



**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

December 13, 2011

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor  
State of Maryland  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
H-101 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill 313 (Ch. 585), Acts of 2000  
2011 Legislative Report of the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Dear Governor O'Malley, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to Health-General Article, §13-1506, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene submits this annual legislative report on the activities of the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at 410-767-6234.

Sincerely,

Clifford S. Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH  
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD, DHMH Secretary  
Robert M. Summers, PhD, MDE Secretary  
Marie Grant, JD  
Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA  
Donna Gugel, MHS  
Heather Hauck, MSW  
Sarah Albert, MSAR #1460

Web Site: [WWW.FHA.STATE.MD.US/CEHPAC](http://WWW.FHA.STATE.MD.US/CEHPAC)  
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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE  
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Health-General Article, §13-1501--1506, Annotated Code of Maryland**

**2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Robert M. Summers, PhD  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of the Environment

The Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) was established in 2000 by Health-General Article §13-1501—1506, Annotated Code of Maryland. CEHPAC advises the Governor and the General Assembly on environmental issues that may pose a threat to children. The growing knowledge that children are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards was the impetus for establishing CEHPAC. This statute places Maryland at the forefront of states addressing the broad issues related to children's environmental health.

### **Mission**

CEHPAC seeks to identify environmental hazards that may affect children's health, and to recommend solutions to those hazards through interdisciplinary problem solving and coalition building. CEHPAC's goals were developed in 2001 and are reaffirmed annually. They are to:

- Ensure that the rules, regulations, and standards of the State protect children from environmental hazards;
- Educate involved parties regarding the environmental hazards that impact children's health and the means to avoid those hazards; and
- Enable children in Maryland to grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

### **Membership**

CEHPAC is composed of members from State agencies and private sector representatives with interest and expertise in the area of children's health and the environment (See Appendix A for CEHPAC membership).

### **CEHPAC Activities**

CEHPAC has convened in public session six times within the last 12 months, including for an annual joint meeting with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. These meetings enabled CEHPAC to discuss pending legislation, review proposed regulations, provide educational presentations for members, and discuss various children's environmental health issues.

During the 2011 legislative session, CEHPAC monitored bills related to children's environmental health, including bills associated with indoor and outdoor air quality, safety of children's jewelry, tanning devices, pesticides, and phthalates. The legislation reviewed included:

<b>Bill Number/Crossfile</b>	<b>Bill Title</b>
HJ 3	Reform of the Federal Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976
HB 54*/SB 221*	Environment - Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether - Trace Amounts
HB 131	Health - Clean Indoor Air Act - Smoking in Transit Passenger Shelters Prohibited
HB 145*	Environment - Cadmium in Children's Jewelry - Prohibition
HB 650	County Boards of Education - Green Product Cleaning Supplies - Written Policies
SB 151*	Public Health - Containers of Infant Formula Manufactured with

	Bisphenol-A – Prohibition
SB 417/HB 754	Agriculture - Commercial Feed - Arsenic Prohibition
SB 574	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Workgroup on Cancer Clusters and Environmental Causes of Cancer
SB 582/HB 659	Agriculture - Pesticides - Regulation of Atrazine Study
SB 604/HB 1111	Tanning Devices - Use by Minors - Prohibition
SB 637/HB 759	Healthy Kids, Healthy Maryland - Toxic Chemical Identification and Reduction

\* indicates bills that passed

CEHPAC also received and reviewed amendments to COMAR 26.11.19 - Volatile Organic Compounds from Specific Processes. Of note, CEHPAC discussed at length issues related to green cleaning products, partially in connection with House Bill 650 (2011), listed on page 2. CEHPAC noted that there is continuing discussion nationally regarding certification and documented health benefits associated with “green” cleaning products. CEHPAC will continue to monitor these discussions closely and advise on the best evidence for environmental and health benefits of green cleaning products for Maryland children.

