

AGENDA ITEM #6  
November 17, 2009  
**Briefing**

**MEMORANDUM**

November 13, 2009

TO: County Council  
GO  
FROM: Glenn Orlin, Deputy Council Staff Director  
SUBJECT: **Briefing**—health impact assessments

As background for the pending Board of Health Regulation, Councilmember Trachtenberg has arranged for two experts in the field of health impact assessments to share their expertise with the Council. Dr. Aaron Wernham is the Director of the Health Impact Project at The Pew Charitable Trusts, and Dr. Keshia Pollack is an Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Their resumes are attached.

Drs. Wernham and Pollack will speak to the purpose of health impact assessments and the scope of those that have been conducted elsewhere. After their remarks they will take questions from Councilmembers.

**Aaron Wernham, M.D., M.S.**

Director, Health Impact Project  
Pew Health Group | The Pew Charitable Trusts  
901 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004  
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[www.healthimpactproject.org](http://www.healthimpactproject.org)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

***Pew Charitable Trusts (August, 2009-Present)***

*Director, Health Impact Project*

- ♦ Founding Director of a new national center to promote and support the use of HIA in public decision-making at the local, state, tribal, and federal level
- ♦ Leading major new funding initiative to support HIA demonstration projects throughout the U.S.

***Pew Charitable Trusts (2009)***

*Lead Consultant*

Led team at Pew to develop the Health Impact Project, a new national center devoted to promoting and supporting the use of HIA in the U.S.

***Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (2008)***

*Senior Environmental Policy Analyst, and Project Director ANTHC HIA Program*

- ♦ Founding Director of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Program at the nation's largest tribal health agency.
- ♦ Leading joint federal/tribal/state/municipal working group to develop guidance for HIA in Alaskan natural resource development projects.
- ♦ Project Manager for 2 integrated HIA/EISs over the last six months.
- ♦ Led consultation between tribal governments, state and tribal health agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Army Corp of Engineers to establish scope and approach to public health for two additional projects expected to enter the NEPA process.
- ♦ Advised the U.S. EPA and local non-governmental organizations regarding transportation-related EISs in California.
- ♦ Awarded first HIA contract in U.S. for a federal EIS, by the Environmental Protection Agency

***Northern Health Impact Resource Group (2008-2009)***

*Founder and co-director*

Consultant for municipal government on environmental health and policy. Current project: North Slope Borough Health Impact Assessment Grant. Consultant on a project involving a detailed baseline health status assessment, HIA for any planned leasing or development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, and training local staff for ongoing HIA work.

***Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2008)***

*Advisory panel member*

Helped develop a new funding initiative aimed at promoting the use and development of HIA in the U.S.

***Columbia University Center on Medicine as a Profession, Physician Advocacy Fellowship (2006-2008)***

*Fellow; Based at Alaska Inter-Tribal Council*

- ♦ Founded the Alaska Collaborative on Health Impact Assessment (now the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Health Impact Assessment Program)
- ♦ Led the first formal HIAs included in a federal EIS
- ♦ 3 EISs completed during this time, in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, Minerals Management Service, and tribal governments.

**Academic:**

***University of Alaska, Anchorage (2007-present)***

*Affiliate Assistant Professor of Public Health*

***Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Medical Center; Bethel, Alaska (2001-2003)***

*Staff Physician*

Supervised residents and medical students rotating through the hospital and clinic system.

***Contra Costa Regional Medical Center; Martinez, California (2000-2001)***

*Fulltime clinical faculty; representative to residency curriculum committee*

**Clinical:**

***Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center; Fairbanks, Alaska (2005-2008)***

*Staff physician: Alaska Native health center serving Alaska's Interior region.*

***Interior Community Health Center; Fairbanks, Alaska (2003-2005)***

*Staff Physician: Federally qualified health center serving Interior Alaska's underserved population.*

***Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Medical Center; Bethel, Alaska (2001-2003)***

*Chair, Surgery Department and staff physician: Alaska Native Hospital and Clinic.*

***East Bay Family Practice; Berkeley, California (1999)***

*Temporary Fill-in Staff Physician: Private practice serving diverse inner-city population.*

