

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES  
CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES**

**Meeting No. 8 Summary**

Washington, DC  
August 10, 2010

**Objectives:**

- Review, edit, and finalize draft work group report of the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Chemical Emergencies Work Group (Chemical Emergencies Work Group)*
- Review bibliography and appendices to determine plan to finalize
- Determine next steps to finalize the draft report for presentation to the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Leadership Council (Leadership Council)* by August 31, 2010

Upcoming Meeting or Call	When and Where	Suggested Agenda Items
Ninth <i>Chemical Emergencies Work Group</i> meeting	October 2010 By teleconference Time and date TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of any public comment and feedback from the <i>Leadership Council</i></li> <li>• Finalize work group report for submission to the <i>Leadership Council</i> by October 31, 2010.</li> </ul>

**I. Action Items**

	By whom	By When
Submit all edits/comments for incorporation into final Draft report to Montrece Ransom with a cc to Jennifer Peyser	<i>Chemical Emergencies Work Group</i> Members	August 13, 2010
Incorporate all indicated changes into Final 2010 Draft Work Group Report	Montrece Ransom	August 19, 2010
Schedule call with leadership team and subgroup leaders call to discuss edits to the Final Draft Work Group Report	Jennifer Peyser	August 16, 2010
Send revised Draft report to full work group for review	Jennifer Peyser	August 20, 2010
Submit any final edits/comments on revised final Draft report to Montrece Ransom with a cc to Jennifer Peyser	<i>Chemical Emergencies Work Group</i> Members	August 26, 2010
Submit final Draft Work Group Report to the Leadership Council	Jennifer Peyser	August 27, 2010

## II. Meeting Summary

### 1) Welcome, Meeting Objectives, and Agenda Review

Andrea Kidd Taylor, chair of the *Chemical Emergencies Work Group*, opened the meeting and offered thanks for the work over the past months. She noted that was the final in-person meeting of the group, and stated she was looking forward to a lively and productive meeting. Jennifer Peyser, RESOLVE facilitator, reviewed the objectives and agenda for the meeting, and led a round of introductions.

### 2) Overview of Work Group Report

Peyser led the group through a general review of the draft report. She highlighted particular items in the document that needed further review or development. Peyser also reminded the group that due to time constraints, there will not be time for a line by line review of the report at this meeting. If work group members have specific suggestions for language changes, Peyser suggested that members draft specific language during the break-out sessions later in the afternoon, and propose those edits to the full work group during the report back. Given the importance of the actionable recommendations in conveying the work group's ideas to the Leadership Council, most of today's meeting time should be spent on the recommendations which appear in Section IV of the draft report.

### 3) Report Section IV: Actionable Recommendations

Peyser led the work group through a review of the current recommendations.

**RECOMMENDATION #1: The Department of Homeland Security should partner with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide all first responder and first receiver organizations with a core competency "boot camp" training on basic chemical emergency response, communication and coordination of the prevention, planning, response and recovery phases.**

This recommendation was edited to read as follows:

All first responder and first receiver organizations should be provided with a core competency "boot camp"-type training on basic chemical emergency response, communication and coordination of the prevention, planning, response and recovery phases.

Work group members also discussed the need to include refresher training as a component of this recommendation. It was suggested that other funding sources be considered, and that a reference to Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 21. Work group members also agreed that the second paragraph accompanying this recommendation should focus on communication among first responders. Clark Phinney and Jacque Darbonne agreed to work on the edits for this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION #2: Since all emergency responses occur at the local level, the Department of Homeland Security should partner with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide both funding and logistical support for hands-on, real-time training, including functional drills, to support local interagency emergency response to chemical events.**

Work group members noted the importance of referring to tribes in this specific recommendation. The issues of complacency and the need for continuing education should be addressed in this recommendation. It was also suggested that any edits to the recommendation consider time periods, lengths, and frequencies of trainings and drills.

