Letter From Our Executive Director
Nsedu Obot Witherspoon

This fall marked a huge milestone for CEHN! After a few years of gathering input and putting in place a plan, CEHN held a Wingspread Summit in Racine, Wisconsin. The purpose of this ground-breaking meeting of visionary leaders was to engage all in serious dialog to chart a renewed vision and blueprint for action that truly addresses various environmental injustices that children and their families face daily in the U.S. We intentionally worked to broaden our traditional net of partners in an effort to bring in some new and important voices to the table. We had some challenging yet inspiring discussions about the transformational change needed to protect more children from the current and emerging environmental health threats that they face. A lot of attention was given to the need for child-centered approaches in all efforts that also include support for the overall health of families and communities. After our few days together and a lot of hard work, participants were able to develop a historical Wingspread Statement that was supported by all and began to outline a course for implementing the vision. To view this statement go to (http://www.prweb.com/releases/CEHN/VisionStatement/prweb12282999.htm). This statement provides the foundation and purpose for the blueprint for action that we are now working to create that acknowledges the various accomplishments in the field of children's environmental health to date, yet outlines the urgent need to advance in our opportunities to impact children's lives and prevent illness all together. This vision will help to leverage all of CEHN's work, including our next pediatric research conference this February. If you are interested in supporting the vision statement or would like to be a part of this movement, please contact Rachel Locke (rlocke@cehn.org).

Growing up in a multicultural family, there were many aspects of life that represented the beauty of those differences. The meals prepared, cooked, and the ingredients carefully selected represented an important component of my Nigerian and German roots. Along with the ability to enjoy traditional meals together as a family came a certain assumption that our ingredients were safe and that they would nurture our healthy growth and development. As I have gotten older and wiser, that sense of security that I once had has been questioned frequently. Emerging research continues to show us that there is much that we already know about food-related exposures and much more that has to be studied. On February 4-6, 2015, CEHN will host our next pediatric research conference on "Children: Food and the Environment" in Austin, TX. This forum will be an exciting event that will heighten our understanding of how the interaction between food and environmental factors affect children's health. In additional to research, policy and regulatory implications will also be discussed. Be sure to register for this exciting conference today so that you do not miss out on the early bird deadline. Please see the conference link for more information along with further details in this newsletter (http://www.cehn.org/2015_research_conference).

As always, thank you for your continued support of CEHN and the protection of all children!

--Nsedu O. Witherspoon, MPH
CEHN Executive Director
Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program Updates

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Region VI office is funding CEHN to conduct the Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) program’s 5-hour Train the Trainer (TtT) session in Texas in 2015. One TtT session is scheduled for February in Austin and one in May in Dallas. In addition, this grant will allow EHCC staff to conduct a limited number of on-site assessments at EHCC-endorsed child care facilities in Texas to ensure provider compliance and commitment. Some of the grant funds have already been used to translate EHCC’s 16 educational fact sheets into Spanish (available here.)

EHCC’s TtT session educates child care professionals about reducing environmental health concerns within child care settings. Participants include child care trainers, health/nurse consultants, and licensing staff. TtT sessions have already been successfully conducted in 28 states. 99% of TtT participants would recommend the training to their colleagues.

CEHN appreciates this opportunity to support Texas child care professionals in better protecting children from environmental hazards in the early care and learning setting.

Eco-Healthy Child Care® is a science-based and award-winning program that supports child care professionals in reducing children’s exposure to environmental health hazards while directing parents and caregivers to child care facilities that are eco-healthy.

Do you shop on Amazon.com?

As you begin to look towards Black Friday and the holiday shopping season, please remember to use AmazonSmile and pick CEHN as your charity!

Whenever you use Amazon Smile and choose CEHN, Amazon will donate a portion of the profits to CEHN (at no extra charge to you).

Visit our website and click on the Shop at AmazonSmile box to get started!
CEHN Policy Work

Waters of the United States

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers aim to strengthen protection for clean water through the proposed rule: “Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ Under the Clean Air Act”, and the proposed guidance “Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act” (WOTUS). WOTUS would help clarify the types of waters covered under the Clean Water Act, thereby reducing costly jurisdictional disputes and allowing the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to best protect water quality and public health for millions of Americans. A bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in July, H.R. 5078, the “Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014”, would prohibit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA from developing, implementing, or enforcing WOTUS. In September CEHN signed onto a letter to all offices of the U.S. House of Representatives, along with the American Public Health Association, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Trust for America’s Health, urging the opposition of the bill. Unfortunately, H.R. 5078 passed the House and will be considered by the Senate next. The full letter can be found here: http://www.cehn.org/files/140909_Health_WOTUS_letter_HR5078%20final.pdf.

To be included in the public comments for the proposed rule docket, CEHN also signed onto a letter to EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy, along with other public health organizations, in support of WOTUS. The full letter can be found here: http://www.cehn.org/files/141024_Health_letter_EPA_WOTUS.pdf.

CEHN’s own docket comments were also submitted, and can be found here: http://www.cehn.org/files/WOTUS%20Comment_Final%2020141114.pdf.

Perchlorate and food additive regulation

CEHN joined a food additive petition to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) seeking amended regulation to prohibit the use of long-chain perfluorocarboxylate oil and grease repellents in paper and paperwood. This petition was spearheaded by the National Resources Defense Council, and other members who signed on include the Center for Food Safety, the Breast Cancer Fund, the Center for Environmental Health, the Environmental Working Group, and Improving Kid’s Environment. The petition can be found here: http://www.cehn.org/files/REVISED%20FINAL%20PFCs%20Food%20Additive%20Petition%20October%202014%20Wingspread%20Retreat%20Attendees.pdf.

CEHN participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a member of EarthShare®, a non-profit federation whose members represent the most respected and responsible environmental and conservation organizations in America. If you are a federal government employee please consider supporting CEHN.

