

# **COALITION FOR HEALTHIER SCHOOLS**

## **Expert Panel – EPA Healthy Schools Initiative**



# **AGENCY REPORT**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# Introduction

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The national **Coalition for Healthier Schools** convened its leadership in April 2011 in a two-day facilitated session to develop recommendations for US EPA on its Healthy Schools Initiative and to map the Coalition's next steps.

**US EPA** EPA, more than any other agency, has a deep history of expert staff addressing school environments and children's environmental health. EPA's flagship program, *IAQ (Indoor Air Quality) Tools for Schools*, was launched in 1995 with multiple national partners and EPA has since hosted eleven annual symposia. Many EPA program offices have developed tools and guides to address school environments, but while included at the symposia, the independent programs tend to compete in the field, and not all directly address children's health, consistent with Federal Executive Order 13045 on risks to children's environmental health.

Understanding that children are the primary—and often the most vulnerable—occupants of schools, in 2007 the Coalition championed the High Performance Green Buildings Act, enacted into the Energy Independence and Security Act. It authorizes EPA to issue federal guidelines on environmental health in schools and a guideline on school siting and to offer voluntary grants to state agencies. Coalition representatives discussed this opportunity with EPA and the White House Council on Environmental Quality in early 2009, and within the year, the administration formally launched EPA's Healthy Schools Initiative and re-convened an interagency task force on risks to children's environmental health, co-chaired by EPA and Health and Human Services. Other agencies are also engaged.

**Brief Coalition History** The Coalition was formally convened in spring 2001 by Healthy Schools Network's Board of Directors and its appointed National Advisors and is coordinated by Healthy Schools Network.

The Coalition actively supported a successful call for a \$1.2 billion congressional appropriation for urgent healthy and safety repairs to schools in 2000-01. In 2002, it championed the Healthy and High Performance

Schools Act, enacted into No Child Left Behind. As a result, the Department of Education published a first-ever priority study (2004) of how decayed buildings affect children's health and learning.

The Coalition also issued a consensus policy agenda in spring 2004 that has since been endorsed by over 1,000 organizational and individual members, who have collaborated in developing reports, a *National Healthy Schools Training Binder*, annual meetings, technical issue presentations, and joint actions. See [www.HealthySchools.org](http://www.HealthySchools.org) >Coalition.

Following its 2006 annual meeting, the Coalition launched the National Collaborative Work Group on Green Cleaning and Chemical Policy Reform in Schools, which spurred improved standards for certifying cleaning products, worked to educate schools and constituencies, and empowered state policy advocates. Its model bill text is endorsed by the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators. See [www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org](http://www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org).

### **2011 - 2012 Challenges and Opportunities**

Given the very tough political climate and budget crises in the states and federally, the Coalition is deeply grateful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the American Federation of Teachers, and the NEA Health Information Network for supporting the facilitated two-day Coalition meeting.

In all, 25 leaders of 19 non-governmental groups attended the meeting to discuss EPA's FY 11 and FY 12 Healthy Schools Initiative and to map collaborations for sustaining the child-health initiative through tough times. Joining the Coalition's leadership over a working lunch to share agency views were seven officials from three federal agencies—EPA, CDC/National Center for Environmental Health, and Education.

The meeting was facilitated by RESOLVE, a 30-year-old not-for-profit that helps community, business, government, and NGO leaders get results and create lasting relationships through collaborative problem solving.

The final report was prepared by RESOLVE and represents the consensus of the meeting attendees, who reviewed and commented on the draft report.

# Executive Summary for Agencies

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The Coalition for Healthier Schools convened an expert panel April 14-15 in Washington DC to outline key elements of a strategic plan for how EPA can work productively with the states to advance child-safe healthy school environments. Expert panel members included children’s health advocates, school health and nurses associations, education associations, environmental and occupational health organizations, and technical experts

To prepare for the meeting, panelists reviewed extensive information on school environmental health programs, policies, and plans. They read research on the impact of unsafe school buildings on children and all occupants. The expert panel heard about healthy school issues from the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Education, and Centers for Disease Control.

Through facilitated consensus building, the expert panel identified several themes that EPA should consider as it develops guidance for states. These include:

- **Standards should be measurable so that states and districts can track progress against programmatic requirements, standards should include a process to integrate measurable outcomes into programmatic operations.**
- **Standards should be enforced; there should be compliance assistance and consequences if schools do not comply.**
- **Guidance should require collaboration and transparent data collection and communicate to facilitate accountability.**
- **Guidance should specify that programs should provide cost savings or require limited additional costs for schools.**
- **EPA’s guidance should be applicable for individual State conditions.**
- **Guidance for states should emphasize a science-based preventative approach.**
- **Guidance should emphasize professional development and training for school workers and agency staff.**

The expert panel agreed on recommendations to EPA for including in its guidance to states for Healthy Schools Programs.