**EDUCATION**

*University of California, Berkeley. BA, Biochemistry (1991)*

*University of California, Berkeley-University of California, San Francisco Joint Medical Program*

*MS, UCB, Health and Medical Sciences (1994)*

*MD, UCSF (1996)*

*University of California, Davis Contra Costa Regional Medical Center Family Practice Program*

*Family Practice Residency (1999)*

**LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

*California Medical License (1997)*

*Board Certification, American Board of Family Practice (1999)*

*Alaska State Medical License (2001)*

**PUBLICATIONS AND HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

- Wernham A, Bear D (2009). Health and the National Environmental Policy Act: the statutory foundation for expanding environmental impact assessment practice to include health impact assessment. (in prep.)
- Wernham, A. (2008). Public Health subsections *In* U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service (2008). *Draft EIS, Beaufort and Chukchi Sea Multiple Lease Sales*. Minerals Management Service: Anchorage, Alaska.
- Wernham, A., Brubaker M, Verbrugge L, Grant J, Heaton S, Rutt C. (2008). Public Health subsections, *In* U.S. EPA (2008) *Red Dog Mine/Aqqaluk Extension Supplemental EIS*. Anchorage, Alaska. Seattle, WA.
- Bhatia R, Wernham A (2008). Integrating Human Health into Environmental Impact Assessment: An Unrealized Opportunity for Environmental Health and Justice. *Environmental Health Perspectives*: doi 10.1289/ehp.11132.
- Wernham, A. (2007). Inupiat health and proposed Alaskan oil development: results of the first integrated Health Impact Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement for oil development on Alaska's North Slope. *Ecohealth*. 4: 500-517.
- Wernham, A. (2007). Public Health subsections (under subheading of "Environmental Justice"). *In* U.S. Minerals Management Service: *Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program: 2007-2012 Final Environmental Impact Statement*. Washington, DC: Minerals Management Service.
- Wernham, A. (2007). Health Impact Assessment (under subheading of "Public Health"). *In* U.S. Bureau of Land Management: *Northeast NPR-A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*. Anchorage, AK: Bureau of Land Management
- Wernham, A. (1994). The interaction between traditional medicine and the Indian Health Service on the Navajo Reservation [Master's Thesis]. Berkeley, CA: U.C. Berkeley, 1994

## LECTURES, CONFERENCES, AND TRAINING SEMINARS

10/06/2009 International HIA Conference. Co-led workshop with World Health Organization on "Globalizing HIA and scaling up for good practice"

2/06/2009. Alaska Forum on the Environment. NEPA and Public Health: Developing a rational approach to public health in NEPA-based decision-making

12/5/2008 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Service Providers' Conference. Health Impact Assessment and the NEPA Process: A new tool for tribal health

10/2008. Riverstone Health, Wyoming. Conducted introductory Health Impact Assessment training.

9/7/2008-9/10/2008. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Lead organizer and facilitator, "Planning for a Healthy Future: First Alaska Workshop on Health Impact Assessment," a workshop for federal, tribal, and state agencies. Conference website: <http://www.alaskatribalhealth.org/events/impactconf.cfm>

5/21/2008. Association of Village Council Presidents. Conducted introductory NEPA training for tribal members

4/22/2008 President's Council on Environmental Quality Invited speaker for President's Council on Environmental Quality Federal NEPA Contacts meeting. Presentation focused on the statutory framework supporting the inclusion of health in NEPA actions, an introduction to HIA methods and process, and suggestions for how agencies could begin to incorporate a more rigorous and meaningful approach to public health in their NEPA activities.

4/18/2008 Joint UC Berkeley-UCSF Medical School: Introduction to HIA as a tool for health-focused public policy.

4/09/2008 UW Madison Nelson Institute: Graduate seminar: Global warming, human health, and the NEPA process.

3/25/2008 Alaska Resource Advisory Council: Progress toward a better approach to including health in the NEPA process.

3/08/2008 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference: Panel speaker in session on Health in the NEPA process (co-panelists Dinah Bear, CEQ ret. General Counsel, Sarah Heaton, CDC, and Rosemary Ahtuanguarak of Nuiqsut Alaska.

2/13/2008 Alaska Forum for the Environment: Public Health and the National Environmental Policy Act: Integrating Health and Environmental Impact Assessment.

