**Annual Joint Meeting**

**Commission on Environmental & Sustainable Communities**

**Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council**

**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD**

**Aeris Conference Room**

**May 24th, 2016 9:30 am- 11:30 am**

**In Attendance**

* Commissioners: Subha Chandar, Rebecca Rehr, Arabia Davis, Richard Fairbanks, Vernice Miller-Travis, Lisa Nissley, Delegate Clarence Lam, Steve Levitsky, Benoy Thomas, Janet Moye Cornick
* Participants: Duane Johnson, Angelo Bianco, Laura Rogers, Tad Aburn, Jeaneen Maxwell, Diana Abney,Megan Latshaw,Julian Levy, Arjum Makhijawi,David Costello, Nancy Reilman,Veronica Carella,Brandi Stockdale, Tad Aburn

**Introduction**

Vernice Miller-Travis started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Cliff Mitchell gave an overview of why this meeting is taken place, saying that stature requires a joint meeting between both commissions annually.

**CEHPAC BUSINESS**

* **Wi-Fi in the Classroom:** Dr. Megan Latshaw chair of the Wi-Fi working group gave an overview on radio frequency radiation in the classroom that was brought up by the public. Dr. Latshaw said they had a student who made this part of her Masters project to do a literature review related to Wi-Fi exposure. The working group also drafted their own outline for what the working group would like to do base on the student report. Megan indicated that this report basically says that more research is needed but in the meantime, parents are looking for guidance. Megan ask would anybody be willing to help flush out the recommendations that will be put through CEHPAC. Finally, CEHPAC members felt as though some sought of fact sheet should be provided for parents and schools explaining the dangers of Wi-Fi radiation in schools.
* **Marcellus Shale motion:** Veronica Carella indicated that she has a motion that she would like the CEHPAC commission to consider, which is to send a letter to University of Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health. She suggested requesting an update of the health hazard rankings and recommendations that were developed for the report issue June 2014. By reviewing major findings publish since then and assessing the relevance for answering questions at whether public health can be protected in Maryland in the newly proposed regulations. After some brief discussion about the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

**CEJSC BUSINESS**

* **July 2016 Retreat:** After some discussion about where to have the July 2016 retreat it was unanimously decided to have it at the Perdue headquarters in Salisbury, MD.
* **Overview 2016 Clean Air Update:** 
  + Tad Aburn gave an overview on the 2016 Clean Air in Maryland indicating that for the first time in 30 years; Maryland is meeting all federal health base air quality standards. However, there is still work to be done to meet our air quality goals and to obtain and maintain the new ground level ozone standards. Tad said out of the 18 ozone monitors, 15 are already below the new ozone standards of 70 parts per billion (ppb). He said it’s going to be a lot of new inexpensive monitoring over the years and indicated that he would be interested in working with the commissions on community based efforts in this area.
  + It has been a dramatic reduction of Ozone and Fine Particulant levels over the last 10 years.
  + New Ozone standards starting in 2017
  + New fuel program for 2017: All new cars will be burning lower sulfur fuel which will allow the catalytic convertor to work better causing a reduction in NO2.
  + Maryland is one of eight states who are pushing hard for a California program called Zero Omission, which tries to encourage manufactures to continue to make progress on their cars.
  + Sulfur Dioxide Standards: EPA will be looking to see if Maryland is within these standards over the next six months.
  + Vernice ask Tad “do we know if asthma is going down?” Tad mentioned nationally, asthma rates have stabilized in terms of severity and new onsite cases. Tad He also stated, in Maryland it isn’t enough data to determine whether asthma is declining and to keep in mind indoor air quality is different from outdoor quality.
  + Vernice mention the idea of having conversation between MDE/Brandywine evolving around asthma and the influx of power plants in the area. Tad expressed this would be a worthwhile conversation.
  + Tad suggested partnering together to get some of the federal dollars to support diesel retrofit and replacement programs. It was suggested asking Any Fellows and Environment Finance Center to help identify where some of the resources are.
* **Climate Change:** 
  + Dr. Cliff Mitchell (CEHPAC) said the Climate Change commission has several working groups, one being Mitigation and the other being Adaptation. Adaptation working group is working on climate changes happening now and how do we adapt as a state to do that? Phase 1 from a state level is examining sea level rise and adaptation to sea level rise. This initiative is a genesis of Coast Smart; a plan in place to help the state adapt to coastal sea level rise by changing the elevation of structures among requirements. Phase 2 involves addressing how do the state responds to public health changes regarding climate change? This would include things such as; change in infection disease, injury rates, motor vehicle accidents, temperature related injury, respiratory diseases and asthma. Dr. Mitchell says CDC now has a grant opportunity for the commission to do a 5 year plan looking at adaptation specifically related to identifying vulnerable population and making sure adaptation strategy include not just the state as a whole but particularly vulnerable populations. Dr. Mitchell stated DHMH is in the process of writing that grant and ask for support letters from CEJSC and CEHPAC. The second thing is there are tasks that need to be done such as; how to identify vulnerable populations and working with the DHMH and the Office of Minority Health Disparities to identify those vulnerable populations. Also, consider where they are geographically and the type and the type of people at risk in order to design and craft specific outreach efforts for them in light of what we anticipate for climate change health impact.