CEHN is a national non-profit 501(c)3 organization that relies on contributions and grants to sustain our programs. Your contributions provide direct support for CEHN's work to protect our children's health.
CEHN’s 2015 Pediatric Research Conference
Children: Food and Environment

Don’t forget to register for CEHN’s pediatric research conference “Children: Food and Environment,” scheduled for February 4-6, 2015 in Austin, Texas! To accommodate everyone’s busy schedules over the Thanksgiving Holiday, we have extended our Early Bird Registration deadline to 11:59pm ET on December 12. We are also still accepting abstracts for presentations until 11:59pm ET on December 1. Don’t miss this opportunity to share your research with colleagues at this important event!

The conference program will kick off with an exciting Opening Keynote address by the esteemed Bruce Lanphear of Simon Fraser University, who will set the stage with an engaging talk on “What is Food?” The program will then highlight research that explores the interaction between food and environmental factors, and how that interaction affects children’s health and development. Both micro-level factors, such as nutrient-mediated microbiome effects, and macro-level influences, such as contaminants rising from modern food production practices, will be explored, along with policy, regulatory, and further research implications, via a lively mix of keynote presentations, panels, and concurrent sessions. Additional confirmed Keynote presenters include:

Maureen Black, University of Maryland School of Medicine, who will address children’s barriers to ingesting healthy food;
Gregory B. Diette, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, who will address dietary interventions against environmental triggers.

In addition to highlighting the latest cutting edge research in the field, our conference provides excellent opportunities to network and inspire, including two poster sessions and a field trip opportunity to visit one of two sustainable food programs in Austin. Research scientists, epidemiologists, public health and health care professionals, and students in all related disciplines are welcome. For more information visit: www.cehn.org/2015_research_conference. Please join us and also help spread the word about this exciting event with colleagues and within your networks. We hope to see many of you in Austin in February!
CEHN Ninth Annual Health Advocate Awards Reception

CEHN’s Ninth Annual Child Health Advocate Award reception took place on October 6th. We enjoyed a lovely evening catching up with longtime supporters and friends of the Network as well as making new friends while honoring six individuals who have made impressive contributions to the field of children’s environmental health:

- **Science Award**: Dr. Tracey Woodruff, UCSF School of Medicine
- **Policy Award**: Dr. Richard Jackson, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
- **Community Award**: Dr. Barbara Minzenberg, Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning and Ms. Maureen Murphy, Pennsylvania Key
- **Nasedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award**: Mr. Nathan McEmrys and Ms. Roxana Reisch

Our generous sponsors this year included: Brenda and Muhammad Afzal, Philip Landrigan, Carol Obot, Steve Gladis Leadership, TechImpact, Visionary Consulting Partners, and Audacious Inquiry, as well as gift donations from Capital BikeShare DC and Babytime! by Episencial. Thank you to all! Pictures from the award event can be found here: [http://bit.ly/CEHN2014AwardsPics](http://bit.ly/CEHN2014AwardsPics). We hope to see even more of you at our 10th Child Health Advocate Award Reception next year!

Have you entered our Facebook SleepSecure photo contest yet?

CEHN has partnered with Naturepedic® for an exciting photo contest and giveaway opportunity. Parents/legal guardians (or those with explicit permission) can upload pictures of their safely sleeping children to the contest for a chance to win an organic, non-toxic crib mattress from Naturepedic®, valued at over $250!!

Visit our SleepSecure page: [www.cehn.org/sleepsecure](http://www.cehn.org/sleepsecure) for official contest rules and information on how to enter. Enter soon—the contest ends on November 26th!
Safer Holiday Decorations

Christmas trees are lovely and traditional symbols of the holiday season. However, research has shown that artificial Christmas trees contain varying amounts of lead due to the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in branches. Using a real tree is the surest way to avoid this contaminant, but if that is not an option, parents should ensure that the artificial tree was manufactured recently since those would contain much smaller amounts of lead. Those manufactured before 1990 contain the greatest amounts. Regardless of how old your artificial tree is, care should be taken to minimize the amount of time children spend playing beneath it where lead particles settle and accumulate.

Some caution should be exercised when decorating the tree as well. Many families pass down old ornaments through generations, but these old ornaments could contain lead paint if they were manufactured before 1978. While decorating the tree, parents should use gloves to handle any old ornaments and place them on the tree well out of the reach of children. Any old ornaments with peeling paint should be kept in storage or discarded to avoid possible exposure. We hope that all of you enjoy a peaceful, healthy and safe holiday season!

Combined Federal Campaign: Look for CEHN!

If you are a federal employee, or know federal employees that participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, you can give to CEHN this year. CEHN is a member of the federation EarthShare and our CFC number is 92596. We are also attending CFC events, so keep an eye out for us!
CEHN in the News

The following are recent press releases by the Network:

- **Visionary Leaders Across Sectors Issue Renewed Vision for Protecting Children’s Environmental Health**
- **EPA Region VI Supports Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program Expansion into Texas**
- **Spanish Versions of the Children’s Environmental Health Network’s Fact Sheets on Environmental Hazards and Eco-Healthy Practices within Child Care Settings Now Available**
- **PA State Child Care Officials Receive Children’s Environmental Health (CEHN) 2014 Community Award**
- **Students from Portland, OR and Rochester, NY to be Honored at the Children’s Environmental Health Network’s Ninth Annual Child Health Advocate Reception**

The Network was also featured in the Washington Post and the Huffington Post:

- **Acting on Climate Change for Our Children’s Sake:** an article co-authored by Nsedu Witherspoon and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy
- **Hazardous chemicals in your pizza box? Petition asks FDA to ban them:** CEHN signed onto a letter with other groups asking the FDA to ban perchlorates