

A VOICE IN WASHINGTON
FOR CHILDREN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Children's
Environmental
Health Network

2006 Annual Report

From the Executive Director



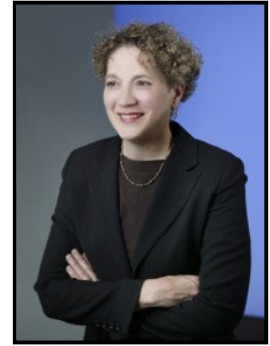
The vital mission of the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) continues to be an urgent one; environmental threats, like air pollution, exposure to lead, mercury, and toxic substances in products, unsafe food, and risks of global warming continue to threaten the health of children and their families. Rates of asthma, developmental disabilities and childhood cancer among our children are too high. Like the rest of the world, in 2005 CEHN witnessed the terrible destruction and sad aftermath from the Katrina and Rita hurricanes, which were at least in part due to global warming. The public health impact to thousands of families and children will continue to be experienced for years to come. CEHN extends its warmest thoughts to those families who are still working hard to rebuild their lives mentally, emotionally, and physically from those storms.

I am proud to present CEHN's 2006 Annual Report, which highlights our continued mission, vision, and priority program areas as we advance our important charge. Despite the progress on children's environmental health during our existence over the last 15 years, children around the world are still very vulnerable to harm through environmental hazards. Every day, existing policies to advance children's environmental health are challenged even while new opportunities arise to make further progress. To continue making steps forward, new approaches will be needed in the next decade, and we recognize that CEHN will need to change, in order to be successful in the future. 2006 was a year where we were able to strengthen our role in providing a bridge between science and policy children's environmental health, in several areas. One of these is in the area of making child care environments safer. Many children spend as many as 40-60 hours per week in childcare environments, yet, very little attention is paid to the hazards that may exist in such settings. Over the last few years we researched the issues with regards to safety of child care environments and identified the information and tools that are needed by child care providers. In 2006, this work culminated in conducting our first child care provider trainings, in California. We hope to expand this effort into many other parts of the country.

In 2006 we continued to improve our financial situation. In September, CEHN held a successful fundraiser in Washington, DC that was hosted by the Patton Boggs law firm. As the need to secure continuous support for our important work increases, CEHN will hold similar events around the country each year. We initiated our first campaign to gain contributions from private donors. We remain grateful for the support of our programs by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Beldon Fund, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Heinz Foundation. Special thanks go to the UC Berkeley Superfund Basic Research Program, which has provided us with core support for a number of years.

- Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH
- July 1, 2006

Message From the Board Chair



The work of CEHN and its partners has completely changed the landscape for children's environmental health. CEHN is the *only* Washington, DC organization solely dedicated to children's environmental health and strong voice for children's environmental health on national science-based policies.

This last year has been a year of wonderful achievements. Among those is the completion of our first childcare provider training workshops in California. There is much interest in our bringing this information to childcare providers throughout the country, and we look forward to doing so.

CEHN played a key role in the national capital, where it is an important voice for children's health and environmental protection. In 2006, members of Congress in both the Senate and the House introduced legislation that would make chemicals child-safe for the first time in the US. Largely tracking principles for child-safe chemicals that we developed with our partners in prior years, this proposed legislation lays down a marker for chemicals reform that is badly needed, to assure the safety of children. In 2006, we completed work on a monograph on ethical aspects of children's environmental health research. Authored by a number of top experts in the field, it has been accepted for publication in a leading environmental health journal and should contribute to strengthening the protections that children receive as research subjects. Board member and pediatric researcher Cynthia Bearer deserves much credit for coordinating this effort.

I thank Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, Carol Stroebel, Kathryn Graczyk, and Laura Frene for their extraordinary work over the last year. Special thanks to the law firms of Patton Boggs and Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, and Peter Robertson for their assistance with legal issues. I especially appreciate my Vice Chair Dick Batchelor, as well as all other Board members who pitched in on fundraising, training, science and policy issues whenever and wherever they were needed. It is their commitment and passion, as well as the support of the community that has kept these efforts alive. We put out an urgent call for help, because we needed to raise \$250,000 in order to keep our doors open. Fortunately, the community responded and we were able to raise this money and more, putting us in much healthier financial shape than we have been for years. Despite these improvements there is still much to be done to put CEHN on stable footing.

