

**Children's Environmental Health and Protection
Advisory Council**

2024 Summation of Activities

Health-General Article, §13-1506(8)

Maryland Department of Health
Maryland Department of the Environment

December 2024

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Background

The Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) was established in 2000 pursuant to Chapter 585 of the Acts of 2000. CEHPAC advises the Governor and General Assembly on environmental issues that may pose a threat to children. Specifically, Health General Article §13–1506, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires CEHPAC to:

- (1) Review and comment on existing rules, regulations, and standards to ensure that the rules, regulations, and standards adequately protect the health of children from environmental hazards by taking into account the special vulnerability of children because of their developing physiology, and because their exposures, behaviors, and diets can differ greatly from those of adults;
- (2) (i) Review proposed regulations submitted to CEHPAC, and (ii) recommend to the promulgating unit measures that would avoid or minimize any negative impact that the proposed regulation may have on the health of children;
- (3) Comment on any proposed regulations that may be submitted by any other principal department of the Executive Branch during the public comment period if CEHPAC determines that the proposed regulation will have an adverse impact on children's health;
- (4) Gather and disseminate information to the public, including the research and medical communities, community-based organizations, schools, and State agencies, on how to reduce, treat, and eliminate children's exposures to environmental hazards to further the public's understanding of the environmental hazards that may potentially affect children;
- (5) Recommend uniform guidelines for State agencies to follow to help reduce and eliminate children's exposure to environmental hazards, especially in areas reasonably accessible to children;
- (6) Create and promote education programs, in partnership with health and environmental professionals, for parents, guardians, and caregivers of children that include information on: (i) the potential health effects of environmental hazards; (ii) practical suggestions on how to reduce children's exposure to environmental hazards; and (iii) any other relevant information to assist parents, guardians, and caregivers in protecting children from environmental hazards;
- (7) Provide input to the General Assembly on legislation that may impact environmental hazards that affect the health of children; and
- (8) Report to the Governor and the General Assembly annually on the activities of CEHPAC.

Mission

CEHPAC seeks to identify environmental hazards that may affect children's health and 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 nineteen members, including those from the General Assembly, State agencies, private sector representatives, and parents with interest and expertise in the area of children's health and the environment (see Appendix A for current CEHPAC membership).

Subha Chandar, MPH, was appointed by the Secretary of Health as the new Maryland Department of Health (MDH) designee and Chair of CEHPAC in fiscal year 2025. Ms. Chandar is the Deputy Director of the Environmental Health Bureau. She succeeds Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Director of the Environmental Health Bureau, who served as the MDH designee and chaired CEHPAC since 2007.

CEHPAC Activities

CEHPAC convened in public session seven times in 2024 as of October 2024. The first meeting of the year was held with the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC). One additional CEHPAC meeting is planned for later in the 2024 calendar year, which will be another joint meeting with CEJSC.

During the 2024 legislative session, CEHPAC discussed one bill: SB 244, Revisions to the Clean Indoor Air Act.

SB 244 included changes to the Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007 to incorporate electronic smoking devices. Environmental exposure for children to these products is of particular concern for CEHPAC. This bill passed in the 2024 legislative session, and CEHPAC will review the proposal which will update regulations to include these changes.

In the past year, CEHPAC prioritized environmental justice as a central theme, working to advance children's environmental health, particularly within school environments. This work included efforts to:

- Improve indoor air quality and ventilation in schools,
- Advocate for the use of safer cleaning products, and
- Promote pesticide alternatives through integrated pest management practices.

Over the past year, CEHPAC has continued to discuss indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools to highlight concerns about potential environmental exposures in school settings. CEHPAC hosted several presentations in 2024 from members of the public concerning indoor environmental quality in schools, including an example from Montgomery County where construction was done during school hours.

In addition, members of the public expressed continuing questions regarding the use of pesticides and integrated pest management (IPM) in schools. CEHPAC discussed these issues and submitted a letter to the Department of Agriculture, urging them to develop a reporting mechanism for pesticide applications in schools, along with an electronic database of the information to facilitate public awareness. CEHPAC also discussed and acknowledged efforts by the Department of Agriculture to update information and training on integrated pest management

for the schools' IPM coordinators. CEHPAC members continued to express interest in the work of the Department of Agriculture related to pesticides and integrated pest management in schools, including updates to their guidance documents and technical manuals related to integrated pest management in schools, which were originally produced in 1999 and last revised in 2006. CEHPAC members have expressed interest in contributing to or reviewing the documents as a part of the Department of Agriculture revision process.

CEHPAC's letter to the Maryland Department of Agriculture regarding the use of pesticides in Maryland schools is attached as Appendix B, and may also be found on the CEHPAC website along with previous years' letters, reports, and positions:

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>

CEHPAC also heard regular updates regarding the State's progress in addressing childhood asthma, elevated blood lead levels, and climate change as they relate to children's health. At their joint meeting with CEJSC in January 2024, CEHPAC also discussed the intersection of environmental justice with children's environmental health.

Future Priorities

CEHPAC continues to work on the above topics of indoor air quality, pesticides, and other environmental hazards in schools, responding to emerging concerns (built environment and climate change), and addressing other concerns identified by CEHPAC members and those shared by CEJSC.