12/02/2008 Alaska Public Health Summit: Resource Development and Community Health: Implementing Health Impact Assessment within the NEPA Process.

4/17/2007. National Tribal Environmental Conference. Conducted introductory training on NEPA and Health Impact Assessment.

2/02/2007 National Conference for Science and the Environment. Implementing Health Impact Assessment for Alaska Oil and Gas Development

## CONSULTING AND ADVISORY PANELS

*Human Impact Partners, member, Advisory Panel (2008)*

Active member of Advisory Panel for 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to increasing capacity for and attention to the consideration of health in public policy.

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, advisor (2007-2009)*

Served on national panel of experts to assist RWJF in developing funding initiatives and strategies for using HIA as a tool to promote health-focused public policy decisions in the U.S.

## REFERENCES

### 1. **Dinah Bear**

Retired General Counsel, Council on Environmental Quality  
4019 18<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20011  
Work: (202) 291-7273  
Cell: (202) 906-9407  
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**2. Shelley Hearne, PhD**

Managing Director, Pew Health Group  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
901 E St NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 552-2014  
[shearne@pewtrusts.org](mailto:shearne@pewtrusts.org)

**3. Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH**

Director of Occupational and Environmental Health  
San Francisco Department of Public Health  
1390 Market St., Suite 210  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Work: (415) 252-3982  
Cell: (510) 229-9436  
Home: (510) 665-5409  
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**Keshia M. Pollack, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Assistant Professor

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Department of Health Policy and Management

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Baltimore, MD 21205

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410-614-9055 (fax)

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<http://www.jhsph.edu/injurycenter>

**FACULTY APPOINTMENT**

**Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (*August 2006- Present*)**

Assistant Professor

Leon S. Robertson Faculty Development Chair in Injury Prevention (2006-2009)

Department of Health Policy and Management

Conduct research on the epidemiology and prevention of injuries in the workplace; nexus of obesity and injury, especially among vulnerable populations; and the formulation of public health prevention policies. Teach graduate level course in epidemiologic methods in injury control, and advise graduate students interested in injury prevention, occupational injury, prevention policy, disparities in injuries, and obesity. Lead the department's initiative in conducting and evaluating the use of Health Impact Assessment during the policymaking process.

**OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Health Policy Staff (*January 2007-present*)**

Delegate Dr. Dan Morhaim, 11<sup>th</sup> District Baltimore County, Maryland State General Assembly

Conduct research, translate science, and prepare policy briefs on various public health topics; provide testimony on specialty areas within public health; provide guidance on public health and health care legislation; participate in meetings with lobbyists and other ranking state officials on behalf of Delegate Morhaim.

**Postdoctoral Fellow (*August 2005-August 2006*)**

The University of Pennsylvania School of Education/Campbell Collaboration and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Participated in proposal review and grant-making activities for the Vulnerable Populations Portfolio and the Childhood Obesity Team at the RWJF. Trained in evaluation methods and provided technical assistance to grantees submitting research and evaluation proposals. Managed evaluation and research projects, and conducted site visits of funded programs and programs seeking funding. Worked on program development for youth violence and intimate partner violence.

**Health Policy Intern (September 2004-May 2005)**

Maryland State General Assembly, House of Delegates Health and Government Operations Committee

Conducted research and translated science for various public health topics, prepared policy briefs summarizing scientific evidence and providing policy recommendations, met and responded to concerns of constituents, participated in meetings with lobbyists and other ranking state officials, represented Delegate Dr. Dan Morhaim, District 11 - Baltimore County at various events.

**EDUCATION**

Tufts University, Medford, MA, BA, Sociology and Community Health, 2000 (*cum laude*, Highest Thesis Honors)

Yale University School of Public Health, New Haven, CT. Master of Public Health Concentration in Chronic Disease Epidemiology, 2002.

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, Doctor of Philosophy, 2006 (Degree requirements completed 9/05).