- Each state should adopt a two-phase process to assess existing programs, policies, issues, interventions, and standards and then develop a unique set of policies, plans, and actions that create an implementation roadmap to improve environmental health and proactively identify hazards and exposures. Each state plan should identify local and regional collaborations to bolster healthy schools capacity. The plan must be accessible to the public and provide a road map of existing agency authorizations and programs.
- Individual schools should develop plans to improve environmental health including assessment, reporting, and implementation steps.
- States should implement surveillance systems that collect standard data and monitor program successes with a connection to program enforcement. Information should be transparent and aggregated regionally and nationally through an information clearinghouse.
- Each state should identify a state public environmental health organization or agency with oversight and responsibility to log complaints, investigations, reporting, and enforce corrective orders. The office should also manage a capacity-building program that can assess current capacity, build on existing assets, and develop competencies for a full range of people. The capacity-building program should contain a quality control mechanism.
- States should monitor coordination across multiple jurisdictions using state interagency task forces and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee that engages stakeholders and NGOs for advice, plan review, public reporting, and outreach.

The expert panel also reviewed and ranked current EPA programs and regulations. They suggest that EPA merge several of the programs and ranked several programs as very important for healthy schools.

Rank of Importance	EPA Schools-Focused Programs	Nesting Programs
1*	<b>IAQ Tools for Schools</b> <i>voluntary toolkit, Includes school design, renovation, molds</i>	Nest with programs 2, 3, 5, 7, and/or 10. Also noted as a potential bridge program to link all programs.
2	<b>IPM in Schools</b> <i>voluntary toolkit</i>	Nest with programs 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and/or 14
3	<b>Healthy SEAT</b> <i>voluntary toolkit</i>	Nest with programs 1 and/or 2
4	<b>Environmentally Preferable Purchasing</b> <i>website; EPP defined; guidance;</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, and/or 15
5	<b>School Chemical Clean-out Campaign (SC3)</b> <i>voluntary toolkit</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and/or 14
6	<b>Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities</b> <i>both rule and guidance</i>	Nest with programs 1 and/or 3
7	<b>Clean School Bus USA</b> <i>voluntary grants</i>	Nest with programs 1 and/or 3
8	<b>Design for the Environment</b> <i>voluntary, see NGO chart</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, and/or 4
9	<b>Renovation, Repair &amp; Painting</b> <i>rule</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, 12, and/or 14
10	<b>Formaldehyde Emissions</b> <i>rule pending</i>	Nest with programs 1 and/or 3
11	<b>PCB in Caulk</b> <i>EPA regulates PCBs; guidance</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and/or 14
12	<b>Asbestos in Schools</b> <i>AHERA rule</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, and/or 14
13	<b>PCB in Ballasts</b> <i>EPA regulates PCBs; guidance</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and/or 14
14	<b>Recycled Tire Materials/Synthetic Turf</b> <i>report</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, 3, and/or 4
15	<b>Energy Star for K-12 School Districts</b> <i>voluntary toolkit</i>	Nest with programs 1, 2, and/or 3

\*Rankings based on responses from 12 returned surveys

# List of Attendees

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## Participants

### Robert W. Amler, MD

Dr. Robert W. Amler is Vice President for Government Affairs at New York Medical College and Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice, and Institute of Public Health. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service. He also chairs an advisory committee for the Task Force on the Future of Westchester Medical Center, and has consulted for other medical centers. Dr. Amler previously held the post of Regional Health Administrator, US Dept of Health and Human Services and Chief Medical Officer, CDC-ATSDR, where he founded and directed the Children's Environmental Health Initiative and Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs).

### Claire Barnett, MBA

Claire Barnett, MBA, is founder and executive director of Healthy Schools Network and founder and coordinator of the national Coalition for Healthier Schools. The Coalition has helped secure \$1.2 billion in federal funds for schools, and shaped and won two federal laws, including a congressional mandate on EPA to issue first-ever federal guidelines for environmental health in schools. Following her younger son's pesticide injury at school, she served as a parent representative on a New York State Regents advisory committee on school environments. Looking back over the comprehensive recommendations, many of which have been enacted (IAQ; IPM/Prior Notice; mercury ban; green cleaning mandate; design standards; inspections) her deepest concern today is that there is no system of public health services that intervenes when children are in harm's way when child-occupied settings ignore or fail to implement environmental health policy. Her previous service includes: appointment to EPA's Advisory Work Group on Schools air Toxics Monitoring, to EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (2001-2007); a two year appointment to the Governor's Commission on the Future of the Adirondack Park; five years consulting with rural local governments on sustainability projects; ten years administering \$2.5 million rural comprehensive mental health services, including developing community programs for adults with DD and with MI and creating services for high risk children; five years reporting for TIME Magazine in New York City, and two years in political opinion polling. She holds a BA from Mount Holyoke College (psychology) and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (health finance).

