



Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)

**The Voice in Washington
for Children's
Environmental Health**

2009 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Message from our Board Chair and Executive Director	3
Programs:	
Healthy Environments for Child Care and Preschools (HECCP)	4
Health Professionals and Environmental Justice	6
Protecting Children Through Policies	7
Climate Change and Children	8
Collaborating with Partners	9
Communicating Science	10
Events	11
Linking Science and Advocacy	14
Circle of Children’s Health Champions	14
Board of Directors	15
National Advisory Council.....	16
Staff/Consultants	16
About Us	16
Financials	17

From the Board Chair and Executive Director



2009 has been another exciting year of growth and opportunity for the Children's Environmental Health Network! We were thrilled to welcome an additional Board member, Albert Morris, Jr., MD. Dr. Morris is a radiologist, past Chairman of the National Medical Association (NMA), and a long standing member of CEHN's Policy Committee. We have been pleased to welcome his leadership and expertise. Also, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Cynthia Bearer who has been on the CEHN Board since its creation and will take over as Board Chair in 2010.



Although we were sad to see our past Program Coordinator, Laura Hepting, move on to join the Peace Corps in Ecuador this year, we have been very pleased for the addition of our new Program Coordinator, Joanne Pérodin. Ms. Pérodin has experience in environmental and exposure assessments, has co-authored research articles in the field, and led disaster relief and prevention efforts in developing countries. Joanne joins the CEHN team with a Masters in Public Health in Environmental Health Science from the University of Maryland, School of Public Health. We are very lucky to have Joanne's experience and energy on the CEHN team.

This year we all witnessed the beginning of a new Administration with a declared understanding and focus on public health and children's health protection. As a result, CEHN has witnessed an increase in demand and requests for our time and perspectives. We have enjoyed many successes such as finalizing CEHN's Position Statement on Climate Change and Children, expanding our Healthy Environments in Child Care and Preschools (HECCP) program into Texas, and accomplishing a variety of efforts to influence child protective policy. We were able to secure \$3M in children's environmental health research for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and now serve on advisory committees for the Centers for Disease Control, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Institute of Medicine. CEHN also had the wonderful opportunity to actively participate in and coordinate meetings of NGOs at the World Health Organization's Third International Children's Environmental Health Conference in Busan, Korea.

CEHN continued to maintain our Science and Community listervs, and the monthly "Children's Environmental Health Article of the Month." Collaborative projects with partner organizations expanded while CEHN obtained two new general operating grants and held its Third Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception in Washington, DC. A successful Child Health Advocate Award Reception was also held in Harlem, New York along with a reception and Community Forum in Orlando, Florida.

We invite you to look through our following report and find the advances CEHN continues to make within our key program areas. Our warm thanks to all of our supporters and contributors as we all work to protect our most vulnerable population....our children!

Healthy Environments for Child Care and Preschools (HECCP)

Although most U.S. children under age six spend up to 40 hours a week in child care settings, little has been done to protect young children from environmental health hazards in child care and preschools. CEHN identified preschools and child care settings as a missed opportunity to address children's environmental health. For the last six years, the assessment and training program we developed enables child care providers and administrators to:

1. Understand children's vulnerabilities to environmental health exposures
2. Identify environmental health hazards in and around child care facilities
3. Determine methods to alleviate and remove environmental health hazards
4. Develop communication and identification strategies for parents to reduce environmental health risks at home
5. Obtain up-to-date information answering questions about environmental health safety in their facilities from local, state, and national organizations and additional resources.

The core of the training curriculum includes 15 modules on topics such as safer cleaning, air quality, pesticides, lead, mercury, plastics, and indoor mold.

Collaborating on a National Scale

The peer-reviewed curriculum for the HECCP was awarded Continuing Education Unit (CEU) accreditation by the Centers for Disease Control in 2008. This status allows CEHN the flexibility to take the HECCP program around the country and offer CEUs to child care professionals nation-wide. All trainees receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) after completion of the training.

In 2009, CEHN expanded the HECCP Program into Texas with the goal of training an additional 300 child care professionals in the Dallas/Ft. Worth areas by spring 2010. We continued our programs in Washington, DC and Georgia. To date, CEHN has trained 793 child care professionals in 87 facilities and conducted environmental assessments in 35 facilities.

