**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)**

**Annual Joint Meeting with**

**Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC)**

**May 28, 2013**

**Aeris Conference Room 1800 Washington Blvd.**

**Baltimore, MD**

In Attendance:

CEJSC Commissioners: Calvin Ball, Lisa Nissley, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Larry Polsky, Nancy Servatius, John Quinn

Participants: Veronika Carella, Jed Miller, Crystal Heidi, Michelle , Ed Crow, Brigid Kenny, Rachel Hess-Mutinda, Julian Friedman, Rebecca Ruggles, Andrea Kidd-Taylor, Rebecca Rehr, Nancy Jacobs

Introductions were made by all present.

CEJSC Update

Lisa explained that this year the Commission has concentrated on building a network of people aware of EJ. The thought being, these people are out in the communities, businesses, government, etc, doing work that affects EJ, let’s raise the issue so they are aware as they do their work. Our areas of concentration are Communities via Academic Outreach based on a UMD effort, County Outreach, Business Outreach, and Legislative Outreach.

Veronika commented on the importance of local development and zoning regulations. Veronika noted how in Howard County there is a car painting facility near a K-12 school. On the other side there is a funeral home.

Updates

Brigid Kenney updated the group on Marcellus Shale work at MDE. She told the group that all applications have been withdrawn to this point and that the commission is going to meet to discuss best practices, whether and how to allow, and other potential impacts. A draft of part II of the report will be released soon. Their next meeting is on June 10th. MDE is using 1 MM for additional baseline monitoring. In addition to an economic study of positive and negative economic impacts, there will be a public health study. The appropriation is a FY 13 appropriation and the group is working on an MOU on a work plan on the public health study. Brigid said that the plan will allow for public input and studies must be completed by August 2014, although data monitoring will be continuing after that. Rebecca Ruggles wanted to know whether the MOU would be sufficient to encumber the funds. Brigid also discussed information on the MDE website.

Bruce Bereano, who was there for American Suntanning Assocation, addressed comments to CEHPAC regarding the regulation of the use of tanning beds by underage children. A form was recently developed by DHMH and it is currently open for public comment before it will be finalized. His understanding was that there would be a further meeting of the Council. He felt that the form was dramatically changed since earlier discussion and that the process was not fair. Mr. Bereano noted that a press conference was already held by and reported on. He noted that an additional meeting was held by Secretary Sharfstein with members of the medical community. He went on to say that the General Assembly has not killed tanning and that the statute has nothing about a six month limit. Mr. Bereano said that regulations have to be in the scope of the law and feels the Council should come back to the Department and oppose the form; the regulations changed from may to shall. He feels the background department is also misleading. Overall, Mr. Bereano don’t think the process has been fair.

Robin Eason , the President of MITA said that tanning beds have been singled out as cause of skin cancer. She said the text on the form has been dumbed down to scare parents. Vitamin D3 is necessary for optimal health because it prevents rickets and rickets has been making a comeback in Britain and Wales. She added that there is no conclusive evidence that tanning causes cancer and the worst case would be that the risk has increased.

Senator Jacobs mentioned that the worst culprits are nail salons, other similar industries and noted that she has been prescribed Vitamin D2 to heal her stress fracture. Senator Jacobs said that she wants to meet with Secretary Scharfstein about this issue and that parental consent forms have not been shortened, like Robin mentioned.

Pesticides

There is legislation this year on pesticides which was amended to create a workgroup to look at the issue. Cliff will describe the workgroup in July once it is named. Veronika noted a request to the Council on how to better protect children with existing legislation. There was a question from a Commission member about green cleaning products and Veronika and Ed responded.

Biomonitoring

Cliff reported there is no new state activity on this topic.

 Marcellus Shale

Cliff mentioned he is happy to collect comments if the two commissions would like to submit something. There is value in having CEJSC consider the impacts of development from an EJ and sustainability perspective. Julian noted that you need to look at the science carefully and asked if it is incumbent on CEJSC to be involved in the process? Veronika notes the potential impact of drilling activities on children.

Workgroup on Cancer

Calvin Ball told the group that the American Cancer Society CPS III is enrolling people now to look at people 30 to 65; Calvin noted importance of enrolling people of color, women enrolled in the project.

Veronika of the MD Environmental Health Network , Children’s Environmental Health, said that there was a 25% increase in incidence of diseases. Now have an environmental health network. Rebecca Ruggles noted activity of the MD Environmental Health Network. Veronika stressed the value of sharing information.

Anya Caldwell, Maryland Green Building Council, told the group that the Council is reviewing the International Green Construction Code and it would mandate an IEQ plan during construction. They are looking at toxins and contaminants and deealing with State construction. Caroline Varney said that codes renew every 3 years and currently we are thinking about adoption for state buildings. This will affect LEED certification.

Andrea said that the issue of lead still a very big issue, along with pesticides and schools. Zoning and new building construction may be a specific issue.

Adjourn

**The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2013 at Montgomery Park.**