

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

**Meeting #2 Summary
BWI Airport Marriott
November 13, 2009**

Meeting Objectives:

- Get to know each other
- Finalize the draft Work Group charge
- Learn about the status of the *NC* process, project milestones, and the Work Group's role
- Begin building a shared understanding of existing efforts and programs
- Initiate description of unmet needs
- Decide on next steps and assignments

Upcoming Meeting/Call	When & Where	Suggested Agenda Items
Third Work Group meeting (teleconference)	January 21, 10:00-11:30am EDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hear National Conversation updates ○ Learn about revised timeline and anticipated milestones ○ Hear updates and respond to draft documents from the Systems/Coordination and Responder Training/Capacity Building Subgroups ○ Decide on next steps and assignments

I. Action Items

Item	Who	Completed by
Send out "next steps" memo and doodle polls for next full work group call	Dana Goodson	12/10/09 (completed)
Revision of work group charge based on deliberations	Montrece Ransom	11/30/09 (completed)
Select a Subgroup	Work Group members not currently assigned to subgroup	12/30/09
Draft Work Group meeting summary and circulate to Work Group members	Montrece Ransom and Dana Goodson	12/30/09

Send any comments/edits on this meeting summary to Dana	Work group members	1/6/10
Hold 1-2 phone meetings to begin sub-group work	Both subgroups	1/15/10
System and Coordination Subgroup (S&C)		
Develop a matrix of existing programs and policies	Erik Janus	1/04/10
Analyze matrix to identify gaps/linkages	Fleming Fallon	1/04/10
Identify approximately three community stories to ground the analysis of the matrix	Maureen Orr, Derek Swick, Connie Thomas, Jacqueline McBride	1/04/10
Identify and compile existing laws and regulations	Darius Sivin and Jacqueline McBride	1/04/10
Vet and prioritize list of unmet needs	Laurie Miller, Susan Cibulsky	1/04/10
Share information on Chemtrec	Laurie Miller	1/04/10
Training and Capacity Building Subgroup (T&CB)		
Define responders and receivers	Montrece	1/04/10
Describe the landscape of trainings/core competencies	Anthony Tomassoni	1/04/10
Investigate ways to communicate information	Need a subgroup volunteer	1/04/10

II. Meeting Summary

1) Welcome, Agenda Review, and Introductions

Andrea Kidd Taylor, Work Group (WG) chair, welcomed members to the meeting. Dana Goodson, WG facilitator, reviewed and finalized the meeting agenda and highlighted proposed ground rules for this and forthcoming meetings. The ground rules are used to encourage constructive, problem-solving dialogue among all WG members. The meeting summary and the ground rules are Appendices A and B. Persons not attending the meeting may comment or add to the ground rules by contacting Dana (dgoodson@resolv.org).

Dana shared short biographies for each WG member and led an interactive introductory exercise. WG biographies are Appendix C.

2) NC Process Update and Work Group Milestones

Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR staff to the WG, updated the group on the NC (NC) process and reviewed WG milestones, highlighting deadlines. The milestones document is Appendix D. Montrece also mentioned that NC Operating Procedures had been sent to the WG. It outlines

draft NC operating procedures and, decision making processes. These will be considered, revised and adopted (as amended) by the Leadership Council on December 11. Montrece encouraged persons who to share comments or questions with Ben Gerhardstein at BGehardstein@cdc.gov, so he could share such input with the Leadership Council.

3) Finalize Draft WG Charge

Andrea invited comments and questions about the current charge language. The following themes emerged as concepts to potentially improve the charge language:

- 1) prevention of chemical emergencies and/or incidents;
- 2) identification and communication of hazards and the reduction and/or mitigation of risk;
- 3) inclusion of the broad array of actors who are involved in chemical emergency preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery; and
- 4) importance of including citizens and communities.

After members made additional suggestions, Montrece agreed to revise the charge and share it with Andrea for her review before circulation to the WG. The revised, draft charge is Appendix E and was e-mailed to WG members on December 1 for final review and comment.

4) Overview of Existing Efforts and Programs: Federal Agency Perspective

Todd Jordan and Joseph Hughes made presentations to support a shared understanding of federal efforts and programs. These presentations focused their agencies' efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from acute chemical incidents. Copies of those presentations are Appendix F.

Questions and Discussion:

Lessons learned from 9/11 about the burden of occupational illness

Mental health and psychological health, depression, suicide, and post-traumatic stress disorder have now been incorporated into preparedness and response training and policies.

Consequences associated with the selfless nature of responders

WG members noted that responders are often selfless, placing their personal health and protection second to those they are charged with caring for in an emergency. WG members discussed that this phenomenon cuts across areas, outreach before an event has worked in the firefighter community, and cultural changes follow lessons learned. Members noted that government and employers should provide guidelines, standards, and training on such topics as the use of personal protective equipment. They also noted the a need for greater data on worker compliance.