By 2010, our goal is to merge the HECCP program with the Oregon Environmental Council's Eco-Healthy Child Care Program (EHCC), a program working to facilitate the development and implementation of the first national leading and trusted program offering environmental health training, assessment, and endorsement in child care facilities, promoting healthy and safe environments for our young children.



Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX

After successful HECCP programs in California and Georgia, CEHN Received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region VI to expand the program to Dallas/Ft.Worth, Texas. The Texas HECCP program will customize trainings to the region and will provide support to translate program materials into Spanish for the first time. Trainings are expected to start in August 2009.

This program is made possible by the collaborative efforts of CEHN, EPA Region VI, 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.

TX HECCP Training



Washington, DC

CEHN further expanded the Healthy Environments for Child Care and Preschools (HECCP) program into Washington, DC, thanks to the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program targets child care facilities serving lower income and minority communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental pollutants. The DC HECCP program provides the opportunity to conduct site assessments and provide tailored recommendations for each enrolled child care center through Action Plans. Training at DC centers began in the summer of 2008 and to date CEHN has served more than 250 child care providers from 20 registered facilities in the first year of the three year program. Trainings for year two are expected to begin in August 2009.

Our current collaborators include the George Washington University's Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE) and the DC Department of Health. The program is guided by a local advisory committee made up of key child care and public health partners.





**DC HECCP
Advisory Task
Force Members**

Health Professionals and Environmental Justice

In August 2006, CEHN launched a three-year project to educate leaders in three key communities - pediatric and other health professionals, environmental justice, and public health - about the impact of environmental hazard exposures on the health and welfare of children, and to encourage leaders in these communities to promote awareness of the issues of children's environmental health.

In partnership with the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), CEHN continued to make presentations at targeted health professional conferences around the country, such as the National Summit of Clinicians for Health Care Conference (October 2008); Advancing Climate Justice Climate Change and Public Health Conference (January 2009), and the National Hispanic Medical Association 13th Annual Scientific Session Exposition (March 2009). The presentation at the Climate Justice Conference resulted in an invitation to submit a chapter to an upcoming book that will focus on climate justice, health, and action. Work with the National Hispanic Medical Association resulted in the translation of key environmental resources for health care professionals into Spanish for the first time.

CEHN and NEEF continued meetings with leaders in the National Hispanic Medical Association, the National Association of School Nurses, the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine, and the National Medical Association. A key connection with a tribal health community was also made through Montana State University. The goal of this project is to further engage these organizations and their members and to assist them in incorporating children's environmental health issues into their current work.

The National Hispanic Medical Association represents 36,000 licensed Hispanic physicians and the National Medical Association represents over 30,000 African American physicians. The National Association of School Nurses represents 17,000 school nurses (one-third of all school nurses) in the country. The opportunities that this project has to reach key advocates is very important to the protective health and well-being of our children

CEHN gratefully acknowledges the ENVIRON Foundation for their generous support of the Health Professionals and Environmental Justice Project and the National Environmental Education Foundation for their partnership on this important project.

Protecting Children Through Policies

Health professionals, parents, teachers and others who care for children can do much to create a healthier environment for their charges. But they cannot clean the air, remove contaminants from drinking water or assure that all products are safe for children. Those aspects are the responsibility of Federal, state and local policies and programs.

The Network has continued its leadership as the Voice for Children's Environmental Health in our nation's Capitol.

Educating

CEHN representatives met with key Capitol Hill offices to educate them about problems and opportunities to better protect children from environmental hazards.

CEHN Board Chair Ramona Trovato testified before the House Interior & Environment Appropriations Subcommittee. The Network also submitted testimony to other relevant Senate and House appropriations subcommittees.

The Network provided educational presentations to partner groups on current policy opportunities in the field of pediatric environmental health, such as on the need to update the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Assisting

The Network has provided technical assistance when requested by Congressional staff in translating ideas for protecting children into statutory language.

Advocating

In fall 2008, in cooperation with the Healthy Schools Network and the American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, CEHN developed and circulated a memo to the incoming Administration's transition team on opportunities to promote Healthy Children, Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities, and Green Jobs in the stimulus bill.

