

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
September 22, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aeris Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr, Subha Chandar, Chris Clarke, Laura Rogers, Lesliam Quiros Alcalá
- Participants: Jeaneen Logan, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Ariane Kouamou-Nousa, Pamela Harris, Joe Wright

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

The Commission reviewed the priorities set at the July retreat to further define their goals and share what work they had done since the retreat.

CEHPAC Follow Up

Subha discussed the priority areas CEHPAC has for themselves and how that might inform what the two groups may work on. Two CEHPAC issues are not particularly related to EJ including the use of turf fields and wifi/smart meter exposure/towers near schools. While she knows lead, an issue we named as a priority, is on their agenda, she is not sure if there will be crossover on green cleaning.

Subha shared that a potential time to help is during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is at the end of October. Also, DHMH's new screening and testing recommendations will be implemented early next year. There will be a roll out in January and the Department will need help connecting with communities.

Lisa suggested checking in with Benoy Thomas who serves on both the Council and the Commission and the Council in order to assist with these issues. Perhaps also try to get five to ten minutes on the next agenda for CEHPAC to further this discussion. She will check in with Rachel about what the Council's schedule is in the coming months. She mentioned that another item on the retreat minutes was possibly doing the CEJSC December meeting as a second meeting with CEHPAC to work on these issues. Commissioners agreed this is a good idea. Lisa will reach out to CEHPAC leadership about this.

On green cleaning at schools, Rebecca mentioned that at her organization, the Maryland Environmental Health Network, Allison works on this issue. She notes that the best policies are in Howard and Montgomery Counties, which happen to be the most wealthy. On the otherhand, Prince George's County still does not have a policy.

Rebecca also shared that at UMBC on Thursday there is the MD Public Health Association Conference. She will share if anything of interest comes from that.

Joe mentioned that radar is also an issue related to children's health, especially if they are constantly passing through something that is set up on their way to school. Another guest asked Subha to explain the issue with turf fields. There is some early concern that the materials used to make the turf and maintain it may be of harm to children if they are constantly exposed.

Local Government Outreach

Rebecca reported that the members involved in this issue had a call last week to work on next steps. They are interested in developing (or finding an existing) equitable development toolkit that could be used to start a convo w/MACo and local governments. They are working on defining an agenda and then will set up a call with Les Knapp. They want to learn how are the counties incorporating EJ & ED in their planning and development plans, but also make suggestions to improve, or start, depending on the situation.

Arabia is work in on something with MDP that would deal with rural outreach. Possibly a roundtable on EJ and Dick is working on Westport. Both should be here next month to share more.

Cumulative Impact

Lisa updated the Commission on MDE's Cumulative Impact Workgroup. The first meeting was on September 9th and it was a good first meeting. Rebecca attended and Arabia was there as well. They only were able to cover the topic of permits and begin to get into indicators because of the robust questions. It seems that naturally the advocates are somewhat concerns about how to narrow the permit list because they don't want to miss something while businesses and labor are somewhat more concerned about the net that will be cast with indicators. Lisa believes that smaller is okay because if whatever is put in place or tested works, it can be replicated or grow. She will keep the Commission posted.

Other Announcements

Lisa noted that one area of interest that did not make the top three priority list during the retreat is working with the Maryland Climate Change Commission. She asked if some members might be interested in a one time meeting with leadership from the MCCC to discuss EJ. It was decided to wait until the October meeting to decide.

Subha mentioned that DHMH's revised portal for health data should be ready in November/winter time.

Rebecca mentioned the Regulatory Reform Meetings being held by the Administration. Lisa shared that Jeff Fretwell has been attending those meetings and may be available to quickly summarize the meetings at the October meeting.

The Commission adjourned at 10:15am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th at MDE.