Letter From Our Executive Director
Nsedu Obot Witherspoon

I hope everyone is enjoying a lovely spring and looking forward to some summer fun!

With the final end to a very long and draining winter, we are all reminded of the reality of climate change and the related implications for our health and overall well-being. We are also reminded of the realities that severe changes in our weather patterns and temperatures impose upon all of us, especially our most vulnerable populations. CEHN is part of a larger network of science-based and public health focused organizations that are working with the Obama Administration, the EPA, and HHS to promote the President's Climate Action Plan as we prepare for exciting and necessary efforts related to reducing carbon emissions in the United States. We look forward to engaging our network in steps to serve as champions in this area in the near future.

With the beginning of spring has come some exciting new beginnings at CEHN. We are happy to congratulate Kristie Trousdale who has been promoted to CEHN's Program Manager position. We have also welcomed Kourtney Whitehead, Principal at Korn Ferry, as a new Board member, and I look forward to our combined work together. Other fun updates include the confirmed dates for key CEHN activities this year. Our 9th Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception will take place Monday October 6th in Washington, DC. The Science, Policy, and Community award recipients will be announced over the coming months. Please read further for more information on how to nominate a deserving youth leader for the 3rd Annual NOW Youth Leadership Award.

CEHN’s next Pediatric Research Conference, titled "Children: Food and Environment" will take place February 4-6, 2015 in Austin, Texas! We look forward to seeing you all at these events!

--Nsedu O. Witherspoon, MPH
CEHN Executive Director

CEHN Federal Policy Activities: FY 15 Appropriations

In March, CEHN Board Chair Cynthia Bearer testified on behalf of CEHN before the U.S. House Labor and HHS appropriations subcommittee. The Network also submitted testimony to other relevant Congressional appropriations subcommittees, as well as joining with a variety of coalition partners in letters to Congress in support of CDC, NIEHS and other vital funding initiatives.

You can read Dr. Bearer’s testimony at www.cehn.org/policy/recent_activities.
Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program Updates

The Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) Train the Trainer (TtT) curriculum has been adopted by the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH)! NCHH is the premier provider of healthy homes/healthy indoor environment trainings in the U.S. for public health and housing professionals. This past March, twenty-five of NCHH’s 56 training partners (ie., representatives from Children’s Mercy Hospital and Clinics in Kansas City, University of Texas School of Public Health) gathered in San Diego, CA to participate in a full 5-hour EHCC training, conducted by CEHN’s EHCC National Director and CEHN’s Director of Training and Policy. The EHCC TtT curriculum focuses on educating child care professionals (child care trainers, health/nurse consultants and licensing staff) about reducing children’s exposure to common toxins, including: Pesticides, Poor Air Quality, Household Chemicals, Lead, Mercury, Radon, Treated Playground Equipment, Furniture and Carpets, Art Supplies and Plastics and Plastic Toys. The curriculum offers free or low-cost strategies that will improve the environmental health of children within child care settings. NCHH’s adoption of the EHCC TtT curriculum is a big success for the Network, as NCHH’s various partners can now routinely offer EHCC trainings across the nation, thus greatly extending the program’s reach. Thank you to our partners at NCHH for choosing to adopt CEHN’s EHCC TtT curriculum!

CEHN Federal Policy Activities: Unscented chemicals

CEHN led the effort when key medical groups weighed in with the U.S. EPA in opposition to the Agency’s decision to include fragrance chemicals in the EPA’s Design for the Environment program. Signers of the letter to the U.S. EPA Administrator were the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association, the National Medical Association, and the American Thoracic Society, in addition to CEHN. The organizations cosigning the letter are now on record stating that “In general, children and adults should be protected from unnecessary exposure to chemicals that may impact their health or development,” especially unnecessary product components such as fragrances. Go to www.cehn.org/policy/recent_activities to read the letter and related news release.

Know a youth volunteer dedicated to environmental health?

CEHN is seeking nominations for our 3rd annual Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Award!