## **Tobie Bernstein, Esq.**

Tobie Bernstein is a Senior Attorney at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C., where she directs ELI's Indoor Environments and Green Buildings Program. The Program provides analysis, training, and education to help strengthen state and local policies and programs that promote healthy schools and healthy homes.

## **Carolyn Denise Bland-Bowles, MOSH, CET**

Ms. Bland Bowles is with the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees International union. She is a Certified Environmental Trainer (CET) and is a member of the National Environmental Training Association (NETA). She received her Bachelor of Science from Greensboro College in 1982 and her Master's Degree in Occupational Safety and Health Engineering from Columbia Southern University in August 1995. She has over 25 years of broad-based experience in the fields of occupational and environmental safety and health including;

- more than 20 years as an Industrial Hygienist/Health and Safety Specialist for AFSCME/AFL-CIO;
- more than 5 years as an Industrial Hygiene Compliance Officer for the Montgomery County, MD, Department of Environmental Protections (EPA); and
- 6 years with the US Veterans Administration and the US Department of Justice researching the toxicity of 2,4-D and 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Agent Orange) for the VA and preparing technical documents for the DOJ in the landmark Agent Orange civil action brought by the Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

Ms. Bland-Bowles has been instrumental in curriculum development and program delivery in many areas including confined space entry, hazard communication, indoor air quality/ mold awareness, hazardous waste operations and emergency response. She has extensive experience with indoor air quality and microbial issues and has designed investigative strategies and remediation programs across the United States. She has been recognized nationally for her innovative approach to IAQ problems and has been involved in the consensus standards promulgation process with the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM). She has conducted safety and health compliance audits and inspections, industrial hygiene investigations and has prepared testimony for federal OSHA on the IAQ standard. She has work with other AFSCME departments, affiliates and other unions on worker safety and environmental policy priorities and strategies.

## **Veronika Carella**

Veronika Carella currently serves as the Legislative Director for the Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition. Since 2008 she has served as parent representative for the state-mandated Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council. From 1995 through 2010 she held various elected and appointed positions in PTA at the local, county and state level and at times as a resource to National PTA. In addition, she serves on state and national committees addressing the health and well being of all children, with a primary focus on environmental issues impacting children including school indoor air quality, exposure to hazardous materials (including pesticides) and protecting the quality of air, water and soil.

## **Stephen Conley, PHD**

Stephen Conley, PHD is the Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer for the American School Health Association (ASHA). Dr. Conley earned his undergraduate degree in Business and Public Administration with a concentration in Political Science from the University of Virginia College at Wise. His first Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degrees was in elementary education and granted by East Tennessee State University in a national program for educational reform called the Teacher Corps. His second Masters degree in Education (MEd) with a concentration in Special Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. For sixteen years he directed model programs for physically and mentally handicapped children and youth in Appalachia and later the urban region of the City of Richmond, Virginia. His dissertation in completion of his PhD in Education and Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University was entitled, *Early Sexual Onset: A Comparison of Psychological and Social Factors Utilizing the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health*. From early in 2001 until fall 2009, Dr. Conley directed the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT), the premier international guild membership association that certifies sexuality educators, counselors and therapists to high professional standards. In early 2011, Dr. Conley was appointed the Executive Director of ASHA as the organization was re-located from Kent, Ohio to Bethesda, Maryland.

## **Marilyn Elizabeth Crumpton, MD, MPH**

Marilyn Elizabeth Crumpton, MD, MPH, is a pediatrician who serves as director for Growing Well Cincinnati (Ohio), a School Health Collaborative to bring health & wellness services to Cincinnati Public Schools. She also serves as medical director for the Division of School & Adolescent Health at Cincinnati Health Department. She is the Past President of the Ohio School Based Health Care Association. Prior to moving to Cincinnati, Dr. Crumpton served as associate medical director at the Alabama Medicaid Agency, director of maternal and child health at the Anne Arundel County

Department of Health in Annapolis, Maryland, and Houston County Health Officer in Dothan, Alabama with the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Dr. Crumpton received a medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine and a master of public health from Johns Hopkins University. She completed her internship and residency program at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Dr. Crumpton is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and a Fellow of the Academy of Pediatrics.

