

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

**Meeting No. 3 Summary
Teleconference
January 21, 2010**

Meeting Objectives:

- Hear National Conversation updates, including on the 12/11 LC meeting and the shared website
- Learn about revised National Conversation timeline and anticipated Work Group milestones
- Hear updates and respond to draft documents from the Systems/Coordination and Responder Training/Capacity Building Subgroups
- Decide on next steps and assignments

Upcoming Meeting/Call	When & Where	Suggested Agenda Items
Fourth work group meeting (teleconference)	March 1, 2:30-4:00 pm Eastern (1:30 pm Central / 12:30 pm Mountain / 11:30 am Pacific)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review revised subgroup work products • Discuss gaps and possible solutions • Discuss approach to web dialogue

I. Action Items

National Conversation Updates	Who	Completed by
Send information on trainings for the shared web-space to all WG members	Montrece Ransom	January 21, 2010 <i>Completed</i>
Provide background information on the Web Dialogue to all WG members	Montrece Ransom	February 5 th , 2010 <i>Completed</i>
Share the information on the inventory of preparedness courses with a cross-walk to existing preparedness standards	Anthony Tomassoni	February 19 th , 2010
Provide logistics for April 19-20 in-person meeting	Montrece Ransom	February 20 th , 2010
Create internal WG timeline and disseminate to all WG members	WG Leadership Team	February 20 th , 2010

System and Coordination Subgroup (S&C)		
Send any material that may be helpful to the System and Coordination subgroup to the subgroup leadership: 1) Darius Sivin [DSivin@uaw.net] and Erik Janus [EJanus@croplifeamerica.org]	ALL	February 19 th , 2010
Send revised documents to Dana Goodson to share with Work Group ahead of March 1 st call	Subgroup co-chairs	February 26 th , 2010
Training and Capacity Building Subgroup (T&CB)		
Reach out to contacts about preparedness and response training needs and gather references, tools, etc	All subgroup members	February 8 th , 2010
Discuss best way to start adding body to the subgroup report outline	All subgroup members	February 8 th , 2010
Send revised outline to Dana Goodson to share with Work Group ahead of March 1 st call	Subgroup co-chairs	February 26 th , 2010

II. Meeting Summary

1) Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Andrea Kidd Taylor, Work Group (WG) chair, welcomed members to the meeting. She advised the WG that CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden had appointed Dr. Howard Frumkin to be his Special Assistant for Climate Change and Health. Incoming Acting NCEH/ATSDR Director, Dr. Henry Falk, has stated his commitment to the National Conversation and will continue as planned. Andrea also noted that a new LC (LC) co-chair LC would be named. Dana Goodson, WG facilitator, reviewed and finalized the meeting agenda.

2) National Conversation Updates

Andrea provided an update on the December 11, 2009 LC meeting. She noted that WG chairs were present at the daylong meeting and they each provided updates on WG progress to the Leadership Council (LC), and received feedback on the WG charges. The feedback received on the CE WG charge was minimal. Andrea also acknowledged the importance of our work in light of critical disasters, including the recent earthquakes in Haiti.

Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR staff to the WG, reviewed the updated Process Map for the National Conversation. She noted that, because the LC expressed concern over the short timeframe for report writing, the WG timeline was extended. Draft WG reports will now be due in August 2010, and final WG reports will be due in October 2010. She also noted that the inputs from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will be sent to both the WGs and the LC for consideration in April 2010. National Conversation partners are developing a community

conversation toolkit to assist community leaders in convening local meetings on public health and chemical exposure in order to gain Community-level input into the National Conversation. A report summarizing input from the community conversations will be prepared and disseminated to the WGs and LC for consideration in July 2010. Montreice also noted that trainings for the shared Web space have been scheduled, and information would be sent to members.

Questions and Discussion:

Charge language

At least one WG member acknowledged the need for consistency using all five levels of the cycle of preparedness and response in the final charge language. Those are: *preventing, preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating chemical incidents.*

Overlap among WG charges as presented at the 12/11 LC meeting

Workgroup members inquired whether much overlap existed in the WG charges presented to the LC on 12/11. Andrea responded that little overlap exists; each WG seems to be focused on its topic. The LC can address overlap in the work of the WGs, should it arise.

Tools available/disseminated in response to the Haiti Earthquake

Andrea noted that the subject matter experts in our WG likely have been involved in some level of response to the disaster in Haiti. WG members acknowledged that they or their organizations have developed and disseminated the following tools:

- NIEHS Earthquake Response Training Tool: Protecting Yourself While Responding to Earthquakes. Safety and Health Awareness for Responders to Earthquakes. Worker Education and Training Program. Offered by WG member Joseph “Chip” Hughes. This tool can be located at: <http://www.ntis.gov/search/product.aspx?ABBR=PB2009113873>.
- AMA Haiti Earthquake Resources. Offered by WG member James James. This resource can be found here: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/news/news/haiti-earthquake-response/haiti-resources.shtml>.

Web Dialogue

Members expressed interest in learning more about the Web Dialogues and the potential role of WG members. Montreice agreed to e-mail background information on this element to all WG members. She noted that WG members would be asked for assistance in posing queries and responses during the Web Dialogues.