The Network also spoke in support of adequate funding for key programs such as the National Children's Study, biomonitoring and health tracking at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to address the potential health effects of global climate change.

The primary U.S. law that regulates the thousands of industrial chemicals in our environments, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), is ineffective and outdated. The Network continued to support an overhaul of this statute and the adoption of legislation such as the Kids Safe Chemicals Act (S. 3040/H.R. 6100 in the 110th Congress). CEHN also urged the replacement of the ineffective EPA Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP) with an effective and timely approach to understanding the health effects of chemicals to which children are exposed.

The Network developed a position statement on global climate change (see below) and supported the EPA's findings that greenhouse gases contribute to air pollution that may endanger public health and welfare.

Protecting Children Through Policies (continued)

The Network was joined by the American Academy of Pediatrics in comments supporting the EPA proposal to cancel all uses of the pesticide carbofuran, and opposing the EPA's plan to weaken the children's safety factor for this pesticide.

CEHN Position Statement on Climate Change and Children

The Children's Environmental Health Network seeks to create safe and healthful environments in which all children can thrive. Climate change will alter the global environment and present major challenges to the health and welfare of children. Children in communities that are already disadvantaged will be the most harmed. Recent studies have detailed how children's physical and social health may be harmed. Some examples include:

- Atmospheric changes associated with greenhouse gases can lead to:
 - Respiratory diseases
 - Sunburn and melanoma; and
 - Immunosuppression.
- Climate change may directly cause:
 - Heat stroke
 - Injury and death from extreme weather events and natural disasters
 - Gastrointestinal diseases (such as through increased water contamination); and
 - Psychosocial mal-development.
- Ecologic alterations triggered by climate change (such as severe drought and severe precipitation) may lead to:
 - Increased rates of malnutrition
 - Increased rates of allergies
 - Increased exposure to mycotoxins
 - Increased exposure to certain toxicants
 - Increased range of some vector-borne diseases (malaria, dengue, encephalitides, Lyme disease); and
 - Emerging infectious diseases.
- The displacement, water and food insecurity, and forced migration caused by drought, increased rain and severe storms, and rising sea levels may lead to:
 - International conflict and political unrest
 - Increased stress on families, leading to neglect or abuse of children; and
 - Interruption in a child's education due to forced migration or the need to work to help support the family.

CEHN Position Statement on Climate Change and Children

(continued)

Therefore, CEHN takes the following positions, based on our current understanding of the implications of climate change on the health and well-being of children.

The Children's Environmental Health Network:

I. Urges prompt action to mitigate global climate change.

The broad scientific consensus is that the Earth's climate is warming rapidly and at an accelerating rate, due to human activities and other causes.

II. Promotes the inclusion of children's specific vulnerabilities, needs, and social and health outcomes in international, national, state, and local climate change policies and plans for adaptation. Advocates for children's protection, treatment and care.

III. Encourages collaboration and partners collaboratively across disciplines and among government and non-governmental organizations to develop innovative and comprehensive approaches to mitigation and adaptation that address children's particular needs.

IV. Calls for additional research to determine the extent to which children's health may be affected by climate change and what additional domestic and international policies, structures, and systems need to be developed, implemented and sustained in order to protect all children.

V. Charges all professionals serving families and children, including health care providers, to work to minimize the harmful health effects global climate change may have on children through educational outreach and other relevant actions.

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

- Ms. Witherspoon continued Coordination of the Public Interest Partners for the National Institute of Environmental Health (NIEHS).
- Ms. Witherspoon served as Chair for the Intersection Council of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and served on the Executive Board.
- Ms. Witherspoon began service as Co-Chair of the Leadership Council for the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures.

Collaborating With Partners (continued)

District of Columbia Involvement

CEHN contributes to the following activities in the District of Columbia.

- DC Asthma Partnership
- Co-Chair, DC Environmental Health Collaborative
- DC Lead Poisoning Elimination and Healthy Housing Advisory Committee
- Early Childhood Obesity Collaborative

Communicating 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, in March 2008 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 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-base of current issues with stakeholders.

