

**Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)**  
**Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition (PCC)**  
**Environmental Health Workgroup (EHWG)**

**Meeting Notes**

**Date:** April 15, 2025

**Attendees:** 13

**Participants:**

- Fern Gilkerson (Co-chair)
- Victor Alos Rullan
- Andre Green
- Danyelle Gibson
- Ned Ketyer
- Kadijah Mitchell
- Aaron Makatura
- Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis
- Patrick Loftus
- Mia Ray
- Marissa Santanna
- Liz Blackman
- Michelle Botyrius

Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesdays of the month from 1:00pm-2:00pm. Any new and interested members referred to this workgroup must initially use the online form found on the [PCC website](#). They must also specifically request to join the [Environmental Health Workgroup](#). Click for the [PA Cancer Coalition website](#) and click for the [PA Cancer Control Plan](#).

[Past meeting notes can be found here.](#)

The EHWG Action Plan Document is on the [PCC Environmental Health Workgroup page](#).

During the meeting, members shared updates and resources and welcomed new members. The Education and Policy Subcommittees are seeking volunteers to lead, with interested members encouraged to contact Dani and Fern. The possible symposium day was discussed.

**Updates:**

Michelle N. is collaborating with a team on legislation to mandate radon testing in schools and radon-resistant construction in new buildings. If passed, this would impact all 500+ PA school districts, with an estimated 40% of buildings requiring mitigation by certified professionals.

Ned shared a recent study linking fracking to childhood cancer: [Exposures from Oil and Gas Development and Childhood Leukemia Risk in Colorado: A Population-Based Case–Control Study | Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention | American Association for Cancer Research](#)

CENSWPA is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh for their second Environmental Justice Summit, based on outcomes from the previous year. The 2025 series includes five events (three in-person, two virtual): [2025 Environmental Science, Justice, and Healing Series Registration](#)

Marisa shared the dashboard: [Healthy Pennsylvania Partnership State Health Improvement Plan | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

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### **Possible Symposium:**

A possible Symposium Day was discussed. The theme of molecular mechanisms in cancer was proposed during a separate meeting with Fox Chase Cancer Center, Dani, and Fern. The 4/15 meeting attendees expressed interest in expanding the topic to include cancer causes and disparities; a symposium plan must align with the Action Plan and target populations:

- Parents
- Health care professionals
- Employers and employees
- Public and professionals
- Legislators and regulators

A decision on whether to move forward with a symposium will be made at the next meeting on 5/20. Members are asked to come to the next meeting prepared with:

- A list of what needs to be done to organize the symposium
- Their availability and bandwidth to contribute to making the symposium happen
- Suggestions for collaboration (b/c many hands make light work)
- Ideas for making the symposium accessible to their networks
  - What information would they need?
  - What topics would interest them?
  - What tools or approaches would be most relatable?