Network was pleased to receive \$107,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support these efforts.

Environmental Law Institute

The Kresge Foundation awarded a grant to the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), with CEHN as a subcontractor, to advance environmental health policies for child care. This project includes the creation and dissemination of a report offering a comprehensive review of state and local child care environmental health policies and related non-regulatory activities across the U.S. By increasing awareness and education among community leaders and public officials regarding policy opportunities to improve child care, environmental health practices will be further institutionalized, thus helping to confirm the need for education and training programs such as EHCC. The report was released in January 2015.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

EHCC collaborates with Federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). One of ATSDR's current priorities is to reduce children's exposure to harmful chemicals. Formerly, the Agency generated guidelines for the safe siting of child cares, (ensuring that child care centers are sited in places as free from health hazards as possible) while working in collaboration with Connecticut state officials. Previous activities at or around a child care site may have resulted in contamination by chemicals such as mercury or benzene. EHCC will work with ATSDR to promote the adoption of these guidelines among state and local governments.



Health in All Policies - Year 3

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a 5-year (2011 – 2016) cooperative agreement through the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As part of this agreement, CEHN strives to expand the network of voices speaking out in support of policies to protect children's environmental health. In year 3, CEHN focused on providing technical assistance and capacity building to advance best practices in environmental health in child care settings, as part of the "Healthier Environments in Child Care Technical Assistance Initiative". Three child care organizations partnered with CEHN on this project. These organizations include the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC), the Association for Early Learning Leaders (AELL), and the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA).

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

The Association for Early Learning Leaders (AELL), a national accreditation body for child care providers, asked EHCC to assist with the revision of their accreditation standards. AELL's accreditation is available to center-based child care providers; currently, they accredit 900 facilities. AELL was interested in incorporating best practice recommendations to better protect the health and well-being of children. Under this initiative, EHCC staff worked with AELL from March 2014 through September 2014 to draft recommended standards reflecting all 30 of EHCC's checklist best practices. These recommendations impact 12 existing standards and introduce 3 new Standards, affecting 40 Indicators. Twenty-five new or revised glossary terms are also recommended for incorporation to support the new standards and Indicators.

CEHN supported the National Association for Regulatory Administration (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. This collaborative partnership resulted in several initiatives, including plans for an 'Environmental Health' track on environmental issues in out of home care for the NARA Licensing Seminar and the incorporation of goals pertaining to environmental health into NARA's Strategic Plan. NARA is planning to implement a quarterly webinar series and create an environmental resource center on the NARA website.



National
Accreditation
Commission
FOR EARLY CARE AND
EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Health in All Policies - Year 3 Continued

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CEHN provided an introductory webinar on children's environmental health for each organization and continues to work toward partner-specific goals. A webinar titled: "How Can Your Organization Embrace Children's Environmental Health? Lessons Learned and New Resources for Child Care and Public Health" was held in fall 2014. Presenters from CEHN and each of the three partner organizations contributed to the webinar. Webinar attendees were asked to fill out a post-evaluation survey to elicit feedback from representatives regarding the effectiveness of CEHN's technical assistance and potential improvements. Overall, all three partners indicated that the technical assistance helped advance their understanding of the connection between environmental health hazards and health outcomes, and that the assistance successfully supported their efforts to improve engagement in and attention to environmental health.

Evaluation and Publications

Evaluation is a key aspect of the EHCC program. We collect and analyze data to help us assess our impact. Researchers at the University of Maryland School of Nursing are working with EHCC to evaluate data collected thus far. EHCC has assessed checklists from 396 endorsed facilities to identify the frequency of different environmental stewardship practices by child care centers. The *Journal of Environmental Health* has accepted "Evaluation of the Children's Environmental Health Network's Environmental Stewardship Checklist Responses" for publication in March 2015.

ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENCE

Evaluation of the Children's Environmental Health Network's Environmental Stewardship Checklist Responses Robyn Gilden, PhD, RN
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Children's Environmental Health Network

EHCC Conference Participation

EHCC staff presented at 9 national, regional, and state conferences in 2014, including: the National Association for Family Child Care conference, the National Indian Child Care Association conference, the Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees conference, and the Child Care Aware of America conference.

Conferences (7/2013 - 6/2014):

- National Association for Family Child Care, Scottsdale, AZ July 2013
- Gila River Tribe workshop, AZ July 2013
- National Indian Child Care Association, Denver, CO August 2013
- National Health Impact Assessment meeting, Washington, DC September 2013
- Southern Early Childhood Association, Williamsburg, VA January 2014
- The Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees Conference, Washington, DC February 2014
- Delaware Valley AEYC, Philadelphia, PA March 2014
- Child Care Aware of America Conference, Washington, DC April 2014
- 41st National Head Start Association Conference, Long Beach, CA April 2014

Leadership

Since 2008, the EHCC NAC has ensured the growth, development, and rapid adoption of the EHCC program. Leaders at 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, advise how to conduct effective outreach, and ensure 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) advise the EHCC curriculum regarding the latest scientific research, ensuring the program stays up to date with the most current science.

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE EVENTS

<u>CEHN 2015 Research Conference - Children: Food and Environment</u>

This conference will focus on the affects of food and the environment on children's health and development, highlighting recent research and resulting policy, regulatory, and future research implications in this field. The exchange of information and ideas at this conference will help to inform CEHN's future work in the area of children's environmental health, specifically in regard to the role that food plays in a child's healthy development.

The conference is scheduled for February 4-6, 2015 at the AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center in Austin, Texas. Research scientists, epidemiologists, public health and health care professionals, and students in all related



disciplines are welcome. The Conference Planning Committee and Co-Chairs have been working to ensure an interesting and varied program delivered via a lively mix of keynote presentations, panels, and concurrent sessions.