### **Diana N. Derige, MPH**

Diana Derige is a program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. As a member of the Food, Health & Well-Being team, Diana serves as a convener, collaborator and catalyst, responsible for nurturing opportunities for affecting positive systemic change in communities, and executing programming efforts aligned with the Foundation's mission. She focuses on funding opportunities that enable the foundation to make progress in ensuring that all children can grow and thrive by having love, good parenting, high-quality food, physical activity, interaction with nature and access to healthcare. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2010, Diana worked for more than 10 years in public policy, advocacy and community-based philanthropy in Chicago, Illinois. She held positions as a program officer for The Chicago Community Trust; state coordinator for the Ounce of Prevention Fund; program manager for the Illinois Public Health Institute; project coordinator for the NorthEast District Health Council.

Diana has also been a fellow for the National Hispana Leadership Institute; Mid-America Regional Public Health Leadership Institute; and The University Of Michigan's HIV/AIDS Intervention, South Africa. She is a member of Hispanics in Philanthropy; the American Public Health Association; and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy. Diana holds a bachelor's degree in arts, sociology & women's studies and a master's in public health from the University of Michigan. She also holds a certificate in executive education from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and completed a leadership development program through the Center for Creative Leadership-Europe in Brussels, Belgium.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930, supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Julia Earl, M.S.

Julia Earl is the Executive Director of Preventing Harm Minnesota, a children's environmental health organization. Preventing Harm is working to improve children's environmental health by reducing their exposure to toxicants in the food they eat, air they breathe, water they drink and products they use. We do so through public education and promoting protective policy change. Julia's career has included: children's environmental education; adult non-formal education internationally (Peace Corps, Save the Children, CARE); preventive public health education; sustainable development; and campaign organizing. Julia has an M.S. in Environmental Advocacy from the University of Michigan, a B.A. (Honors) in Political Science and a Certificate in Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin.

## Diane Ethier

Diane Ethier is the acting President and Legislative Co-Chair for the CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools (ConnFESS). She has a BA from Annhurst College, and an MS in Mathematics from the University of Connecticut. She was a Mathematics Teacher at Plainfield High School in Plainfield, CT from 1972 to 2003.

Since her retirement from public school teaching in 2003, she has been educating adults about indoor air quality (IAQ) issues in schools. Diane has been a mentor and presenter for the National Education Association Health Information Network on "IAQ from a Union Perspective" as well as a reviewer and/or expert panel member for HIN online courses in IEQ and Asthma. She is the National Education Association's representative to the School Asthma Subcommittee of the National Institutes of Health's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP). Diane has also worked with the CT School Indoor Environment Resource Team (CSIERT) as a trainer for the US EPA's *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* Program. Ms. Ethier has helped develop CSIERT training and website modules and IEQ fact sheets. Diane is also a Local Political Coordinator for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) and a member of the CEA- Retired Advisory Council.

## Mary Filardo

Mary Filardo is the Executive Director of 21st Century School Fund, founded in 1994 to provide the District of Columbia and other urban communities with leadership, innovative financing solutions, research, and public policy analysis of school facility issues. She is a leading national authority on school facility planning, management and public private development. She has helped plan innovative projects in Washington, DC — J.F. Oyster Elementary School public private partnership (2001), Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School campus development

(2005), School Without Walls high school university and public partnership (2008), and Savoy Elementary School (2008) and Savoy and Thurgood Marshall Academy Sports and Learning Center (2009). She has written extensively on public school facility issues and developed software to support long-range facilities master planning. In 1994 she advocated for and then led the first city-wide educational facilities planning process in Washington, DC in nearly 30 years, leading to the Preliminary Educational Facilities Plan in 1995, which laid the foundation for regular educational facility master planning in the District of Columbia and more than \$2 billion spent to improve and build DCPS and public charter school facilities. In 2001 Mary founded the Building Educational Success Together (BEST) collaborative, a community of urban education reform organizations dedicated to building the public will and capacity to improve urban school facilities so they support high quality education and community health. She received a BA in philosophy and mathematics from St. John's College, and a MA in Public Policy and Finance at the University of Maryland, she is a 1979 Truman Scholar from the District of Columbia.

### **Ellie Goldberg, M.Ed**

Ellie Goldberg, M.Ed. is an education and environmental health advocate. In 1989 she founded "www.healthy-kids.info" to promote a better understanding of the health and educational needs of students with asthma and other chronic health conditions. In 2005 Goldberg created "Lessons of the 1937 Texas School Explosion (<http://lessonsofthe1937texasschoolexplosion.blogspot.com>)," a campaign to promote leadership and partnerships to break the silence and promote action to eliminate chemical hazards and other unhealthy school conditions. Goldberg is active in parent, health, education and environmental organizations working for healthy children, safe schools and sustainable communities. Read more: <http://www.healthy-kids.info/aboutellie.html> and <http://www.healthy-kids.info/elli Goldbergmed.html>.