Dr. Mitchell said part of their environmental health public tracking project is going to be working with the Department of Planning. He believes that now with the environmental health tracking project in a position to give zip code level data to health departments, local planning authorities and others can assist with determining baseline health status of the population and to help identify from that vulnerable population that will be vulnerable as climate change take place. Tracking quarters should be release around June 30, 2016.

Vernice ask Dr. Mitchell how do you see how CEJSC can identify vulnerable populations? She asked Lisa “don’t you think there is some overlap with the cumulative impact working group?” Lisa said she didn’t have a great answer to the question but said the type of meetings Tad spoke of, the group would really need help from the commission in setting them up and to help identify the best area to have those meetings. Cliff task Veronica with heading the meetings over the next year. He said in the past when he was on CEJSC, he proposed the idea of going out to each county and meeting with their planning authority to talk about health vulnerability and planning using climate change as the framework. Cliff suggested having CEJSC meet with those authorities to talk about health planning and climate change as a way of engaging around the issue of vulnerable population. CEJSC can help local planning authority and play a more active role at an operational level in terms of advancing the agenda.

Veronica said Lisa ask the commission to really think about identifying the most likely physical location for a meeting that would get a number of people to be engaged. Rebecca commented and mentioned in the mitigation working group, we have been formally asked to provide some input. She said by having conversation today, conversation on June 28th and July 25th by the July retreat we should have come up with draft recommendations and to make sure that these recommendations are put forth because the commission has been ask several times by different audiences to identify vulnerable communities and vulnerable climate change, in particular environmental justice and it’s in our state charge.

Rebecca said the list of recommendations that the commission submitted to the mitigating work group needs to be revisited before the June 28th so that on July 25th we can make sure the migrating working group has what they need. She also stated that in those recommendations, reducing diesel emissions in vulnerable communities as a mitigating issue, which will be a joint effort between MDE, MDOT and climate commission. Rebecca said when that recommendation was presented to the climate change commission it was some push back from some of the commissioners, partly reflexive of the Reduce Act which was part of legislation. Rebecca said there may be some relationship and political agenda rather aim at getting some federal money to retrofit diesel traffic and we would recommend prioritizing to vulnerable communities. Rebecca said everything they talked about was officially recommended and now it’s decision making time. It can be presented what they did at the cumulative working group although it was never any consensus about what demographic indicators or income indicators to use but maybe when we talk about climate change some of the indicators could be high rental properties and high vulnerabilities to traffic exposures. Finally, Rebecca suggested that the commissions keep this time line and to follow the deadlines and a grant could help with this.

* + Veronica Carella said that if you really want to affect change, we have to begin influencing the zoning regulations and correcting mistakes within them.
  + It was voted on and approved to jointly look into the research opportunities, to look at the vulnerable population and climate mitigation arena.
  + It was some discussion about having a webinar around the Equity and Environmental Justice and the Maryland Greenhouse Gas Act implementation report.
* **Lead In Drinking Water:**
  + In Maryland, it’s roughly 1000 water systems that has their own drinking water source and serve at least 25 people. The Largest system is over 50,000 and serves 4.3 million people and is in compliance.
  + It’s currently 35-41 systems that are not meeting standards. MDE is constantly working with these systems to notify people who they think may have elevated lead level and will work with them to resolve treatment issues.
  + EPA region 3 is taking part in overseeing MDE water program to insure that what happen in the Midwest don’t occur here in Maryland.
  + Within the last few month lead surveys were sent to all the communities’ water supplies asking them to update their data from the early 90’s. One of the questions asked was “how many of you have lead lines and have you taken corrected actions to remove those lead service lines?” From the survey it was about 21 that have identified with some lead service lines and are reviewing their inventory. Many systems did take corrected action years ago by replacing the lead service lines that were in distribution. EPA is doing an audit of Maryland to make sure that they are in compliance with the lead and copper laws.
  + A number of the public schools across the state are not covered by MDE program because they are part of a larger water system. Meaning there isn’t a mandated federal program for testing these schools.
  + There were discussions over regulatory gaps between federal and state government water systems authority particularly in schools.
  + Issues related department of education is out of MDE jurisdiction. Dr. Mitchell added that it’s two things that aren’t in MDE jurisdiction; one is private wells and schools water supplies. Drilled wells are the responsibility of the home owners, counting for about 15% of the population and are not covered under MDE regulations. These are just two of the gaps being identified of which the commissions need to address with delegate Lam on how to fill these gaps.
* **Legislative Session 2016 Update**
  + Dr. Mitchell said that DHMH new regulations states, any child born on or after January 1, 2015 is considered to be at risk for lead exposure and must be tested between ages of 1 and 2.
  + It was asked can the commissions have a fall meeting?” Answer was yes.
* **Other news**
  + EPA has release EJ2020 Action Agenda Plan
  + Rebecca Rehr offered to take any comments relating to EJ 2020 Action Agenda.
  + Maryland Stake holder meeting on Friday 27th at 10 is at MDE.

Meeting Adjourned

**Next Schedule Meeting June 28th, 2016**