

Minutes: May 2, 2005
Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Members Present: Jacqueline Phillips, Maureen Edwards, Peyton Eggleston, Douglas Bradham, Benjamin Gitterman, Phil Heard, Judy Lakind, Christopher Loffredo, Mary Ellen Setting, Lorne Garrettson. **Guests:** Teresa Ross, Maryland Department of Housing Monica Pourat, CNMC, Aurora Amoah, MACCHE, Edward Crow, MDA, Barbara Conrad, MDE. **Staff:** Mary Johnson, Yvette McEachern.

Opening of Meeting:

Dr. Edwards, Chair, called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Legislative Review:

The Council reviewed the status of several bills from 2005 legislative session. The birth defect registry bill failed and the flame retardant bill passed amended. In addition, Dr. Edwards stated that the Task Force on Indoor Air in Schools bill had failed as well as the Clean Air bill.

Regulation Review:

There were no comments based on the previously reviewed regulations listed: COMAR 26.12.01.01, Control of Ionizing Radiation and COMAR 05.11.02 .01-.13 Radium Grant Program.

Presentations:

Barbara Conrad, MDE- gave an overview on childhood blood lead surveillance in Maryland and current future needs. First, she talked about the annual report on childhood blood levels in Maryland, and the requirements for blood testing. (See handouts for more details). Ms. Conrad also talked about the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and what was being done to reduce the number of children with elevated blood leads.

Ms. Conrad also talked about roles of the state agencies. She stated that MDE was coordinating the 2010 Elimination Plan with the Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission. She also mentioned that MDE was responsible for the compliance and enforcement of lead laws; lead safe work practices; laboratory reporting to child and adult lead registries; blood lead surveillance reports; and enforcement of related air, water, and waste standards. DHMH is responsible for: overseeing the blood testing requirement, healthcare resources, state lab test analysis and certifications of laboratories, Medicaid enforcement of EPSDT standards for testing, access to care, and refugee health.

Council Comments: Council members recommended increased outreach efforts to providers, in getting lead blood testing done. Dr. Edwards mentioned the obstacles in doing this and the problem with getting the children in for actual testing. It was also recommended by the Council that outreach efforts to providers be included in this year's conference in the fall.

Yvette McEachern- presented the Title V (MCH Block Grant) needs assessment currently underway. Feedback from the Council about target populations and their

healthcare needs would be helpful. The information received would help address capacity building for the populations in need. The information would be included in the Title V grant application to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and a planned state report.

The Council was also advised to send any additional recommendations on children's environmental health 'needs' to Mary Johnson or Yvette McEachern.

Brief Updates:

Annual Report- Dr. Edwards stated that the annual report was completed but currently being reviewed. When it is finalized, copies will be distributed to the Council, and made available on the CEHPAC website.

Indicator Report - Work is continuing on the Indicator Report with the support of the US EPA. Dr. Edwards stated that the committee would be having a teleconference meeting with the EPA next week.

Conference 2005- Dr. Edwards and Ms. Smoah informed the group that the plans for this year's Mid-Atlantic Center for Children and the Environment conference would take place, October 1, 2005 in Baltimore.

Guest Comments: None.

Next Meeting: July 11, 2005

Meeting Adjourned.