As we have both focused on our core mission and on building support, our financial situation has improved as well. We acknowledge the progress made to date but still have a great amount of work to do to assure the protection of children's health in all environments. I invite you to take a moment to look over the work presented within this report and know that CEHN remains energized about our continued efforts to protect all children's health.

- Lynn R. Goldman, MD, MPH
- July 1, 2006

Healthy Environments for Preschools and Child Care Settings (HECCP)

What are the environmental hazards in child care centers and preschools? To advance the knowledge of children's environmental health, CEHN identified the environmental health of children in preschools and in child care settings as a high priority for action. The training program that we developed educates child care providers and administrators on creating healthier and safe environments by identifying environmental hazards; removing/alleviating such hazards; and identifying useful resources and contacts for child care centers. The program includes fact sheets on key topics, such as; safe cleaning alternatives, integrated pest management, lead poisoning, and indoor mold. Trainings were given in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties in California; we reached more than 100 child care providers. To date, the evaluations have been very positive as well as useful for design of future trainings. This effort has been quite successful and we plan to build on this model via the development of child care trainings in other areas of the country, beginning with the Atlanta Metro Area in Fall 2006. This project was completed through support from the San Francisco Foundation and California Wellness Foundation as well as support of the NIEHS Superfund Basic Research Program at the University of California at Berkeley.

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Protecting Children's Health: Providing Leadership on Federal Policy

Making Chemicals Child Safe

There are tens of thousands of chemicals in commerce in the U.S.; few have been assessed for safety to children. Over the years the CEHN has been concerned that safety assessments consider unique risks to children – the vulnerabilities to exposure during critical windows of development and the unique exposures that children have to many substances. Our efforts to educate on this have borne fruit; today, laws regulating pesticides, drinking water and pharmaceuticals, now explicitly require safety assessments for children. However, there are no such requirements for toxic chemicals. The European REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Assessment of Chemicals) Initiative provided an opportunity to educate policy makers and thought leaders on how chemicals can be made child safe.

Last year, CEHN produced a background paper on U.S. chemicals policy analyzing the effectiveness of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in protecting children's health. We used the white paper as a basis for a policy workshop, and the development of a Statement of Principles for Child Safe Chemicals that were endorsed by a number of medical and public health organizations. In 2006, we continued to communicate these via congressional staff through briefings on Capital Hill, our webpage, meetings and other venues. As Congressional interest in a much-needed review of these laws has increased, CEHN's wide distribution of its analysis and principles assured that Congress had the necessary information to consider children's unique vulnerabilities and susceptibilities to environmental exposures.

In July 2005 Senator Frank Lautenberg introduced S. 1391, S. 1391: Child, Worker, and Consumer-Safe Chemicals Act of 2005 and Congressman Henry Waxman introduced H.R. 4308: Child, Worker, and Consumer-Safe Chemicals Act of 2005. These bills, introduced to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce the exposure of children, workers, and consumers to toxic chemical substances, contained a number of the ideas that were included in the principles that we developed, demonstrating how our work on making chemicals child safe is beginning to influence policy makers. Lynn Goldman, MD, MPH, CEHN Board Chair, presented on chemicals policy and children's environmental health in a series of Hill briefings, and also participated in a news conference with Sen. Lautenberg regarding the introduction of S. 1391. CEHN chemicals policy materials were available at these events and CEHN was asked to provide technical assistance to various Congressional offices and others involved with drafting and tracking this legislation. Our ultimate objective in this area is that policy makers on both the state and local levels will take children's risks into consideration in the regulation of toxic substances. We are grateful to the Beldon Fund and the Heinz Foundation for their support of this work on chemicals policy, as well as support of the NIEHS Superfund Basic Research Program at the University of California at Berkeley which helped us to prepare for this work.