### Accomplishments

CEHPAC played an important role in the development of a State biomonitoring feasibility study in 2011. This study was mandated by House Bill 181 (2010) entitled “Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) – Biomonitoring Program – Report.” HB 181 directed DHMH, in consultation with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), to undertake a study on the feasibility of establishing a State biomonitoring program to monitor the presence and concentration of designated chemicals in Marylanders and required DHMH to report its findings to specified legislative committees by June 30, 2011.

The January 2011 CEHPAC meeting centered on a discussion of key biomonitoring issues and included four guests with expertise in biomonitoring. On April 1, 2011, CEHPAC held a Biomonitoring Symposium, captioned as the *Feasibility of Biomonitoring in Maryland: An Open Meeting & Discussion*, at Capitol College in Laurel, Maryland. This day-long event was open to the public and was attended by 88 participants. The morning session featured presentations by six national and regional biomonitoring experts with a diversity of perspectives. These experts were from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the American Chemistry Council, the George Washington University School of Public Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the University of Maryland School of Law, and the University of South Carolina. The afternoon session used small breakout groups to gather input from symposium participants; this input was then summarized and discussed with the larger group. The Biomonitoring Symposium was a valuable source of comments and considerations for the State biomonitoring feasibility study and the corresponding legislative report, which has been submitted to the Maryland General Assembly. The report (1) finds that Maryland has adequate capacity to support a State biomonitoring program if appropriate funding is available, and (2) provides recommendations about the planning and structure of a program should one be considered. The Biomonitoring Symposium agenda is included in this report as Appendix B.

CEHPAC will continue to discuss biomonitoring and follow biomonitoring-related developments in Maryland. CEHPAC will also follow other efforts to strengthen children’s

environmental health surveillance in Maryland. The CDC-sponsored Maryland Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Network has established, and continues to develop an integrated network of environmental, exposure, and health data from different State and federal agencies, along with tools to facilitate the use of such data. The Maryland EPHT Network now includes data on blood lead testing in children from MDE's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. These data are available at the county level through the EPHT Network's public portal, and at the individual case level for authorized users (i.e., local health officers) through protected access on the Network's secure portal. CEHPAC considers this to be progress for children's environmental health surveillance in Maryland, and looks forward to seeing continued advancements in this project and other environmental surveillance efforts.

### **Recommendations and Future Priorities**

In establishing CEHPAC, the Maryland General Assembly clearly identified children's environmental health as a priority for the State. In addition to complying with its mandate to review and comment on State regulations that may affect children's environmental health, CEHPAC has increasingly seen the need for effective surveillance of children's environmental health and will maintain this as a consideration of high importance.

Three topics stand out as important areas for CEHPAC's involvement in the upcoming year: safer physical environments, safer built environments, and food access and safety. These areas are related both to the State Health Improvement Process (SHIP), and to national and state trends in environmental health.

DHMH has launched the SHIP, which identifies 39 Statewide health objectives, including seven objectives related to safe physical environments. Three of these seven objectives pertain to children's environmental health issues that have been the focus of prior CEHPAC activities: (1) reduce blood lead levels in children (objective 13); (2) reduce hospital emergency department visits from asthma (objective 17); and (3) reduce the number of days the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeds 100 (objective 19). In addition, two other objectives pertain directly to the built environment: (4) decrease fall-related deaths (objective 14); and (5) reduce pedestrian injuries on public roads (objective 15). Two objectives relate to food: (6) reduce Salmonella infections transmitted through food (objective 16); and (7) increase access to healthy food (objective 18).

National trends in environmental health will also have an impact on CEHPAC activities this coming year. Changes at the national level in both the childhood lead and childhood asthma programs at the CDC will have a significant impact on these programs within Maryland. In addition, the continuing progress within the State to integrate health and environmental data through projects such as EPHT Network will also affect CEHPAC activities. Based on these recent trends and activities, CEHPAC intends to focus on several priorities in the coming year:

- Asthma - CEHPAC will meet with the Maryland Asthma Control Program to discuss ways in which CEHPAC can help to advance both the State Asthma Control Plan and the SHIP objectives that pertain to asthma.
- Childhood lead - MDE has been reviewing the State's lead strategy as part of its mandate under HB 1033 (2011) entitled "Environment – Reducing Lead Risk in