Dr. Bruce Lanphear of Simon Fraser University will provide the opening keynote address, posing the stimulating question: Food in the Industrial Era: Is Backward the Way Forward? The keynote address will be followed by an abbreviated screening of the film Food Chains, which focuses on the Fair Food program and its partnership with growers and retailers to improve working conditions for farm laborers in the United States. This screening will be followed by a brief discussion. Together, the keynote address, screening, and discussion will provide an excellent foundation for participants to contextualize the scientific presentations throughout the remainder of the conference. The following two days of presentations will highlight recent research across a broad array of environmental influences, from food-related microlevel factors (such as nutrient-mediated microbiome effects) to food-related macro-level influences (such as contaminants from modern food production practices), and will also highlight a number of children's health and development outcomes including obesity, neuro-development, asthma, and cancer.

2014 CEHN 8th Annual Child Health Advocate Awards Reception

CEHN's Eighth Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception took place in October 2013, honoring three impressive and dedicated awardees in the field of children's environmental health. Dr. Linda Birnbaum (pictured bottom left), the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program was presented with the science award. Dr. Birnbaum has served as a federal scientist for 35 years and has received many awards and recognitions. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, has authored more than 700 peer-reviewed publications, and oversees a budget of more than \$740 million that funds biomedical research examining environment impacts on human health and disease. The Honorable Michael A. Nutter (pictured middle), Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, was the recipient of the CEHN policy award for his leadership in various sustainable efforts as part of his pursuit to make Philadelphia the greenest city. The Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Award, created in 2012, recognizes young individuals for their exceptional environmental health leadership. Ms. Maren Johnson (pictured bottom right), from Watertown, South Dakota, was awarded the NOW Youth Leadership Award for her work on the Global Soap Project, a wide network of hotels and volunteers in the upper Midwest and Canada that collects used hotel soap to be recycled through the Global Soap Project headquarters in Atlanta.

For more information about the Eighth Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception, visit: https://www.regonline.com/CEHNAward2013. CEHN thanks everyone in attendance at the event, and hopes to see more attendees at the upcoming 10th anniversary of the Child Health Advocate Awards, to be held in October 2015!







September 2013 Wingspread Summit Planning Meeting

In September 2013, a group of public health, science, community, policy, and children's health leaders met in Washington, DC to discuss and formulate the first steps for the CEHN Wingspread Summit: "Charting a Renewed Vision & Blueprint for Children's Environmental Health". During this meeting, leaders outlined the following priorities and objectives:

Pre-summit activities: Identify leaders to add to the planning committee, identify key invitees, conduct surveys focusing on children's environmental health to distribute to youth/parents/community leaders, develop background materials to provide participants with a solid foundation to build upon, create a social media plan, work to secure additional funding for the summit.

Urgent issues and unanswered questions that were discussed at the meeting included: Why hasn't there been more progress in the field of children's environmental health? What are the health effects and obstacles that we encounter in our work that frustrate us? What types of environment allow children to thrive? How can we work to understand and shift the market to embrace and understand the need for use of safer chemicals and manufacturing of safer products? How can we best identify fundamental issues at hand? How can we best mobilize and break down messages for different populations?

This meeting overall was an instrumental step in planning for the Wingspread summit, which took place in October 2014.

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Executive Director Children's Environmental Health Network

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 environmental harm

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 environmental harm and to promote healthier environments. Emerging research is expanding our understanding of children's environmental health. As a result, we have broadened our work to include additional challenges facing children in their environments, such as climate change, obesity, and chronic diseases previously thought of as 'adult only'.

Changes over recent decades have drastically altered children's environments and children's exposures, such as increases in chronic disease rates, current and future effects of climate change, and widespread use of chemicals untested for their health and development effects on humans. As a result of these and other changes, this generation may be the first to see a

shorter life expectancy than their parents due to their poor health status.

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, or join our listserv, visit our Website: www.cehn.org

You can also follow us on Twitter (@CEHN), or join our Facebook page (facebook.com/CEHNet).



Funding Partners

CEHN thanks all of its friends and funding partners for their outstanding support and service to the protection of children's health and their environment. In 2013-2014, CEHN received grant funding, donations, and in-kind support from the following individuals and organizations:

Individuals

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Audacious Inquiry
Bullitt Foundation
Cedar Tree Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
National Environmental Education Foundation
Park Foundation
Schwab Charitable
Steve Gladis Leadership Partners
UC Berkeley Childhood Leukemia Center
U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Financial Statement

Income

Grants

Government/Federal -	\$109,254
Foundations -	\$442,405
Contributions -	\$13,208
Program Fees -	\$12,466
Carry Over from FY 2013 -	\$57,660

Total Income \$634,993

Expenses

Net Income

CHSCS	
Personnel/Labor Personnel -	\$443,626
Payroll Taxes -	\$29,408
Professional/Consultant Fees	s - \$28,416
Program Expenses -	\$12,506
Travel -	\$20,802
Insurance -	\$6,862
Rent -	\$39,523
Utilities -	\$295
Phone -	\$5,838
Equipment Rental -	\$5,172
Postage/Delivery -	\$4,270
Printing & Reproduction -	\$3,248
Computer/Web Services -	\$3,933
Office Supplies -	\$8,535
Total Expense	\$612,434

\$22,559

Collaborating with Partners

Partnerships are key to leveraging resources for CEHN; below are some of our partners in the many productive collaborations we've undertaken this year in our efforts to protect children.













American
Public
Health
Association















National Center for Healthy Housing









American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™































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