Events

In 2006, CEHN began a campaign to develop and cultivate a broader range of supporters for our programs and overall work. The Board and staff received training in development and launched the Children's Environmental Health Advocate Award Reception. 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.

Events (continued)

CEHN's 3rd Annual DC Children's Environmental Health Advocate Award Reception

The 3rd Annual Children's Environmental Health Advocate Award Reception took place in October 2008, 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 first award was presented to Elizabeth Blackburn, a leader in education, nursing, and community service. The second award was presented to Dr. William A. Suk, Acting Director of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, a long-standing supporter of CEHN and pediatric health research. The third award was presented to Bettina Poirier, the Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The fourth award was presented to Greg Farmer, Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations at Nortel.

The event was hosted at Nortel Corporation in Washington, D.C. CEHN is very thankful for the great support provided by the host, friends, and partners. The Fourth Annual Children's Environmental Child Health Advocate Reception will occur in November 2009.

Awardees Sitting: (l to r) – Elizabeth Blackburn, Greg Farmer, William Suk, Bettina Poirier
Board Members/Staff: (l to r) – E. Ramona Trovato, Brenda Afzal, Nsedu Witherspoon, Lynn Goldman



Group photo at DC Awards Reception



CEHN New York Reception

In October, CEHN's Board Member, Peggy Shepard hosted a successful reception in Harlem, New York. Attendees ranged from those that know CEHN well to those just meeting Board members and staff for the first time. Honorees included Wendy Gordon, Founder of the Green Guide and Dr. Federica Perera, Director of Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health. A wonderful time was had by all!

Awardees (l to r): Dr. Federica Perera and Wendy Gordon





CEHN Board and Staff at Board Meeting in Orlando, Florida

CEHN Orlando Community Forum

In May, CEHN's Board Member Dick Batchelor hosted a reception and Community Forum which highlighted children's environmental health concerns nationally and regionally. Panelists included: (front row, l to r below) Dr. Stanley Meiburg, Acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 4, Karen van Caulil, Executive Director for the Health Council of East Central Florida, Dr. Antonia Novello, former U.S. Surgeon General and Director of the Children's Office of Health & Policy Affairs at the Florida Hospital for Children, and Dr. Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor of Northland Church and on CEHN's Board.



Linking Science and Advocacy

CEHN maintains two professional listserves, thus serving as an information resource for those interested in up-to date information in pediatric environmental health. The CEHN Science List holds discussion around the current research and science within the field, while the CEHN Community List provides discussion for general advocacy and education. To subscribe, send a blank message to:

Cehnsience-on@cehn.org

Circle of Children's Health Champions

Thank You to Our Donors: 2009 Honor Roll List

Air Check, Inc.	Joel Hunter
American Public Health Association	Richard Jackson
Audacious Inquiry, LLC	Philip Landrigan
Brenda Afzal	Leyla McCurdy
Chris Afzal	Elise Miller
Claire Barnett	Navista
Caitlin Blue	Nortel Corporation
Dick Batchelor	NYS Naral Foundation
Cynthia Bearer	Jerome Paulson
Tobie Bernstein	Christina Lee Pennoyer
Elizabeth Blackburn	Frederica Perera and Fritz Schwarz
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Justine Uhlenbrock

Malissa Winograd

Angie Wong

Children's Environmental Health Network: About Us

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

Financial Statement

Income

Grants	
Government/Federal	\$ 224,277.96
Foundation	\$ 246,300.00
Contributions	\$ 17,061.81
Total Income	\$487,639.77

Expenses

Personnel/Labor	
Personnel	\$130,026.67
Professional/Consultant Fees	\$ 13,037.43
Contract Labor	\$ 39,024.50
Program Expense	\$ 56,956.63
Travel	\$ 21,140.65
Insurance	\$ 3,257.94
Rent	\$ 23,632.35
Utilities	\$ 420.94
Phone	\$ 4,840.05
Postage and Delivery	\$ 1,403.76
Printing and Reproduction	\$ 1,270.48
Computer/Web Services	\$ 11,405.51
Office Supplies	\$ 319.47
Misc. <i>(please see our 990 for full disclosure)</i>	\$ 10,336.99
Total Expense	\$317,073.37

Net Income **\$170,566.40**



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