Housing - Risk Reduction Standards.” In part, the bill requires MDE, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to conduct a study to evaluate processes that reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in affected and nonaffected properties, including rental properties built from 1950 through 1978, and owner-occupied properties. A report from MDE to the General Assembly is expected by December 31, 2011, and regulations related to lead dust testing laboratory results are expected to be promulgated by MDE. CEHPAC intends to review MDE’s legislative report and proposed regulations on reducing lead risk in housing as well as the State’s childhood lead strategy as one of its focus areas this year, consistent with CEHPAC’s mandate and with the inclusion of reducing childhood lead exposure as a SHIP objective.

- Healthy homes – CEHPAC will work with MDE’s Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, DHMH’s Maryland Asthma Control Program, and other potential partners to examine ways in which the State can create a more comprehensive approach to healthy home environments. To achieve these goals, CEHPAC will focus on known hazards such as lead, asthma triggers, and carbon monoxide, and possibly some of the hazards in the physical environment that affect falls, consistent with SHIP objectives.

In addition, during the next year CEHPAC will continue to work closely and meet with the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. The issues of children’s environmental health and environmental justice are cross-cutting in CEHPAC’s three priority areas of asthma, childhood lead, and healthy homes.

### **Conclusion**

CEHPAC will continue to review proposed regulations and legislation to ensure that Maryland’s children are protected from environmental hazards that detrimentally impact health. CEHPAC will also maintain its current efforts to educate its members and other interested parties on the growing body of knowledge related to children’s environmental health.

Appendix A

CEHPAC MEMBERSHIP 2011

<b>Maryland Senate</b> The Honorable Nancy Jacobs Maryland Senate	<b>Licensed Pediatrician</b> Benjamin A. Gitterman, MD Michelle Gourdine, MD
<b>Maryland House of Delegates</b> The Honorable James W. Hubbard Maryland House of Delegates	<b>Allergy/Asthma Expert from Johns Hopkins University</b> Greg Diette, MD
<b>Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</b> Clifford Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration (Chair)	<b>Parent or Guardian</b> Veronika Carella
<b>Department of the Environment</b> Jed Miller, MD, MPH Science Services Administration (Vice Chair)	<b>Environmental Epidemiologist</b> Vacant
<b>Department of Agriculture</b> Edward Crow	<b>Economist</b> Vacant
<b>Department of Education</b> Mary Jo Harris School Health Services	<b>Environmental Toxicologist</b> Lorne Garrettson, MD
<b>Department of Human Resources</b> Roosevelt Jordan Out-of-Home Services	<b>Maryland Association of Counties</b> Nomination Pending
<b>Department of Housing and Community Development</b> Vacant	<b>Private Industry</b> Vacant



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
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FEASIBILITY OF BIOMONITORING IN MARYLAND:  
AN OPEN MEETING & DISCUSSION

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011  
9:00AM – 4:30PM  
CAPITOL COLLEGE  
LAUREL, MARYLAND

PROGRAM

- 9:00**      **Welcome**  
Clifford Mitchell  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Michael Wood  
President, Capitol College
- 9:15**      **Keynote Address**  
Honorable James Hubbard  
Assistant Majority Leader, House of Delegates
- 9:45**      **Biomonitoring in Maryland – An Overview**  
Thomas Burke  
John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- 10:45**     **Current Perspectives on Biomonitoring in Maryland**  
Richard Becker  
American Chemistry Council  
Lynn Goldman  
George Washington University School of Public Health  
Robert Jones  
U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Jack Schwartz  
University of Maryland School of Law



Sacoby Wilson  
University of South Carolina

**12:15 Lunch (provided)**

**1:10 Breakout Sessions**

1. What are the potential applications of Biomonitoring in Maryland?
2. What substances should be monitored?
3. What populations should be monitored?
4. How do we communicate results and to whom?
5. What do we need to do: ethically, legally, financially, etc.?

**3:10 Breakout Session Reports**

**3:50 Open Discussion**

**4:15 Closing Remarks**

**4:30 Adjourn**