



THE COLLABORATIVE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT – WASHINGTON



A Partnership Network for Environmental Health

Established and Coordinated by the Institute for Children's Environmental Health

Children's Environmental Health Working Group Mission and Goals Statement for 2008-2009, drafted May 2008

Our **mission** is to work collaboratively with diverse groups to eliminate children's harmful environmental exposures in the Puget Sound region and beyond during their most critical developmental years: pre-conception to age 8.

Goals

1. **Include groups** representing: children's and environmental health organizations, local, regional and state governments, women's organizations, parent organizations, health affected groups, health care providers, community based organizations, and academia.
 - a. Representation/inclusivity – Identify who is not in the room and how can we get them here
 - b. Networking – Discuss what we are all doing.
 - c. Strategizing – Discuss how we can work together.
 - d. Sharing/leveraging resources – Share resources one of us has already created or identified. (Send bundled updates?)
 - e. Sharing current research
 - f. Working with existing communities – Discuss how to use existing structures to carry our message.
2. **Identify gaps and overlaps** in messages, services, and campaigns.
 - a. Coordinate to reduce duplication of efforts and conflicting activities; becoming more efficient and effective.
 - b. Address specific concerns, like reducing exposures to toxins such as lead, pesticides and endocrine disrupting chemicals in plastics, or improving nutrition and economic status to shield children from unavoidable toxins.
 - c. Identify and address health inequities.
3. **Identify most important messages** and collaborate to get them out to the public.
 - a. Provide education, conferences, and other training opportunities to member groups, parents, physicians, caregivers of young children, and/or those making critical decisions regarding the environmental health of young children.
 - b. Work with the media to increase media awareness and coverage of children's environmental health issues.
 - c. Teach Washington communities how caring for their environment protects and enhances the health and potential of infants and young children.
4. **Eliminate exposures by:**
 - a. Influencing policy – to the extent each member can do so. Support and help with local, state, national policy changes that support our mission.
 - b. Supporting the precautionary principle.
 - c. Raising awareness through consumer education.
5. **Track research developments and collaborate on research projects.**
 - a. Explore ways to collaborate on research projects, including joint proposals to funders
 - b. Work with the Pacific Northwest Center for the National Children's Study to involve the community, disseminate study findings, and promote valuable local research projects.

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