

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

**Meeting No. 5 Summary  
Teleconference  
July 27, 2010**

**Call Objectives:**

- Welcome Dr. Henry Anderson as co-chair
- Discuss the proposed outline and format for the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* action agenda (action agenda)
- Discuss the process steps for preparing the action agenda
- Learn about the progress toward completing draft work group reports, recent successful *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* community conversations (community conversations), and other updates
- Plan next steps

Upcoming Meeting	When and Where	Suggested Agenda Items
<i>National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures</i> Leadership Council (Leadership Council) meeting	Early October, Washington, D.C. <i>(date set subsequently for October 5, 2010)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ discuss draft work group reports and input from community conversations</li> <li>○ identify the major themes and suggest recommendations for action agenda</li> <li>○ decide next steps for drafting the action agenda</li> </ul>

**I. Action Items**

Action Agenda Content and Format	Who	Completed by
1. Research options for web-based publication of action agenda	NCEH staff	Next Leadership Council meeting
2. Read draft work group reports	Leadership Council members	Next Leadership Council meeting

Process for Drafting the Action Agenda	Who	Completed by
3. Schedule fall Leadership Council meetings	Gail Bingham	Completed

## II. Agreements Reached

- The members agreed that any or all of the action agenda drafting process options discussed could be utilized

## III. Call Summary

### **Welcome, Meeting Objectives and Agenda**

Nsedu Witherspoon, Leadership Council co-chair, welcomed Dr. Anderson as the new Leadership Council co-chair. Ms. Witherspoon noted that Dr. Anderson has served on and chaired many committees addressing environmental public health issues. He is the chief medical officer at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Dr. Anderson said he looked forward to co-chairing the process and serving as an ambassador for the project, especially with respect to implementing the action agenda.

Dr. Henry Falk, former Acting NCEH/ATSDR director, announced that Dr. Chris Portier would begin as NCEH/ATSDR director on August 2, 2010, and noted Dr. Portier's strong background in toxicology and risk assessment. Dr. Falk will remain at NCEH/ATSDR for several months and is willing to play a role in supporting the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures (National Conversation)*, if it is helpful to the Leadership Council members and Dr. Portier. He will confer with Dr. Portier about how to proceed through this transition period.

Gail Bingham, RESOLVE facilitator, reviewed the action agenda, noting that the call would focus on the agenda's contents, format, and drafting process. No members of the public expressed interest in providing public comment during the call.

### **Action Agenda Content and Format**

Ben Gerhardstein, NCEH/ATSDR, presented an overview of action agenda content and format options, prepared by the staff and facilitation team and reviewed by the co-chairs. Mr. Gerhardstein noted the suggestion to take a thematic approach to the action agenda, clustering work group recommendations into groups with similar desired outcomes. In some cases, this might mean chapters that are comprised mostly of recommendations from one work group and, in other cases, related recommendations from multiple work groups could be integrated. He highlighted the action orientation of having each chapter framed to accomplish an aspirational outcome. Within each chapter, Mr. Gerhardstein suggested that recommendations be organized using a three-tiered approach:

- Tier 1: 1–3 short-term recommendations meeting all the criteria for high priority recommendations accompanied by detailed rationale, and suggestions for implementation
- Tier 2: 5–10 additional specific recommendations
- Tier 3: paragraphs with good ideas and considerations for the future

Each chapter would begin with an introductory vision of the aspirational outcome. Mr. Gerhardstein presented other alternatives for organizing recommendations in the action agenda, including by sector implicated, implementation timeframe, and work group topic.

In addition, Mr. Gerhardstein reviewed options for publishing the action agenda, noting that publishing decisions would hinge on the project budget. He suggested that the Leadership Council consider publishing in both hard and electronic formats. To maximize readability and

reduce cost, he suggested that the Leadership Council consider publishing a pamphlet-type hardcopy containing no appendices, but rather directing readers to the Web site where work group reports and other appendices will be available. He also suggested that at a minimum, the Leadership Council post the full action agenda (appendices included) as a PDF file on a publicly accessible Web site. A more robust, costly option for Web-based publications would be to organize the action agenda content on a series of easily navigable webpages.

Several members expressed support for a thematic, outcomes-oriented approach to organizing the action agenda contents. Others cautioned against adding themes outside of the work group topics without a compelling reason and suggested keeping open other options for chapter groupings. Ms. Bingham noted that the themes presented were a starting point for discussion and that the Leadership Council would need to provide further input on themes. The members noted that it will be easier to determine the correct set of themes and outcomes after the draft work group reports are published. Several members suggested that work groups be consulted about the set of themes under consideration. Ms. Bingham listed three questions that could be posed to work groups:

- What themes are missing?
- How should we reframe the themes as aspirational outcomes?
- Where do your work group recommendations fit?