**RECOMMENDATION #3: OSHA, NIOSH and other response agencies (such as state health and safety agencies) need to develop clear, easy-to-understand chemical emergency exposure standards or guidance values which better represent real-life risks incurred by first responders at chemical emergencies.**

Work group members discussed that the intent of this recommendation is to have all relevant players at the table providing input on exposure standards and guidance values, and to 'get to one version of the truth.' Questions were raised with regard to who develops the standards and whether that agency can collaborate with other relevant agencies to develop simple standards that can be applied in a chemical emergency. Work group members agreed that other players include the EPA and Chemical Safety Board, and it was noted that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health isn't a response agency. This recommendation should also consider timelines and evaluations in its accompanying language. Clark Phinney, Betsy Kagey, and Wanda Lizak Welles agreed to work on the edits to this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION #4: There is a need for a single, user-friendly, accessible planning tool for toxicological hazard and vulnerability analysis (HVA) for local response to chemical emergencies.**

There were few substantive changes proposed on this recommendation. Work group members suggested that the Clearinghouse, proposed in Recommendation #2, be mentioned in the language accompanying this recommendation. Work group members felt strongly that the public and community should be involved in training efforts when possible. It was also acknowledged that as training is provided, the number of users, and updates to that training should also increase. Montrece Ransom agreed to work on the edits to this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION #5: The Centers for Public Health Preparedness should develop a cadre of trained and experienced Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF 8) planners and responders who will improve emergency operational capabilities and better integrate the tiers of private sector and government responses to public health emergencies during chemical disasters/events.**

Work group members discussed which agency/organization should be responsible for the cadre of planners and responders. Suggestions were made to replace the Centers for Public Health Preparedness with a more recognized national organization or federal agency. Work group members agreed the cadre should be composed of planners and responders from the federal, tribal, state, and local levels, and should consider cross-border issues. The intention is that this program would focus on a set of base competencies and be replicable and accessible on all levels. Anthony Tomassoni agreed to work on the edits to this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION #6: The Department of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and the National Response Center, should establish an office or program whose goal would be to serve as an ombudsperson, unifying and integrating the efforts of federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies with responsibilities related to preventing, preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating chemical emergencies, and serving as a central as a central program charged with creating consistency and avoiding redundancy of information on chemical emergencies on the national, state, local, and tribal levels.**

Work group members suggested that a new center could be developed within CDC to work out the details of this recommendation, using the best available models. Work group members agreed that ombudsperson might not be the right term, and suggested that the group identify another term that indicates that the function of this office/person would be one of coordination and dissemination of information. Work group members agreed that industry, including chemical manufacturers and others, should report to this system, and a legal requirement or mandate might be necessary to ensure reporting by industry. Work group members suggested that Congress create, authorize, and fund this program.

Discussions were had around the role of Poison Control Centers. Work group members noted that there is a need for a mechanism to vet information which might help to promote coordination between chemical manufacturers and Poison Control Center, and would help ensure the same message is provided by both entities. Work group members noted that a rebranding of Poison Control Centers is needed. Work group members agreed that this recommendation should also distinguish between response and risk communication. Work group members also felt strongly that this center/program should be the first thing that pops up on web searches. Additional discussion centered materials accounting and making data, including transportation data, more accessible. Maureen Orr and Anthony Tomassoni agreed to work on the edits to this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION #7: Federal government agencies with responsibilities for providing research and other funding to state and local government agencies should require that relevant funding announcements include language requiring the development of partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and industry.**

Work group members agreed that this recommendation should include a focus on vulnerable communities and populations. In addition, this recommendation was edited to read as follows:

Federal government agencies with responsibilities for providing research and other funding to tribes and state and local government agencies [on chemical emergencies/exposures] should require that relevant funding announcements include language requiring the development of partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, academia, labor unions, and industry.

**RECOMMENDATION #8: A Presidential Executive Order should be established that calls for each federal agency to develop an agency strategy for preventing, preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating chemical emergencies, and in ensuring preparedness momentum is maintained.**

Work group members noted that the Executive Order should call for better integration. For example, chemical emergency preparedness and response plans must be coordinated and shared with relevant agencies. There needs to be a mechanism to better communicate and

disseminate information between agencies and among federal, state, tribal, and local governments. A suggestion was made for the creation of a task force or work group with representation from each agency. Work group members also discussed the potential need for public input or comment on agency preparedness and response plans.

After much discussion, work group members agreed that more detail was needed for this recommendation, and Andrea Kidd-Taylor agreed to work on this. It was noted that this recommendation needed a goal statement in the first paragraph that notes that work group envisions one federal document that describes each agency's role in chemical emergencies and how will work with other agencies. Such a document should be developed collaboratively/between agencies, and should focus on cabinet level agencies. At a minimum, this document will feature language on green procurement and an acknowledgement of the different players involved in each stage of preparedness and response.