3) Update from Systems/Coordination Subgroup

Fleming Fallon reviewed the draft matrix developed by the Systems/Coordination Subgroup. This matrix identifies gaps and unmet needs, as well as the need to explore existing laws and regulations to identify gaps and redundancies. The subgroup also discussed its approach, which relies on using three case studies as a backdrop. The subgroup has identified two case studies, one focused on the Fayette County, GA chemical release; and another that deals with a chlorine release. Proposals for the third case study are still being discussed, and include one identified

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case study focused on a landfill release following Hurricane Katrina, and, a yet-to-be- identified case study, which would focus on an acute chemical emergency related to a natural disaster.

WG member suggestions for this subgroup included:

- Add mitigation as a phase in the cycle of preparedness and response.
- Use the unmet needs and case studies to begin to develop solutions.
- Develop criteria for evaluating questions.
- Add the matrix as an appendix to the subgroup report.

Questions and Discussion:

Ranking response effectiveness

At least one WG member asked whether this subgroup planned to rank the response efforts in the case studies on effectiveness. No decision has yet been made. Another WG member recommended that this subgroup pay attention to when the events in the case studies took place, as the National Response Framework has changed much of what should have and, perhaps, would have been, done in response to a chemical emergency release.

Case studies

Members discussed the subgroup's search for a third case study. Members suggested including case studies with both acute and chronic releases, and in particular one in which an acute chemical release was associated with a natural disaster. WG members could not think of such a case. Members also suggested that this subgroup should focus on what was done well, using these case study examples, and think through the best way to communicate such best practices before a disaster as a key component of preparedness. Dana requested that any material or information that may be helpful to this subgroup be sent to the subgroup leadership. The leaders of this subgroup are: 1) Darius Sivin [DSivin@uaw.net]; and 2) Erik Janus [EJanus@croplifeamerica.org].

Compilation of laws

Although it was not reviewed in detail, the WG noted that the compilation of laws and emergency response authorities is a useful resource. The subgroup noted that this document will be particularly useful in identifying gaps in the law and where policy changes are needed.

4) Update from Responder Training/Capacity Building Subgroup

Training Subgroup co-chairs Clark Phinney and Wanda Lizak Welles led the discussion on the progress of this subgroup. Clark noted that the subgroup has created an outline to guide its work. Members noted that subgroups should be thinking about how to integrate the work of both groups before writing the final reports.

Anthony Tomassoni discussed his office's inventory of preparedness courses with a cross-walk, matching courses to existing preparedness standards. This compilation is still in the formative stage, and has yet to be vetted by other organizations. However, he will share the information with the WG.

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Wanda noted that she provided an update on the subgroup's work during a recent teleconference sponsored by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

The subgroup's next call is Friday, January 22, 2010. The subgroup's next steps include contacting resources about preparedness and response training needs and gathering references, tools, etc. The subgroup will also start expanding the subgroup report outline.

Questions and Discussion:

Federal Agency Capacity Building

WG members discussed the importance of one of the subgroups including federal agency capacity building. While local frontline workers are most in need of guidance, subgroup leadership acknowledged the critical role of federal agencies in preparedness and response efforts, and advised that they will consider this issue as it moves forward.

5) Next Steps and Assignments

Update on April meeting times

The WG leadership and facilitation team has proposed that the April meeting be extended in order to accommodate all the tasks that the Work Group needs to accomplish at that meeting. The suggested extended schedule is as follows:

Begins: Noon, April 19th, 2010
Ends: 4:30pm, April 20th, 2010

Current plans are to hold the meeting in Baltimore, near the BWI Airport. If possible, the meeting will be held at the BWI Marriott. More information on logistics will follow via email.

Next steps

Dana noted that the Work Group Coordinating Committee is working on a template for the final workgroup report. Once the template is ready, it will be distributed to WG membership to help guide our work. In addition, the CEWG leadership team will begin creating an internal WG timeline based on the process map. Subgroups will continue meeting and deliberating virtually and by phone.

Next call

Dana reminded the group that our next WG call is scheduled for March 1st from 2:30-4:00pm Eastern.

6) Adjourn Conference Call

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am Eastern by WG chair, Andrea Kidd Taylor.

IV. Participation

Members Present:

Nathan Birnbaum, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Susan Cibulsky, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kathleen Curtis, Clean New York

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Jacque Darbonne, Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services
James Eaton, Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab
Fleming Fallon, Bowling Green State University
Joseph Hughes, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Nancy Hughes, American Nurses Association
James James, American Medical Association
Betsy Kagey, Georgia Division of Public Health
Andrea Kidd Taylor, Morgan State University, *chair*
Mark Kirk, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Wanda Lizak Welles, New York State Department of Health
Jacqueline McBride, Love, Peace and Prosperity International, Inc
Laurie Miller, American Chemistry Council
Paul Orum, NGO Chemical Safety Consultant
Susan Palchick, Hennepin County
Clark Phinney, MaineOxy
Darius Sivin, International Union, UAW
Derek Swick, American Petroleum Institute
Constance Thomas, South Fulton and Fayette Community Task Force
Anthony Tomassoni, Yale University School of Medicine

Regrets:

Bill Benerman, Denver Department of Environmental Health
John Bresland, US Chemical Safety Board
Michael Greenburg, American Academy of Clinical Toxicology
Erik Janus, CropLife America
Kimberly Jennings, US EPA
Todd Jordan, US OSHA
James Madsen, US Army Medical Corps
Maureen Orr, US ATSDR

Facilitation & Staff Team Present:

Dana Goodson, RESOLVE *facilitator*
Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR *staff*

Others Present:

Craig Matheson (representing Kimberly Jennings, U.S. EPA)