### **Tolle Graham**

Tolle Graham is an occupational health and environmental trainer/organizer at MassCOSH, the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health. MassCOSH is a coalition of unions, occupational health and legal professionals, and community groups who are dedicated to improving workplace health and safety and building healthy communities. Tolle has worked at MassCOSH for 20 years. Tolle Graham provides training and technical assistance to schools concerning indoor air quality and environmental problems and helps schools establish environmental health and safety policies and procedures. As a Steering Committee member of the Boston Urban Asthma Coalition and the Massachusetts Asthma Advocacy Partnership, Tolle has brought together health professionals, parents, community groups and school staff to address asthma, health and wellness in the school environment. She is also the Coordinator of the Massachusetts Healthy Schools Network,

a statewide advocacy coalition working on design, construction and maintenance for healthy high performance “green” schools.

### **Nora L. Howley**

Nora L. Howley currently works as a Manager of Programs for the National Education Association’s Health Information Network (NEA HIN), the non-profit health and safety affiliate of the NEA.

Nora oversees the many and varied programs and activities that NEA HIN undertakes. She believes that a great public school is one where students and staff are healthy and safe, and she’s gratified that her job allows her to help make healthier, safer schools a reality.

Nora is an educator who started her career as a pre-school teacher, and has taught students as young as two and as old as 85. She also served as the Director of the School Health Project at the Council of Chief State School Officers, and as interim Executive Director at Action for Healthy Kids. After a year of consulting work, Nora joined the staff of NEA HIN full time in January of 2009.

Nora earned a Bachelor of Science in Early and Elementary Education at Wheelock College, and a Masters in Health Education from the University of Maryland College Park.

### **Joellen Lawson, MS**

Joellen Lawson holds a bachelor's degree in Special Education and master's degrees in Counseling and School Health Education. Prior to her disability retirement in 2001, her twenty-three year career as an educator/consultant included working as a founding member of the Attention Deficit Disorders Institute, seminar leader for the Institute for Creative Education, and as a special education teacher for several public school systems in Connecticut. In 2002, she founded the Connecticut Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools.

### **Vernice Miller-Travis**

Vernice Miller-Travis is a policy consultant to Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. A seasoned urban planner focusing on the interrelationship between racial segregation, land use and environmental protection, as well as on environmental policy and civil rights advocacy, Ms. Miller-Travis is the principal in Miller-Travis & Associates, an environmental consulting firm. She also serves as Vice-Chair of the Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

Ms. Miller-Travis launched the Ford Foundation’s U.S. environmental justice portfolio, while serving as a program officer in the Community and Resource Development Unit. Prior to that, Ms. Miller-Travis was the Director of the Environmental Justice Initiative of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for six years. While at NRDC, Ms. Miller-Travis was on the frontlines, advocating for environmental justice reform under the Clinton Administration, which ultimately led her to participation in the Oval Office signing ceremony for the Executive Order on Environmental Justice on February 11, 1994 with President Bill Clinton.

Ms. Miller-Travis’ many achievements in the field of environmental justice include the co-founding of West Harlem Environmental Action (We ACT for Environmental Justice) her work while on the staff of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, where she helped to research, write and publish in 1987, the landmark report —Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States. She also served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council from 1996 until 2001, where she chaired its Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee. She continues to work with NEJAC, currently its Co-Chair of the Working Group on School Air Toxics Monitoring. Ms. Miller-Travis has published extensively, most recently in a chapter she co-wrote for the 2008 book *Bringing Human Rights Home: A History of Human Rights in the United States*, edited by Cynthia Soohoo, Catherine Albisa, and Martha F. Davis.

### **Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH**

Ms. Witherspoon serves at the Executive Director for the Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN), where her responsibilities include successfully organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. Ms. Witherspoon has directed and been personally involved in the oversight and organization of CEHN’s Strategic Plan to serve as the “Voice for Children’s Environmental Health” in the nation’s capital for the past 11 years. She serves as a key spokes person for children’s vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country. She is a leader in the field of children’s environmental health, serving on the Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee for the Environmental Protection Agency and is a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Environmental Health Sciences Roundtable. Ms. Witherspoon is member of the National Association of Environmental Health Sciences Council and past Coordinator of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences Public Interest Partners. She is a member of the Friends of the Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health and a former Executive Board Member for the American Public Health Association. Ms. Witherspoon has a BS in Biology and a Master’s in Public Health in Maternal and Child Health, from The George Washington University School of Public Health.