**RECOMMENDATION #9: ATSDR and its partner agencies should establish a collaborative program which promotes the capacity across government agencies, industry, and academia for the development of technical and policy expertise in green technologies that remove or reduce the possibility of a significant chemical emergency.**

Work group members noted that this recommendation should include language on EPA's Green Chemistry program, and ways to collaborate with them and existing partners, including non-governmental organizations. Partnerships are crucial because EPA and others may be able to provide regulatory incentives that agencies like ATSDR cannot. It was recommended that any funds associated with the collaborative program be exclusively dedicated to the development and maintenance of this program. Workgroup members also discussed the importance of applied research in this area, and that the results of such research should be included in the Clearinghouse proposed in Recommendation #2. Montrece Ransom and Andrea Kidd-Taylor agreed to work on the edits to this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION #10: ATSDR, in collaboration with other federal government agencies, should develop an ongoing national program to assess and improve the health care response to hazardous chemical releases, and to develop an evidence base for chemical emergency planning.**

Work group members discussed the importance of ensuring better coordination between ATSDR and NCEH, and suggested that a longer-term cohort study could be established to assess the response to chemical releases. Work group members agreed that this recommendation should go beyond first responders, and also mention the Hospital Preparedness Program, EMS preparedness programs, and Poison Control Centers. Maureen Orr and Betsy Kagey agreed to work on the edits to this recommendation.

**PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION #11: Congress should pass a law requiring facilities to assess, and in certain cases to implement, safer and more secure alternatives that can reduce or eliminate many existing chemical hazards.**

This recommendation was proposed during this meeting by work group member Darius Sivin. Work group members acknowledged that much of this is being considered in pending regulation, and discussed which federal agency would be best to enforce such legislation. Suggestions were offered that private sector efforts could be enforced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), drinking water facilities could be managed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and wastewater facilities would be

under the auspices of (EPA) per authority of the Clean Water Act. Work group members also noted that there is a need for preventive and health protective criteria for swapping chemicals. After much discussion, the group agreed that this was an important recommendation. Darius Sivin agreed to rewrite this recommendation based on the comments received and submit it to Ransom within the week for incorporation in the next draft of the report.

#### **PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION #12: Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)**

After much discussion, the work group members agreed to develop an additional recommendation. This recommendation will focus on MSDSs. Work group members suggested that this recommendation be honed to include a problem statement which notes the inconsistency among sources. Members agreed that a uniform domestic safety data sheet format is needed to ensure emergency response personnel and community members have access to information on chemical exposures and hazards. The objective of this recommendation should be consistent domestic adoption of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), and it should tie money to its implementation. Agencies with a role in achieving this objective include EPA, the US Coast Guard, and the Department of Transportation. Work group members noted the importance of ensuring this recommendation acknowledges the international component, and of reflecting a timeline for phasing in. Work group members noted that MSDSs should be available in the Clearinghouse recommendation in Recommendation 2. Derek Swick volunteered to develop this recommendation.

#### **4) Sections I, II, and III, and Appendices**

Peyser led the group through a brief review of Sections I, II, III, and IV for completeness.

##### **a. Section I: Introduction**

#### *Charge*

In reviewing the *Chemical Emergencies* Work Group charge, members noted that the final report does not consider issues related to chemical infrastructure security. It was agreed that a sentence should be added as a caveat addressing this omission. Work group members noted that any section on caveats should also acknowledge limitations of the work of the Work Group.

#### *Process and Methods: Training and Capacity Subgroup*

Work group member Betsy Kagey agreed to drafted edits and revisions for this section which she will share with Ransom. Peyser agreed to follow up with her to ensure they are incorporated.

#### *Process and Methods: Systems and Coordination Subgroup*

Work group members noted that Todd Jordan is a member of the *Training* Subgroup, and his name needs to be removed from the membership listing for this subgroup.

#### *Terms and Definitions*

Derek Swick agreed to provide a definition of the term “industry.” Work group members ask that the definition include manufacturers and processors.

Work group members agreed that consideration should be given to the role of healthcare in the definition of “system.”