Conclusion

CEHPAC's role is to provide education and advice regarding these issues to policymakers and the public in Maryland. CEHPAC will continue to review proposed regulations and legislation to protect Maryland's children from environmental health hazards. CEHPAC will maintain 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 2024

Maryland Senate Senator Dawn Gile	Licensed Healthcare Professional 1) Benjamin A. Gitterman, MD 2) Laura Allen, MA, MS, RN
Maryland House of Delegates Delegate Mary Lehman	Representative from an academic institution Kristen Rawlett, Ph.D, FNP-BC
Maryland Department of Health (Chair) Subha Chandar, MPH (Aug. - present) Clifford Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH (Jan. - Aug.)	Parent or Guardian Jovonne Walker
Maryland Department of the Environment (Vice Chair) Vacant	Environmental Epidemiologist Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH
Department of Agriculture Alexander Lehmann (Sept. - present) Kelly Love (Jan. - Sept.)	Economist Paul Ferraro, Ph.D
Maryland State Department of Education Alicia Mezu, MSN/Ed, BSN, BS, RN	Environmental Toxicologist Megan Latshaw, Ph.D
Department of Human Services Lisa Horne	Maryland Association of Counties Dianna Abney, MD, FAAP
Department of Housing and Community Development Jack Daniels	Private Industry Vacant
The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Christine Fogle	Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities Camille Burke

Appendix B. 2024 CEHPAC Products

The following two pages contain the letter sent to the Maryland Department of Agriculture
(August 2024)

The letter, along with all previous CEHPAC products, are also available on the CEHPAC
website: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>

Appendix B



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 19, 2024

Honorable Kevin M. Atticks, DCD
Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
kevin.atticks@maryland.gov

RE: Pesticide Use in Maryland Schools – DATA GAP

Dear Secretary Atticks:

The Children's Environmental Health & Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) respectfully submits this letter to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) regarding the implementation of the **Maryland School IPM Law and oversight responsibilities for all pesticides used in Maryland under the Pesticide Applicator's Law**. CEHPAC asks that MDA request the complete application records for any application of an EPA Registered Pesticide to a Maryland School (public or private) at any time during or beyond the academic year.

MDA taking possession of this information will close an existing data gap and ensure transparency when pesticides are used in places that children occupy. Additionally, this will facilitate actions addressed in MDA Regulations, county-board-of-education-mandated IPM Policy requirements, and county-level IPM Plans. Specifically, we request that MDA promptly implement a public and open data system for school-based reporting of EPA-registered pesticides so as to document and make available:

- a. any and all pesticides applied to public or private schools
- b. pesticides applied during and beyond the academic year
- a. EPA-registered pesticide used for disinfecting protocols

MDA regulations require that applicators record specific data whenever EPA-registered pesticides are applied by an MDA certified applicator and provide the data to MDA upon request (MDA Reg 15.05.01.12 Records). The issue is that MDA does not currently request the data. CEHPAC asks that MDA request all pesticide application records as MDA is the only entity allowed by statute to collect pesticide application records, thus making this information available for review and analysis by CEHPAC and the public.

CEHPAC is aware that Maryland Statute and Regulations address pest control, pesticide use, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting in public schools via:

- Education Article §5–112. Green Product Cleaning Supplies
- *MDA Regulations 15.05.01 (The Pesticide Applicator's Law)* and
- *MDA Regulations 15.05.02 (IPM and Notification of Pesticides Use in Public Schools)*.

We believe that MDA Reg 15.05.02.03(B)(6) Application Records could be modified to include the reporting of complete application records (i.e. workorder, product label, SDS, etc.) to MDA immediately following the application. For private schools, not covered by the 1997 IPM in Schools Law, we believe modifying the Pesticide Applicator's Regulations for "RECORDS" might be the easiest place to add the requirement to provide

phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx
410-767-2196 or mdh.envhealth@maryland.gov

Appendix B

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August 19, 2024

application records when pesticides are used in a Maryland private school as these records must already be made immediately available, on request, to the Department [MDA Regulations 15.05.01.12 Records]. Perhaps MDA can set up a unique email address where the records can be forwarded to MDA and thus be searchable and forward when MDA receives a PIA request.

In addition to requesting this information, there should be a transparent, publicly-accessible, master database of all EPA-registered pesticides' Product Label and SDS information for those chemicals used as pest control, cleaners, sanitizers, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, and hand soaps in Maryland Schools. Closing this data gap addresses data sharing concerns raised by CEHPAC in the **MD Health in All Policies (HiAP) Data Sharing¹** initiatives.

When the General Assembly established **CEHPAC** it defined in statute (Md. Code Ann., Health-General §§ 13-1501 thru 1506) that CEHPAC must seek to ensure that the rules, regulations, and standards adequately protect the health of children from environmental hazards. CEHPAC's goal is to enable children in Maryland to grow up in a safe and healthy environment. Our statutory duties include:

- provide input to the General Assembly on legislation that may impact environmental hazards that affect the health of children;
- recommend guidelines for **State agencies** to follow to help reduce and eliminate children's exposure to environmental hazards; and
- educate others regarding environmental hazards that impact children's health, the means to avoid those hazards, and any other relevant information that will assist in protecting children's health.

In establishing CEHPAC, the Maryland General Assembly clearly identified children's environmental health as a priority for the State. Since you are also a CEHPAC Commissioner, Secretary Atticks, we think these duties become even more important when they relate to your own agency. We appreciate your past attendance at CEHPAC meetings and look forward to your continued participation as a commissioner.

Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Megan Weil Latshaw, PhD MHS, Council Member
On Behalf of the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

¹ Maryland Health in All Policies (HiAP) September 2019 Final Report:
<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/024600/024610/20200396e.pdf>