

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE
FAMILY HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Health-General Article, §§ 13-1501-1506, Annotated Code of Maryland

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lieutenant Governor

S. Anthony McCann
Secretary
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Kendl P. Philbrick
Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment

The Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (Council) was established in 2000 by Health-General Article, §§ 13-1501-1506, Annotated Code of Maryland. The Council 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 the Council. This statute places Maryland at the forefront of the broad issues related to children's environmental health.

Mission

The Council 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. The Council 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.

Council Activities

The Council has convened in public session six times within the last 12 months. Final approved meeting minutes are available at the Council's Web site, www.MarylandChildrensEnvironmentalHealth.org. The meetings enabled the Council to discuss pending legislation, review proposed regulations, and provide educational presentations for members. During the 2006 legislative session, the Council monitored bills related to children's environmental health, including bills associated with lead exposure, indoor and outdoor air quality, mercury, and gasoline containments. The Council received and reviewed the following regulations from promulgating units:

COMAR 26.16.01	Lead Paint Abatement
COMAR 12.10.01	Public Safety and Correctional Services
COMAR 26.11.19	Volatile Organic Compounds from Specific Processes
COMAR 26.11.27	Clean Power Regulations
COMAR 26.10.02.03	Waste Management
COMAR 26.13.01	Hazard Waste Management System
COMAR 10.52.17	Maryland Asthma Control Program
COMAR 26.12.01	Radiation Protection

To educate the Council concerning the broad issues involved in children's environmental health, Council meetings include educational presentations. Topics and presenters in the last 12 months included:

- "Protecting Babies? What are stain repellants and flame retardants doing in umbilical cord blood?"
Lynn Goldman, MD, MPH
Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health

- “Asthma Disparities in Maryland”
Wendy Lane, MD, MPH
University of Maryland, Department of Pediatrics
- “Activities of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities”
Dorothy Morrison
Maryland Department of the Environment
- “Indoor Air Quality in Maryland Schools”
Clifford S. Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Community Health Administration
- “Recent Air Quality Regulations”
Debbie Raines
Maryland Department of the Environment, Air & Radiation Management Administration
- “Regulating Children's Products: A Case Study Regarding Phthalates”
Marilyn Wind, PhD
Consumer Product Safety Commission, Health Sciences

Many presentations were given and information was shared at local events regarding children’s environmental health issues. The Council participated in National Public Health Week with a presentation to local middle school students about proper asthma control and common asthma triggers. The Council also maintained information at the “Children’s Health Month” display for the third consecutive year and provided educational materials to employees, students, and community members. The Council included information at the World Asthma Day event, held in collaboration with the Maryland Asthma Control Program, American Lung Association, and Coppin State University. Furthermore, information related to children’s environmental health was provided at a Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Coordinators meeting, the Maryland State Fair, and “Wellness Walk,” sponsored by a Baltimore City church.

Council members coordinated and participated in a children’s environmental health session at the Maryland School Health Interdisciplinary Program on August 1, 2006. The children’s environmental health topic was entitled “Your Home Away from Home: Assessing the School Environment.” The new “Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool” (HealthySEAT) was showcased, which is designed to be customized and used by school staff to conduct voluntary self-assessments of their school (and other) facilities, as well as track and manage information on environmental conditions school by school. In addition to powerful software, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) included critical elements of all of its regulatory and voluntary programs for schools, along with Web site links to more detailed information. Furthermore, the quality of indoor environments in schools affects the health and well-being of staff and students. This session provided information on the relationship of school indoor environmental quality with health and school performance. Examples of successfully implemented projects that alleviated environmental hazards were shared and discussed.

The Council continued working with State agencies and the Office of Children's Health Protection of the EPA to develop an indicator report profiling children's environmental health in Maryland. The report is a State-level version of the national report, "America's Children and the Environment: Measures of Contaminants, Body Burdens, and Illness," published by the EPA in February 2003. Maryland is receiving technical assistance from the EPA and their contractor, ICF Consulting, in the completion of the document. The Council expects the Indicator Report to be complete in 2007.

Membership

The Council 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. Members, and the position that they represent, are noted in the table included in the Appendix. There are currently two unfilled positions on the Council. With the retirement of Secretary McCann's appointed Chairperson, Dr. Maureen Edwards, in August 2006, the Department has nominated Dr. Cliff Mitchell as the new Chairperson. Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH is the Director, Environmental Health Coordination & Public Health Residency Programs within the Community Health Administration. He joined DHMH in June 2006. Prior to joining the Department, Dr. Mitchell spent 14 years (1992-2006) as faculty in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, including directing occupational medicine residency program (1998-2006), at Johns Hopkins University. His research interests include indoor environmental quality, and he has conducted many consults with schools and office buildings on indoor air quality. Dr. Mitchell also served as Chair for the Maryland Task Force on Indoor Air Quality in 2002.

Other Maryland Councils and related groups:

Members of the Council represent CEHPAC on:

- ◆ Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission
- ◆ Maryland Asthma Control Program
- ◆ Maryland State School Health Council
- ◆ Maryland Pesticide Advisory Committee
- ◆ Maryland Council on Cancer Control
- ◆ Air Quality Control Advisory Council

Conclusion

The Council will continue to review proposed regulations and legislation to ensure that Maryland's children are protected from environmental hazards that detrimentally impact health. The Council also will continue to educate its members and other interested parties regarding the growing body of knowledge related to children's environmental health. Under new leadership, the Council shall continue to serve as a national leader for promoting children's health.

APPENDIX:

MEMBERSHIP 2006

<p>Maryland Senate The Honorable Nancy Jacobs Maryland Senate</p>	<p>Licensed Pediatricians Cecilia T. Davoli, MD, MPH Kennedy Krieger Institute</p> <p>Benjamin A. Gitterman, MD Children's National Medical Center</p>
<p>Maryland House of Delegates The Honorable James W. Hubbard Maryland House of Delegates</p>	<p>Allergy/Asthma Expert Peyton A. Eggleston, MD The Johns Hopkins Hospital</p>
<p>Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Clifford Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH Environmental Health Coordination & Public Health Residency Programs (Interim Chair)</p>	<p>Parent or Guardian Vacant</p>
<p>Department of the Environment Phil Heard, MD, MPH Technical and Regulatory Services Administration (Vice-Chair)</p>	<p>Environnemental Epidemiologist Christopher A. Loffredo, PhD Lombardi Cancer Center Georgetown University</p>
<p>Department of Agriculture Mary Ellen Setting Assistant Secretary Plant Industries & Pest Management</p>	<p>Economist Douglas Bradham, DrPH University of Maryland School of Medicine</p>
<p>Department of Education Donna Mazyck School Health Services</p>	<p>Environmental Toxicologist David A. Jett, PhD National Institutes of Health</p>
<p>Department of Human Resources Judith Rozie-Battle Child Care Administration</p>	<p>Maryland Association of Counties Vacant</p>
<p>Department of Housing and Community Development Jacqueline Phillips Community Development Administration</p>	<p>Private Industry Judy S. LaKind, PhD LaKind Associates, LLC</p>