In the definition of “community”, work group members agreed to remove the words “their personal” and replace it with “people’s.”

b. Section II: Current Status of Issues

*Training and Capacity Building*

Jacque Darbonne agreed to revise and edit this section.

*Systems and Coordination*

Maureen Orr agreed to draft an introduction for this section.

c. Section III: Vision of a Successful System

Kathleen Curtis agreed to draft language on materials accounting to include in this section of the report.

Work group members suggested that tribes be added to this section as relevant.

d. Appendices

The group agreed that the Appendices need further work if they are to be included in the report. Peyser reiterated that the *Leadership Council* expects the full report, including appendices to be in a final/polished state by the end of August. Work group members agreed that the subgroup documents and work products should not be appendices, but rather they should be considered working documents from which information was gleaned in the development of the Final Draft Work Group Report.

**5) Drafting groups**

During this part of the meeting, the work group members met in small drafting groups to being honing recommendations and drafting new language based on deliberations thus far. The work group then reconvened to share the proposed revisions and new language. Work group members agreed to ensure any remaining edits are sent to Montrece Ransom, with a cc to Jennifer Peyser, no later than August 13, 2010, for incorporation into the final draft report.

**6) Public Comment**

Sharon D. Beard, Industrial Hygienist and Program Administrator with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences offered comments on the draft report. Beard was present at the meeting as a courtesy to work group member Joseph “Chip” Hughes, who was unable to attend this meeting as he was deployed in response to the Gulf Oil Spill. Beard noted that, at a minimum, better and more coordinated training should be provided for responders at the local level. Federal training tools need to be pushed to the local level. She mentioned that regional teams could work with municipalities on preparedness and response planning. Local entities are also important players in ensuring smaller and hard to reach populations are getting the necessary training. Refresher training - drills and response training - should be made available

to all on operations and technician level. Beard noted that the skills and competencies of core personnel need to be defined. Operating engineers, utility workers, etc. may be the first to respond, and need to be added as a target population for chemical training. She also noted she'd like to see recommendations regarding how state policies can be implemented locally (e.g., nanotechnology). Training is also needed on how to access appropriate instrumentation and detection devices. Beard noted that the Chemical Safety Board (CS) provides critical assessments of what's happening in the field. These reports should be further developed because they offer best practices in preparedness and response.

Beard encouraged the group to consider the roles of societies and professional organizations, and to take advantage of service requirements such as continuing education credit requirements. She also asked the group not to forget about the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and their Green Tech and nanotechnology programs which are supporting and investing in development of new technologies.

## **7) Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

Peyser noted that once the edits and revisions have been submitted, Ransom will incorporate them into a master draft. She agreed to identify dates for the final work group call in October, and requested work group members respond to the doodle request upon receipt.

Peyser thanked the group for their time and teamwork, and noted that she looked forward to working with the group as the move toward finalizing the report over the next few months.

## **IV. Participation**

### **Members Present:**

Bill Benerman, Denver Department of Environmental Health  
Nathan Birnbaum, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Kathleen Curtis, Clean New York  
Jacque Darbonne, Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services  
Fleming Fallon, Bowling Green State University  
Nancy Hughes, American Nurses Association  
James James, American Medical Association  
Betsy Kagey, Georgia Division of Public Health  
Andrea Kidd Taylor, Morgan State University (chair)  
Maureen Orr, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Paul Orum, NGO Chemical Safety Consultant  
Jacqueline McBride, Love, Peace and Prosperity International, Inc.  
Darius Sivin, International Union, UAW  
Syndi Smallwood, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians  
Derek Swick, American Petroleum Institute  
Constance Thomas, South Fulton and Fayette Community Task Force  
Anthony Tomassoni, Yale University School of Medicine  
Wanda Lizak Welles, New York State Department of Health  
Clark Phinney, Maine Oxy

### **Regrets:**

John Bresland, U.S. Chemical Safety Board  
Susan Cibulsky, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Scott Deitchman, NCEH/ATSDR *senior liaison*

*Final Document*

James Eaton, Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab  
Kimberly Jennings, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Joseph Hughes, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
Todd Jordan, Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Mark Kirk, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Susan Palchick, Hennepin County

**Facilitation & Staff Team Present:**

Jennifer Peyser, RESOLVE *facilitator*  
Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR *staff*