## **William "Bill" Orr, C.E.G.**

William "Bill" Orr became the executive director of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) in July 2009, after working for the state of California for almost thirty years. For a majority of his career in state government, Bill worked for the California Integrated Waste Management Board where he managed their Green Building and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing programs from 2000-2007. On the CHPS Board from 2002 to 2007, Bill was the head of the CHPS Technical Committee from its inception through 2007. During that time, he led the development of the 2006 Edition of the CHPS Criteria for California and served on the national LEED for Schools committee. Bill was inducted into the California Green Schools Hall of Fame in 2007 for his pioneering work with CHPS which has been adopted by ten states. Bill is a registered Engineering Geologist in California.

## **Jodi Perras**

Jodi Perras is the executive director of Improving Kids' Environment, a non-profit education and advocacy organization that works to reduce environmental threats to children's health so they can succeed. IKE works to prevent lead poisoning, improve air quality, and reduce children's exposure to pesticides, mercury and other dangerous chemicals. Previously, she was owner of Perras & Associates, a woman-owned business that specialized in helping utilities communicate the need to improve, maintain and fund their clean water infrastructure. Ms. Perras is a former deputy director of the Indianapolis Department of Public Works and former deputy commissioner for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Her career began with six years as a journalist for the Associated Press in Indianapolis. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from Butler University, where she graduated summa cum laude. From 2002-06, Ms. Perras served on the U.S. EPA Local Government Advisory Committee. She has also served on the Indianapolis Green Commission and is chairperson of Indianapolis Green Congregations, an interfaith group that works to help Central Indiana faith communities become better stewards of the earth and all its inhabitants.

## **Shirley Schantz, RN, EdD, ARNP**

Shirley Schantz, RN, EdD, ARNP has held the position of nursing education director at the National Association of School Nurses for the last seven years. NASN is the primary source of information for school nurses. The National Association of School Nurses improves the health and educational success of children and youth by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice. Dr. Schantz has served on national committees addressing the health and well being of all children, with a primary focus on the school environment and childhood obesity. She has a background in academia focusing on school health and maternal/child health.

## **Carolyn Smith-Evans**

Carolyn Smith-Evans is a special education teacher in Salem, Oregon. She was thrust into the world of chemically injured children when her 9 year old son was injured following a remodel of his elementary school and exposure to new synthetic carpet. She joined with other families of chemically injured children in her son's school district and helped that district to become a leader in Oregon in healthy school issues. Her advocacy for her son's education, health and safety in school led her to become active in her union, the National Education Association (NEA). In 2003, at the NEA national representative assembly, she joined with 2 other union members to co-found the Healthy Schools Caucus. The intent of the Caucus is to advocate for NEA members and to help educate them on issues of environmentally healthy schools. Her work in the Caucus and with other members led to more than a dozen successful advocacy efforts leading to the allocation of over \$375,000 to provide scholarships for NEA members to attend the EPA Tools for Schools Symposium held annually in Washington, DC and provide other information to members on toxic exposure in schools. Her union activism earned her a Healthy Schools Hero award in 2007 for Leadership in Organized Labor.

## **Carol Stroebel**

Carol Stroebel is the Policy and Training Director for the Children's Environmental Health Network. She has experience at many levels of government, educating and promoting policy changes to improve public health. She served as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), as legislative director for a senior U.S. Member of Congress, as press secretary to a Midwestern Governor, and as director of federal affairs for a national public interest advocacy organization

Stroebel also has developed and conducted trainings about pediatric environmental health for a wide range of audiences. She is especially skilled in making technical, medical and scientific information meaningful for lay audiences ranging from state legislators to clergy and other faith-based activists to child care professionals.

She has been working with the Children's Environmental Health Network since 1996.

## **Anne Turner-Henson, DSN, RN, FAAN**

Dr. Anne Turner-Henson is a Professor in the UAB School of Nursing and has joint faculty appointments in the Schools of Medicine (General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine) and Public Health (Maternal Child Health). Her research program focuses on children's health, from the perspective of respiratory health (specialty focus on secondhand smoke exposure, asthma and parental care-giving) and environmental health concerns. Dr Turner-Henson has had extensive

experience in interdisciplinary research in community-based settings and in community participatory research. She has served as a principal investigator on multiple interdisciplinary research teams, such as empowering communities to reduce children's environmental risks (PI, funded by EPA), reducing children's secondhand smoke exposure (PI, funded by CDC), perceptions of African Americans about children's secondhand smoke exposure (PI, funded by CDC) and as investigator on two studies of asthma in schools (Investigator, funded by NHLBI). Her previous research examined the everyday life experiences of children and adolescents with special health care needs (PI, funded by NIH) and two collaborative international studies (PI, funded by Sigma Theta Tau, American Nurses Foundation, Fogarty) examining parenting stress and health promoting behaviors among mothers of very young children with special health care needs. Dr. Turner-Henson serves on multiple state and national committees as an advocate for child health. She is a member of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee, is vice-president of the Southern Nursing Research Society, and is project director of the Leadership Education in Child-Health Nursing program (LECHN), funded by the Maternal Child Health Bureau, DHHS. The aim of the LECHN program is to prepare the next generation of nursing faculty leaders in child-health nursing education who conduct bio-behavioral research, empowering communities through building grassroots initiatives to reduce children's environmental risk and promote healthy communities is a key focus of her work.