See www.cehn.org/NOWaward for more information.
Child Care and Policy Work

The Network’s activities in the field of child care are increasingly intersecting with its policy work. CEHN’s 2014 activities in its “Health In All Policies” (HiAP) cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are focused on several exciting projects with leading national child care organizations.

Projects include:

- Working with the National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) to create a collection of the standards in *Caring for our Children, 3rd Edition* that are relevant to environmental health;
- Supporting the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) as it modifies its 2014-2020 strategic plan to enumerate environmental health and as it establishes an educational track on children’s environmental health in future NARA Annual Seminars; and
- Assisting the Association for Early Learning Leaders (AELL) and its National Accreditation Commission in refining its accreditation standards and indicators to better address environmental health in early care and learning settings.

These projects will result in tangible progress in advancing best practices in environmental health in the child care setting. The HiAP activities are supported by Cooperative Agreement number EH11-1110 with the CDC.

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 Executive Director Receives William K. Reilly Award for Environmental Leadership

On April 25 CEHN Executive Director Nsedu Obot Witherspoon was honored as one of two 2014 William K. Reilly Environmental Leadership Award winners. The second annual awards event, organized by the Center for Environmental Policy at American University’s School of Public Affairs, was held on campus in Washington, DC, and former U.S. Senator Bob Graham of Florida delivered the keynote address.

Ms. Witherspoon’s leadership has been integral to directing and organizing the CEHN’s strategic plan to serve as the “Voice for Children’s Environmental Health” in Washington, DC, for over the past decade. Her dedication to children’s environmental health has made her a key leader within the field. She also serves as a member of the Friends of Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health, a strategy advisor for the California Breast Cancer Prevention Initiatives, and a board member for the Pesticide Action Network of North America.

Community Engagement

The school year is coming to a close. What types of environments will your children be in this summer? Whether it’s day camp, away camp, summer school, or a summer job, our children need to be in safe environments. Each of us can help increase public awareness in promoting healthier environments for our children by engaging our communities. Offer your expertise and time to inform and consult. Share the message with your children’s camps, schools, community centers, and community pools. Participate in planning community events and encourage environmentally responsible sponsorship and activities. Help develop a community garden. Create your own community blog and encourage others to post stories and upload photos to show how they are helping build healthy environments. Work with your local government and home owners association to implement integrated pest management strategies. These are just some of the ways you can help be the change agent in your community and contribute to the collective vision of healthy environments for our children across all settings.

Did you know about these free CEHN Resources? Download them now!

- Pediatric Environmental Health Training Resource for Health Care Faculty
- Childhood Leukemia Fact Sheet
- Eco-Healthy Child Care® Fact Sheets
Updated Pediatric Training Resource Available

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 incorporate pediatric environmental health into their teaching programs. CEHN has now revised, updated and expanded the resource. PowerPoint presentations for each of the 12 modules, approximately 1 hour in length, replace the former chapter-document format. Each module has an accompanying user’s guide document to explain slide content if necessary, as well as to provide relevant case studies, possible discussion questions, suggested assignments, must-read references, and additional resources. The 12 modules and their user guides are available for free download from our website at www.cehn.org/resources/HealthCareProfessionals/PediatricTrainingResource.

12 Module/User Guide sets:
- A Developmental Approach to Pediatric Environmental Health
- Environmental History-Taking
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Children and Solvents
- Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and Children’s Health: Phthalates and Bisphenol A
- Air Pollution Effects on Children
- Mercury, Arsenic, and Cadmium Toxicity in Children
- Pesticides and Children’s Health
- Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Advocacy for Pediatric Environmental Health
- Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma (reprinted with permission from the National Environmental Education Foundation)
- Children and Nature Initiative: Rx for Outdoor Activity (reprinted with permission from the National Environmental Education Foundation)

Please Save the Date

The Children’s Environmental Health Network’s 9th Annual Child Health Advocate Award Reception

Will be held in
Washington, DC

On
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014
5:30 – 8:00 PM