Standards or guidelines from the government

A question was raised about whether one set of standards and guidelines for the government regarding shelter-in-place and evacuation guidelines exists. WG members discussed the enforceability of such standards in an emergency, the role of altered standards of care, and the fact that many events are local and require a customized response. Members noted that

ATSDR produces guidelines, conducts surveillance of chemical incidents, and provides funding to some states.

5) Overview of Existing Efforts and Programs: Community Perspective

Connie Thomas and Jacqueline McBride offered a community perspective. Connie commented on her experience with an acute chemical incident in a Georgia county and highlighted lessons learned from that event. The talking points for this presentation are Appendix G. Jacqueline commented on the importance of transparency and encouraged the WG to consider barriers that prevent citizens from getting involved in preparedness and responsibility initiatives, such as lack of access to the Internet. Her presentation is Appendix H.

Questions and Discussion:

WG members commented that many communities do not know exactly what chemicals are held in the community. The Georgia community story was recommended as a backdrop for the WG. WG members also noted that the burden of proving hazardous chemical exposure should shift from residents to industry.

6) Overview of Existing Efforts and Programs: Industry Perspective

Erik Janus and Laurie Miller presented how industry prevents, prepares for, responds to, and recovers from acute chemical incidents. Their presentation is Appendix I. Clark Phinney reminded the WG about distrust of government, and that many businesses do not really understand the laws with which they are to comply. He noted that tools for businesses to better understand related laws have not trickled down to the local level.

Questions and Discussion:

Some WG members noted that the presentations show the industry is making an effort to do good things, although many communities might feel differently about industry efforts.

7) Identification and Organization of Task Groups

The WG decided to form two subgroups around the priority topics which emerged at the June 26th kick-off meeting. Breakout groups were asked to focus on three questions:

- 1) Have the unmet needs been identified in each task group area?
- 2) If not, what resources does the task group need to begin working?
- 3) What are the next steps for the task group?

8) Subgroup Breakout Sessions and Debrief

Each subgroup was tasked with deciding on key tasks to begin their work and outlining the next steps. The subgroup assignment list as of 11/13/09 is Appendix J.

System and Coordination Subgroup

This subgroup discussed the need for a matrix that identifies gaps and unmet needs and the need to explore existing laws and regulations to identify gaps and redundancies. A community case study was recommended to get started.

Next steps for this subgroup include:

- 1) Develop a matrix of existing programs and policies
- 2) Analyze the matrix to identify gaps and linkages
- 3) Identify approximately three community stories to ground the analysis of the matrix
- 4) Vet and prioritize the list of unmet needs
- 5) Share and review information on Chemtrec

Darius Sivin and Laurie Miller or Erik Janus will co-chair this subgroup. Laurie and Erik advise the group which of them will fill the role of co-chair.¹

Training and Capacity Building Subgroup

This subgroup discussed the need for universal competencies and a minimum level of training for responders. WG members acknowledged real-time needs for acute information exchange for the spectrum of impacted or involved actors. They noted that training should focus on recognition and identification of events and their consequences.

Next steps for this subgroup include:

- 1) Define and characterize the persons responsible for chemical emergency preparedness and response
- 2) Describe the landscape of trainings and core competencies
- 3) Explore options for compiling and communicating opportunities for training

Wanda Lizak Welles and Clark Phinney agreed to co-chair this subgroup.

9) Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

10) Wrap-up and Adjourn

Feedback on logistics was solicited. Members noted that while the venue was convenient for air travel, it was not as convenient so for MARC train riders. They recommended earlier scheduling for in-person meetings, and earlier sharing of travel itineraries and agenda. A shared Web space for resources and collaborative work is currently under development

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm Eastern.

IV. Participation

Members Present:

Nathan Birnbaum, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Susan Cibulsky, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
James Eaton, Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab

¹ After the meeting, it was agreed that Erik Janus would serve with Darius Sivin as co-chairs of the System and Coordination Subgroup.

Fleming Fallon, Bowling Green State University
Joseph Hughes, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Nancy Hughes, American Nurses Association
Erik Janus, CropLife America
Todd Jordan, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Betsy Kagey, Georgia Division of Public Health
Jacqueline McBride, Love, Peace and Prosperity International, Inc
Laurie Miller, American Chemistry Council
Maureen Orr, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Paul Orum, NGO Chemical Safety Consultant
Clark Phinney, Maine Oxy
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
Wanda Lizak Welles, New York State Department of Health

By Phone:

Jacque Darbonne, Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services

Leadership, Facilitation & Staff Team Present:

Andrea Kidd Taylor, Morgan State University, *chair*
Scott Deitchman, NCEH/ATSDR *senior liaison*
Dana Goodson, RESOLVE *facilitator*
Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR *staff*
Julie Fishman, NCEH/ATSDR *staff*

Members not present:

Bill Benerman Denver Department of Environmental Health
John Bresland, U.S. Chemical Safety Board
Amanda Niskar, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kathleen Curtis, Clean New York
Michael Greenberg, American Academy of Clinical Toxicology
James James, American Medical Association
Kimberly Jennings, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mark Kirk, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
James Madsen, U.S. Army Medical Corps
Susan Palchick, Hennepin County