### **Susan Wooley, Ph.D**

As Executive Director of the American School Health Association, a position from which she retired in December 2010, Dr. Susan Wooley oversaw the national office and represented the association, the school health community, and young people's health concerns. Her publications include *Health Is Academic: A Guide to Coordinated School Health Programs* and *Give It a Shot, a Toolkit for Nurses and Other Immunization Champions Working with Secondary Schools*. Dr. Wooley received her Bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University, a Master's degree in Health Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Ph.D. in Health Education from Temple University. She now has her own consulting business.

### **Jennie Young, B.S.**

Jennie Young currently works as a Senior Program Coordinator for the National Education Association's Health Information Network (NEA HIN), the non-profit health and safety affiliate of the NEA. She has worked at NEA HIN for over ten years advocating for safe and healthy work environments for education support professionals, teachers, and other NEA members.

She manages NEA HIN's cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which focuses on educating school employees on how to identify, prevent, and resolve

indoor air quality (IAQ) issues using EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools program. Her latest achievements have involved the production of two new online professional development courses on indoor environmental quality (IEQ) and asthma. She serves as the Program Manager for NEA HIN's new online course *Managing Asthma in the School Environment: What NEA Members Need to Know and What's Your IEQ? A Roadmap to School Indoor Environmental Quality*.

Ms. Young also works on other health and safety issues such as crisis preparedness and response and school cleanliness and hygiene. She manages NEA HIN's Custodial Leaders for Environmental Advocacy Nationwide (C.L.E.A.N.) awards program which recognizes school custodians for their outstanding achievements in school cleanliness and contributions to public health.

Ms. Young has designed and conducted numerous trainings and presentations for NEA members and UniServ staff including NEA HIN's annual IAQ Tools for Schools Pre-Symposium training which focuses on how to organize around IAQ and other health and safety issues as a local association. Jennie is the recipient of the 2009-2010 National Healthy Schools Hero Award from the Healthy Schools Network, Inc.

## Federal Agency Staff

### Bob Axelrad

Bob Axelrad is a Senior Policy Advisor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Indoor Environments Division. Since Mr. Axelrad joined EPA in 1980, he has held a number of positions focused on hazardous waste, indoor air quality, and children's health issues. As the first director of EPA's Indoor Air Division from 1988-1995, Mr. Axelrad was responsible for the development of much of EPA's policy and guidance on indoor air quality, including the original Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program and developing the IAQ Design Tools for Schools web-based guidance. Mr. Axelrad also served as co-chair of the Asthma Workgroup of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children and co-authored the national strategy document *Asthma and the Environment: A Strategy to Protect Children*, which served as the basis for a successful FY2000 Presidential budget initiative to address environmental factors impacting childhood asthma. For the past several years he has been working across EPA to coordinate and better integrate EPA's programs for K-12 schools. Mr. Axelrad developed EPA's Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT) and is currently co-chairing an EPA-wide workgroup developing voluntary model guidelines for the siting of new school facilities required under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

### Kara Belle

Kara Belle is the Public Liaison for the Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP). She is responsible for the coordination and development of school environmental health programs and support for youth engagement initiatives and public outreach. Kara began working with EPA Region 6 in Dallas, Texas, as the Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division Special Projects Coordinator to the Director. She later served as the Regional Coordinator for Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as, collegiate and youth engagement initiatives for Region 4, Office of External Affairs, in Atlanta. Kara received her B.S. in Industrial Technology from North Carolina A&T State University and MPA from North Carolina Central University.

### Mary Jean Brown ScD, RN

Dr. Mary Jean Brown is Chief of the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Society, Human Development and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. She is the designated federal official for the CDC Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning.

