

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
May 28, 2019
9:30 am-11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Camille Burke, Paula Dannenfeldt, John Papagni, Robert Hackman, Dick Fairbacks, Janet Moye Cornick, Joseph Griffiths, Malachy Rice, Subha Chandar, Crystal Faison, Lesliam, Camille Burke
- **Participants:** Paula Hammond, Jeaneen Maxwell, Steve Charles, Veronika Carrella, Dr. Gitterman, DR. Clifford Mitchell, Ensa

Introductions

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

CEJSC Business

- March meeting minutes were approved
- Camille asked for suggestions on holding the July 23rd retreat by June 15th.
- Dick suggested a park location with a great mansion on hand but without an air conditioner. This idea did not go over well with the Commissioners.
- Camille asked Crystal Faison to look into the airport location and to put a hold on it if possible.
- Camille suggested that she or Duane will contact the Commissioners within 10 days to inform them -where the retreat will be held.

CEJSC Outreach Plan Discussion

- Camille briefly talked about forming a partnership with the Maryland Environmental Health Network (MEHN) because they have a built in list serves.
- Joseph Griffiths indicated that the Commission would need to decide why we are using MEHN networks to do outreach.
- He suggested taking time to look at MEHN's resources and the work they have already done.

CEJSC Legislative Update

Camille gave an overview of HB1233 which will require jurisdictions to lower the blood lead level that triggers lead risk reduction requirements when testing children for lead poisoning from 10 ppm to 5 ppm.

The regulations for this bill are being written by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Camille indicated that since no funding attached to HB1233, finding a way to implement it locally will be a challenge.

- Dr. Clifford Mitchell from the Maryland Department of Health said it has been the priority of a lot of organizations to get the state to conform more closely with the CDC's guidance on lead.
- Dr. Mitchell gave a brief history of blood lead level exposures in children and talked about where lead exposures come from, like spices, dishes, soil and makeup.
- Dr. Gitterman said he is worried it will be two tiers of inspections -one for 5-6 ppm and one for 12-13 ppm- which could give folks a false sense of security. Because of this he said there should be the same level of investigation for both tiers.
- Camille said Baltimore City inspections cover just about everything when they go into a house.
- Dr. Mitchell said that due to the many sources of lead it makes investigations more complicated- especially with no funding.
- Dr. Mitchell said historically lead has always been an important issue medically and environmentally.
- Dr. Mitchell said Medicaid is doing several things related to prevention of lead poisoning by providing grants to agencies.

Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) discussion

- CEHPAC had 10 council members on hand
- Meeting minutes for the January and March meetings were approved
- Two letters sent to the FCC concerning radiation and pesticide levels in young people have not received a response yet.

Legislation Update

- Veronika Carrella talked the about the pesticide application laws. She said CEHPAC approved a letter sent to the Department of Agriculture in 2016.
- She talked about 181 laws that went into effect in 2019, specifically HB 275 and SB 270 that talk about the application of pesticides. She said CEHPAC and CEJSC have a responsibility to respond to these types of bills.
- It was suggested that both Commission's work together on writing letters to legislators. The attorney on hand said that the for Commissions working together should not be a problem.
- There was also some discussion about the Health in and All Policy group work.
- There was discussion that data sharing across state agencies could solve some problems.
- Veronika made a motion asking that a letter be written to the Secretary of Agriculture asking the Secretary to review the 2018 and 2019 Health in All Policies Report and to report back with a itemized response.
- The motion passed.

- Lead certification was discussed- any building built with state fund must be lead certified. Veronika made a second motion for CEHPAC to record supporting indoor lead certification in the 2018 HIA report.

- The motion passed

Lead in drinking water

There was some discussion on lead in drinking water by Dr. Mitchell.

- He suggested that depending on the location of the source , county by county appears to be a 5% increase of lead levels in drinking water in the schools.
- If there appears to be an elevated blood lead level, two additional tests are done to confirm.

Joint efforts by both Commissions

- Dick Fairbanks talked about incineration in Baltimore City and asked if both groups be thinking about it.
- Dr. Mitchell said it is a hot topic and has been discussed as a complicated environmental justice issue. He said if both Commissions want to discuss it they should but they would need briefings from other agencies.
- Veronika suggested putting the incineration issue on a future CEHPAC meeting agenda and doing a presentation.
- Ensa from CEHPAC talked about compression stations and how both Commissions can have some input as it relates to notification of these stations.
- Veronika said both Commissions should look at the 2018 Health in All Policies.
- Joseph Griffiths suggested that both Commissions could get involved in comprehensive planning as it relates to housing in 2020.
- Camille said CEJSC needs to be more proactive on legislative issues.
- Cliff suggested that both Commissions should meet twice a year instead of once, with the possibility of one of the meetings being by phone.

No public comments

Meeting adjourned