Collaborating With Partners

Healthy Schools: The Network uses a variety of venues to raise awareness and educate around these issues. CEHN assisted the Coalition for Healthier Schools in incorporating chemical safety legislation, CEHN bill analyses, and chemical policy background papers into its annual meeting, and CEHN has raised the need to address the inadequacies of current chemical policies at a Healthy Homes meeting sponsored by the CDC.

National Children's Study: A vital longitudinal cohort study to help pinpoint the root causes of many major diseases and disorders, the National Children's Study has been strongly supported by CEHN. In 2006, the CEHN entered into a subcontracting relationship with IQ Solutions to assist with outreach to communities that have been selected for inclusion into the National Children's Study. This reflects our long term support for the study as well as for the promotion of community involvement in environmental health research. We are looking forward to our work with the NCS in the coming year.

Kids Count: With the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, CEHN is developing children's environmental health metrics that can be used on a national basis by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and their partners in communities.

George Washington University: Our location in Washington DC provides an excellent opportunity to reach promising young students for whom a single experience could make a difference over an entire lifetime. The summer of 2006 was CEHN's fifth year to participate in the Annual DC Student Environmental Development Program (SEDP) at The George Washington University.



SEDP Graduates and Mentors

We are grateful to our contributors who provide general support to the CEHN that allows us to be able to work with our partners on issues of importance to children's health and the environment.

Promoting Ethics In Children's Environmental Research

In 2004, CEHN held a groundbreaking workshop "Ethical Issues in Children's Environmental Health Research" that covered major topics including ethical issues unique to children's environmental health research, community involvement, industry funding and privacy and confidentiality. This work was continued forward in 2005 through production of a series of manuscripts that were developed for publication as a mini monograph in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, with the guidance of Cynthia Bearer, MD, PhD, a noted scientist in the field and member of the CEHN Board of Directors. A total of six individual papers were written:

- 1) *An Exploration of Ethical Issues in Research in Children's Health and the Environment* by Jerome Paulson;
- 2) *Trials and Tribulations Of Protecting Children From Environmental Hazards* by Bruce P. Lanphear, Jerome Paulson, and Sandra Beirne;
- 3) *The Politics of Risk: Ethical Issues in Children's Environmental Health* by Maura A. Ryan;
- 4) *Privacy and Ethics in Pediatric Environmental Health Research -Part I: Genetic and Prenatal Testing* by Celia B. Fisher;
- 5) *Privacy and Ethics in Pediatric Environmental Health Research -Part II: Protecting Families and Communities* by Celia B. Fisher; and
- 6) *Supplementing the Traditional IRB with a Environmental Health & Community Review Board* by Steven G. Gilbert.

The papers have been completed and will be published in a peer-reviewed journal, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, early next year.

We gratefully acknowledge the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for supporting the workshop as well as the NIEHS Superfund Basic Research Program at the University of California at Berkeley whose general support assisted us with this work.

Thank You to Our Individual Donors!!

2006 Honor Roll List

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| Cynthia Bearer | John Martin |
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| Susan Mathiascheck | West Harlem Environmental Action |
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| | Jennifer Wimberley |

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Staff and Consultants

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| <p><u>Staff</u> Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, M.P.H. Executive Director</p> <p>Kathryn Graczyk Graduate Student Assistant</p> <p>Shadia Wood VISTA Americorps Volunteer</p> <p><u>Consultant</u> Carol Stroebel Health Policy Specialist</p> |
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Linking Science and Advocacy

Through the maintenance of two professional listserves, the CEHN Science List holds discussion around the current research and science within the field of children's environmental health while the CEHN Community List provides discussion for general advocacy within the field of children's environmental health. To subscribe, send a blank message to:

Cehnscience-on@cehn.org

Cehncommunity-on@cehn.org



About the Children's Environmental Health Network...

The Children's Environmental Health Network is a 501 (c)3 national organization with a multidisciplinary mission that involves protecting the fetus and children from environmental health hazards and promoting a healthy environment. To achieve this mission, CEHN's 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;

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