Dr. Brown has spent more than 25 years working on childhood lead poisoning and its prevention. She conducted research designed to evaluate the impact of home visiting on the blood and environmental lead levels, a benefit-cost analysis of removing lead paint from housing before children are lead poisoned and a study of the effect of housing policies on the blood lead levels of poisoned children. She has also studied community-level housing factors that predict risk for nonfatal pediatric injuries. Over time she has become more and more convinced that housing has a substantial impact on health and that the health of residents should be considered is housing constructed, maintained and renovated. Dr. Brown has been involved in a number of cases where lead hazards in housing units with lead poisoned children were addressed only to later have the children die or suffer serious injury in house fires, when ceilings collapsed, when burned by steam heating pipes, or as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### **Cathy Davis, MS**

Cathy Davis is an Environmental Protection Specialist in EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, where she lead staff efforts to support the Senior Steering Committee for the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, leads work on school environmental health and works with other EPA offices on Agency actions to ensure children's health issues are appropriately considered.

Cathy previously worked in the Hazardous Waste Identification Division in EPA's Office of Solid Waste. Her projects included enforcement and compliance cases, fluorescent lamp recycling, leach test methods, and risk assessment of the beneficial use of industrial materials.

Cathy earned her M.S. in Environmental Science at University of Wisconsin and her B.S. in Chemistry and Environmental Science at DePaul University.

### **Peter Grevatt, PHD**

Peter Grevatt is the Director of the Office of Children's Health Protection and the Senior Advisor to EPA Administrator Jackson for Children's Environmental Health. He is responsible for ensuring that all EPA decisions are protective of children's health and that EPA is an international leader on children's environmental health issues. Peter served as the Senior Science Advisor in EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response and as the senior health scientist in EPA's Region 2 office. In these roles, Peter was responsible for ensuring that science, public health, risk assessment, environmental justice and children's health were fully considered for a range of critical issues such as asbestos, PCBs, lead and arsenic.

Peter led the national water quality monitoring program in EPA's Office of Water, and more recently, as Director of the Economics, Methods and Risk Analysis Division in EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, he provided leadership to the Regions and States on RCRA implementation, and provided health risk assessments and economic cost-benefit analyses on major rulemakings. Peter received his B.A. degree in Biology from Earlham College and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Basic Medical Sciences from New York University Medical Center.

## Janet McCabe

Janet McCabe is Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation at the US Environmental Protection Agency. Before joining USEPA in November 2009, Janet was the Executive Director of Improving Kids' Environment, a non-profit advocacy group based in Indianapolis that works to reduce environmental threats to children's health and assure information is available to families about environmental threats. She was also adjunct professor at the Department of Public Health at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

From 1993-2005, Janet held several positions in the Office of Air Quality of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and was the Director of that Office beginning in 1998. Prior to moving to Indiana, Janet was Assistant Secretary for Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, overseeing that state's environmental impact review program and from 1984-1989 was a Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Protection Division. Janet graduated from Harvard Law School in 1983 and Harvard College in 1980. She grew up in Washington, DC.

## Donald Yu

Donald Yu serves as Senior Counselor to the General Counsel at the US Department of Education. In this role, Don serves as a principal advisor to the General Counsel on Federal education law and policy.

Prior to joining OGC, Don worked at law firms that specialized in education, labor and employment law. Don received his law degree cum laude from Northwestern University School of Law. During law school, he served as the Note and Comment Editor on the Journal of International Human Rights. Prior to law school, he worked as a high school English teacher in the Philadelphia area. Don also received his bachelor and master's degrees in English from Columbia University.

## RESOLVE Facilitators

### Juliana E. Birkhoff

Juliana Birkhoff is Vice President of Programs and Practice at RESOLVE. An experienced mediator, facilitator, dispute resolution trainer, and scholar, she combines her theoretical understanding, research experience, and group learning and collaboration skills to flexibly respond to complex group planning, problem solving and decision making challenges. In her 22 years of experience as a mediator and facilitator, she has worked with federal, state, and local level government as well as consumer, community, grassroots, and public interest groups. She has designed and conducted a variety of collaborative and consensus-based multi-stakeholder dialogues, workshops, and scientific review processes designed to improve communications, develop group learning, integrate complex information and provide input into state or federal plans or policies, develop recommendations, or create agreement on plans and policies. She has particular experience in facilitating and mediating complex scientific and technical issues in politically charged contexts.

### Jason Gershowitz

Jason Gershowitz is a Project Assistant in RESOLVE's DC office helping community, business, government, and social leaders get results and build lasting relationships through collaboration. He has experience supporting the facilitation and mediation of multi-party policy dialogues and consensus processes on issues including supply chains and sourcing, natural resources management and conflicts, renewable energy, and drinking water. He and the RESOLVE team recently completed the report, "Tracing a Path Forward: A Study of the Challenges of the Supply Chain for Target Metals Used in Electronics," research on which was prompted by conflict minerals concerns and commissioned by the Global e-Sustainability Initiative and the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition.