

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES
EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION WORK GROUP**

**Meeting No. 3 Summary
Teleconference
January 26, 2010**

Call Objectives:

- Hear updates and respond to questions from the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* Education and Communication Work Group's Public and Health Professionals subgroups
- Reach a shared understanding of the overall direction of the work group and subgroup roles
- Decide on the next steps and assignments

Upcoming Meeting/Call	When and Where	Suggested Agenda Items
Full Education and Communication work group call	Tuesday, February 23, 2010 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Eastern time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft subgroup work products • Review approach to Web dialogue

I. Action Items

Work Group	Who	Completed by
1. Share link to the project management Web site webinar archive	National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) staff	February 5, 2010
2. Provide work group report template to members	Dana Goodson, RESOLVE	February 8, 2010
3. Determine how to best support members and follow up with members requesting assistance	Education and Communication work group Leadership Team (Kathy Rest, Jana Telfer, Dana Goodson, and Jenny Van Skiver)	February 8, 2010

Subgroups	Who	Completed by
4. Send any useful tools or models to Leyla McCurdy (lmccurdy@neefusa.org) for inclusion in the Health Professionals subgroup's inventory and literature review	Work group members	ASAP

Subgroups, continued	Who	Completed by
5. Send suggestions for contributions to the Public subgroup inventory to Lizzie Grossman (lizzieg@spiritone.com) or to the literature review to Alan Bookman (alan.bookman@dep.state.nj.us)	Work group members	ASAP
6. Contact Yanna Lambrinidou (pnalternatives@yahoo.com) with suggestions of agency insiders who could assist the Public Subgroup Bidirectional Learning Task Group with questions	Work group members	ASAP
7. Discuss identifying agency insiders who could assist the Bidirectional Learning task group with their questions	Work group and subgroup leadership team	January 29, 2010— <i>completed</i>
8. Prepare straw drafts of work products to circulate to the full work group ahead of its next teleconference	Subgroup members	February 19, 2010
9. Contact subgroup chairs Bob Washam (Robert_washam@doh.state.fl.us) or Diana Degen (diana.degen@cadmusgroup.com) with questions on subgroup tasks or to join a task group	Work group members	Ongoing

II. Call Summary

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Kathleen Rest, Education and Communication work group chair, welcomed the group, and Dana Goodson, RESOLVE facilitator, reviewed the agenda. Dr. Rest then provided the following key points from the memo that was sent to the group on Friday, January 22, 2010:

- The final work group report will include subgroup and task group activities. Members should focus on the pieces of information that will be most relevant to the final report.
- A work group report template will be provided to members within the next couple of weeks. The major sections of the template will include a description of the status of work group issues (ensuring a well-informed public and a well-equipped network of health care professionals), the work group's vision of success, and both short- and long-term actionable recommendations.
- The project timeline has been extended. Draft work group reports are now due by early August 2010, and final work group reports are due in early October 2010.
- Members should review work group process milestones that are outlined in the memo.

Update from the Health Professionals Subgroup

Health Professionals subgroup chair Bob Washam introduced Dr. Sophie Balk, the newest Education and Communication work group member who has joined the Health Professionals subgroup, and provided an update on the subgroup's activities. The subgroup has held two teleconferences since the full work group meeting in Washington, D.C., in November. The subgroup's current tasks include identifying target audiences, defining a "well-informed, well-equipped health professional," completing a literature review and inventory of health

professional education projects and programs, and preparing the next generation of health professionals.

Discussion

The Health Professionals subgroup received questions and comments on the following issues:

- **Purpose of inventories and literature reviews:** The group confirmed that such information gathering exercises would be used to identify work that has been done in the subgroup's topic area, potential models and best practices, and gaps. Dr. Rest pointed out that the themes and lessons that members can identify from reviewing bibliographies or inventories will be useful as the work group begins working on its report.
- **Pipeline issue:** Dr. Rest asked whether the group is moving toward meeting the request of the *National Conversation's* Leadership Council to ensure that a pipeline of interested, qualified people will be available to enter the health care sector. The members responded that a task group has begun focusing on elementary and high school programs to spark awareness and interest in environmental health issues. The task group will select model programs and encourage support for similar programs.
- **Task organization:** The subgroup might need to reconsider organizing specific tasks under its task groups. For example, the subgroup may want to place the task "conduct demographic analysis of target audiences to begin to understand preferences for receiving information/education" under the subgroup's Inventory and Literature Review Task Group. In addition, the subgroup may want to place the task "create recommendations for clinical diagnostic tools and biomonitoring of exposures" under the Identification of Target Audiences and Definition of "well-informed, well-equipped health professional" task group.
- **Subgroup participation:** Those members involved in the task group work appealed to work group members with expertise in educating health care professionals to join the subgroup. Members who have staff or graduate students who could assist with some of the tasks should contact Mr. Washam.

Update from the Public Subgroup

Public subgroup chair Diana Degen provided an update on the subgroup's progress. The group has held two teleconferences since the November in-person meeting and is working on the following tasks:

- developing an inventory of current and prior efforts in the subgroup's topic area,
- identifying target audiences and defining a "well-informed public,"
- reviewing the literature, and
- reviewing efforts by government and other stakeholders to receive information from the public.

Members have expressed their needs for guidance on the Education and Communication work group report and clarity about the scope of their efforts.

Discussion

The Public subgroup received questions and comments on the following issues:

- **Scope of efforts:** Dr. Rest urged members to look for the range of approaches to educating and communicating with the public rather than developing an exhaustive list. She suggested that members tease out themes, gaps, or best practices. Dr. Rest said that members should also consider any evaluations that have been completed and possibly recommend that a more comprehensive evaluation be carried out if one appears to be lacking. She also suggested that task groups look to the goals in the work group charge for guidance on the scope of their tasks.

- The Public subgroup's Literature Review task group is soliciting additional resources to review.
- The Public subgroup's Bidirectional Learning task group requested assistance from work group leadership and staff in reaching out to key staff at government agencies.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Resources

Members were encouraged to recognize that participants have varying amounts of time to contribute to this project and to encourage one another to help wherever they can. Members requested additional staff support, and Dr. Rest committed to discussing this request with the work group leadership team on its debriefing call.

Next Steps

The next full work group teleconference will be held on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010, from 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m., Eastern time.**

Due to the amount of information to share and work to complete, the next in-person meeting will be extended to a 1.5-day session. The group will meet in Washington, D.C., for a full day on April 21 and in the morning on April 22. The specific times, location, and other information will be provided as it becomes available.

III. Participation

Members Present:

Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Sophie Balk, Children's Hospital at Montefiore, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Alan Bookman, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Julia Brody, Silent Spring Institute
Stephanie Chalupka, Worcester State College
Diana Degen, The Cadmus Group, Inc.
Peter Dooley, Laborsafe
Elizabeth Grossman, freelance journalist
Marc Kusnitz, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Yanna Lambrinidou, Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives
Mary Lamielle, National Center for Environmental Health Strategies
Leyla McCurdy, National Environmental Education Foundation
Karen Miller, Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition/Prevention Is The Cure, Inc.
Jerome Paulson, Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment
Matthew Stefanak, Mahoning County District Board of Health
John Stine, Minnesota Department of Health
John Sullivan, University of Texas Medical Branch/NIEHS Center in Environmental Toxicology
Susan Waldron, Ottawa County Health Department
Robert Washam, Martin County Health Department
Philip Wexler, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine

Regrets:

Alison Cohen, Brown University
Jeffrey Jenkins, Oregon State University
Lena Jones, Jackson Roadmap to Health Equity Project
Amy Liebman, Migrant Clinicians Network
Anne Rolfes, Louisiana Bucket Brigade
Cynthia Warrick, Elizabeth City State University

Mark Wysong, IHS, Inc.
Lina Younes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Leadership and Staff Present:

Kathleen Rest, Union of Concerned Scientists; Education and Communication Work Group chair

Jana Telfer, NCEH/ATSDR senior liaison

Dana Goodson, RESOLVE facilitator

Jenny Van Skiver, NCEH/ATSDR staff