University of Pennsylvania School of Education/Campbell Collaboration and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ. Postdoctoral Fellow, 2005-2006

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Built Environment Assessment Training, San Diego State University (July 2009)  
CDC Health Impact Assessment Training, University of New Mexico (June 2009)

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Society Membership

APHA, Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section  
SAVIR, Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research

Consultations

Major League Baseball, Office of the Commissioner (2009)  
Delegate Dan Morhaim, Maryland House of Delegates (2005-present)  
Delegate William Bronrott, Maryland House of Delegates (2009)  
RWJF Vulnerable Populations Team (2007-2009)  
RWJF Childhood Obesity Team (2007)

Scientific Advisor

Research Grant: Fireground Injuries: An International Evaluation of Causes and Best Practices; Fire Protection Research Foundation (2009-2012)

### Testimony

Written and oral testimony on childhood obesity submitted to the Philadelphia City Council, Resolution, No. 06017100, 2006

Written and oral testimony on Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease submitted to the Maryland General Assembly, HB 434, 2005

## EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

### Study Section Review Panels

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Occupational Research Agenda Practice and Surveillance Proposals, April 2008

US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Administration, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, January 2008, April 2009, December 2009

### Ad Hoc Review of Proposals

Evaluation of Active Living Research, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2007

Injury Free Coalition for Kids Obesity Synergy Project, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2006

University of California Transportation Center, April 2009

### Scientific Meeting Abstract Reviews

2009 Society for the Advancement of Injury and Violence Research Meeting

2008 World Injury Conference

2007-2009 American Public Health Association Meeting

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Eric W. Mood New Professionals Award, Association of Yale Alumni in Public Health, 2008

Leon S. Robertson Faculty Development Chair in Injury Prevention, JHSPH, 2006-2009

Delta Omega Honorary Society, Alpha Chapter, JHSPH, 2006

William Haddon, Jr. Fellowship in Injury Prevention, JHSPH 2002-2004

Jan A.J. Stolwijk Fellowship, Yale University School of Public Health, 2001-2002

James P. Keogh Memorial Scholarship, American Public Health Association, 2001

Wendell Phillips Award for Leadership and Oratorical Skills and University Commencement

Speaker and \$500 prize, Tufts University, 2000

## PUBLICATIONS

*Peer-reviewed Publications (\* mentored students primary author)*

1. Layne L, **Pollack KM** (2004). Nonfatal Occupational Injuries from Slips, Trips, and Falls Among Older Workers Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments, United States 1998.

*American Journal of Industrial Medicine*; 46:32-41

2. **Pollack KM**, Canham-Chervak M, Gazal-Carvalho C, Jones B, Baker SP (2005).

Interventions to Prevent Softball Related Injuries: A Review of the Literature. *Injury Prevention*;11:277-281.

3. **Pollack KM**, Sorock GS, Slade M, Cantley L, Sircar K, Taiwo O, Cullen MR (2007). The Association of Body Mass Index and Occupational Injury in Hourly Manufacturing Employees. *American Journal of Epidemiology*;166:204-11.
4. **Pollack KM**, Agnew J, Slade MD, Cantley L, Sircar K, Taiwo O, Cullen MR (2007). Use of Employer Administrative Databases to Identify Systematic Causes of Injury in Aluminum Manufacturing. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*;50:676-86.
5. **Pollack KM**, Cheskin L (2007). Obesity and Workplace Traumatic Injury: Does the Science Support the Link? *Injury Prevention*;13:297-302.
6. **Pollack KM**, Sorock GS, Slade M, Cantley L, Sircar K, Taiwo O, Cullen MR (2008). Interpretation of Interaction Terms Between Body Mass Index and Age. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 167:123-24.
7. **Pollack KM**, Xie D, Arbogast KB, Durbin DR (2008). Body Mass Index and Injury Risk Among U.S. Children 9-15 Years Old in Motor Vehicle Crashes. *Injury Prevention*;14(6):372-76.
8. Taiwo O, Cantley L, Slade M, **Pollack KM**, Vegso S, Fiellin MG, Cullen MR (2009). Gender Differences in Injury Patterns among Workers in Heavy Manufacturing. *American Journal of Epidemiology*; 169(2):161-6.
9. **Pollack KM**, Frattaroli S, Morhaim D (2009). Working in the Legislature: Perspectives on Injury Prevention in the United States. *Injury Prevention*; 15(3):208-11.
10. **Pollack KM** (2009). An Injury Prevention Perspective on the Childhood Obesity Epidemic. *Preventing Chronic Disease*; 6(3): [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2009/jul/08\\_0258.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2009/jul/08_0258.htm).
11. \*Crompton JG, **Pollack KM**, Oyetunji T, Chang DC, Efron DT, Haut ER, Cornwell EE, Haider A. Racial Disparities in Motorcycle-Related Mortality: An Analysis of the National Trauma Data Bank. In press; *American Journal of Surgery* (in press).
12. **Pollack KM**, Austin W, Grisso JA. Employee Assistance Programs: A Workplace Resource to Address Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of Women's Health* (in press).
13. \*Gibbons L, **Pollack K**, Curriero F, Shields T, Smart M, Furr-Holden D, Cooley M. Neighborhood Incivilities, Perceived Neighborhood Safety and Walking Behavior among Urban-Dwelling Children. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* (in press).

#### *Commentaries and Other Publications*

Frattaroli S, Yee N, **Pollack KM**, Gielen AC. New Developments in Building Codes and the Future of Home Fire Sprinkler Systems (*Injury Prevention*).

#### *Manuscripts Under Review*

**Pollack KM**, Cummiskey C, Krotki K, Salomon M, Dickin A, Austin W, Grisso JA. Reasons Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence Seek Assistance from Employee Assistance Programs (*Journal of Interpersonal Violence*).

**Pollack KM**, Morhaim D, Williams M. The Public's Perspectives on Advance Directives in Maryland: Implications for State Legislative Policy (*Health Policy*).

Frattaroli S, Gielen A, Piver-Renna J, **Pollack KM**, Bergen G, Ta V. Fire Prevention in Delaware: A Case Study of Education and Policy (*Health Promotion Practice*).

Lindquist C, McKay T, Clinton-Sherrod M, **Pollack KM**, Lasater B, Hardison Walters J. The Role of Employee Assistance Programs in Workplace-Based Intimate Partner Violence Intervention and Prevention Activities (*Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health*).

Bleich SN, **Pollack KM**. The public's understanding of daily caloric recommendations and their perceptions of menu labeling: Implications for future legislation (*BMC Public Health*).

Clinton-Sherrod M.A., Lasater B, **Pollack KM**, Lindquist C, McKay T, Hardison Walters J, Cumiskey C, Krotki K,. Employee Assistance Programs and Intimate Partner Violence: Challenges associated with Screening and Documentation (*Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*).

Frattaroli S, **Pollack KM**, Mendel J, Jonsberg K, Croteau G, Rivera JC. Streetworkers, Youth Violence Prevention, and Peacemaking in Lowell, Massachusetts: Lessons and Voices from the Community (*Progress in Community Health Partnerships*).

Hardison Walters J, **Pollack KM**, Clinton-Sherrod M, Lasater B, McKay T. Services Available Through the Employee Assistance Program for Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence (*Violence and Victims*).

**Pollack KM**, McKay T, Cumiskey C, Clinton-Sherrod M, Lindquist C, Salomon M, Dickin A, Krotki K, Lasater B, Hardison Walters J, Grisso JA. Available Services and Satisfaction with Employee Assistance Programs for Intimate Partner Violence (*Health Services Research*).

\*Ewing RW, **Pollack KM**, Maitland TE. Measuring the Burden of Cancer in the Turks and Caicos Islands (Caribbean Health Research Council)

#### *Reports*

**Pollack KM**, Gibbons LM (August 2009). Defense Safety Overweight Council Initiative: Causes and Risk Factors for Military and Privately Owned Vehicle Accidents.

Community Coalition to End Childhood Obesity (April 2008). Baltimore's Blueprint to Reduce Childhood Obesity Summit. Prepared for the Associated Black Charities and Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers, Baltimore, MD.

**Pollack KM**. Exploring the Role of Employee Assistance Programs in Preventing Intimate Partner Violence (May 2007). Prepared for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ.

Gazal-Carvalho C, **Pollack KM**, Canham-Chervak M, Jones B, Baker SP (September 2006). Prevention of Football Injuries: A Review of the Literature, 2005. General Medicine Service Study, Report No. 12-MA-01Q5-05.