The members offered specific ideas on the themes and desired outcomes presented in the briefing document. One suggested that the chapter on health protective decisions be moved higher up. Another noted the need to ensure a place for recommendations related to public participation. Another recommended including equity issues. A member also urged caution in integrating recommendations into themes to the degree that the result might be lost (e.g., scientific understanding).

With respect to organizing recommendations, a member suggested that each chapter include “strategic” actions and subordinate or tactical actions. Another member noted that the report should highlight both “low-hanging fruit” and longer-term recommendations.

Several members expressed support for focusing primarily on electronic publications—especially if Web-based publications would allow readers to search and sort recommendations by sector or other interests. However, one member cautioned against divorcing the recommendations from their broader context in the action agenda. Several members discussed the value of creating a Wikipedia entry for the *National Conversation*.

### **Process for Drafting the Action agenda**

Ms. Bingham presented an overview of process options for drafting the action agenda. She noted that the Leadership Council asked for significant staff support but has decision making responsibility. RESOLVE will work from the Leadership Council’s direction in drafting the action agenda with technical support from NCEH/ATSDR staff.

Ms. Bingham suggested processes that could be implemented before the next Leadership Council meeting, including:

- reviewing work group reports and other inputs (Web dialogues, community conversations, state and local health officials) for common themes;
- polling the Leadership Council to identify key themes from work groups and other inputs;
- conducting calls to vet 1) themes, 2) results of a Leadership Council poll, 3) work group report feedback mechanism; and

- collecting work group input on themes.

Ms. Bingham suggested alternative processes that could be utilized between the two fall 2010 meetings, including:

- small Leadership Council member task groups review chapter drafts;
- sector-based calls of members to identify recommendations that Leadership Council members could champion within their sector; and
- subcommittee of members review full draft Action agenda.

Ms. Bingham also reviewed a proposed set of criteria, similar to those used by work groups, that the Leadership Council could use for determining high-priority actions.

Ms. Bingham described the following sequence of steps as one way to achieve the January 2011 proposed deadline for publishing the action agenda, beginning with providing the Leadership Council a draft agenda to review at the first fall 2010 meeting. A revised draft would be prepared for the second fall meeting that the group would further revise and agree to post as a draft for public comment in December. The Leadership Council would utilize a January 2011 meeting to revise and agree on the final action agenda. Each of these meetings will be scheduled shortly. This ambitious timetable will require work between meetings.

Leadership Council members discussed these processes and timeline considerations. The members noted that either small group calls by chapter or sector calls between the fall meetings could be useful, if facilitated and used on a limited basis to accomplish a clear goal. A member stated that a volunteer drafting group might be useful for polishing the draft and final versions of the report. The members noted the large amount of work that needs to be accomplished to meet the January deadline. The members stated no objections to utilizing any of the process options Ms. Bingham proposed.

#### **Work Group, Community Conversations, and Other Updates**

Work group chairs and members provided brief status updates on each group's progress. All reported that their groups were on track to deliver draft work group reports by the August 31 deadline.

Mr. Gerhardstein informed the group that draft work group reports would be posted for a 2-week public comment period in September 2010 and that the draft action agenda would be the subject of a 2–3 day Web dialogue and concurrent 2-week public comment period in December 2010.

A work group chair noted that some work groups intend to include appendices to their reports. The members noted that work group report appendices would create some challenges for publication, but agreed that including appendices would be acceptable as long as there is a clear reason for them.

Both co-chairs noted that they had been considering ideas for implementing the action agenda and looked forward to discussing options with the Leadership Council.

#### **IV. Participation**

##### **Members Present:**

- George Alexeeff, California Environmental Protection Agency

- Henry "Andy" Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health
- Tina Bahadori, American Chemistry Council
- John Balbus, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Scott Becker, Association of Public Health Laboratories
- John Bresland, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
- Lisa Conti, Florida Department of Health
- Henry Falk, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Daniel Goldstein, Monsanto
- Jesse Goodman, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- Rick Hackman, Procter and Gamble
- Elise Miller, Collaborative on Health and the Environment
- Franklin Mirer, Hunter College, City University of New York
- Robert Peoples, American Chemical Society, Green Chemistry Institute
- Robert "Bobby" Pestronk, National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Susan Polan, American Public Health Association
- Kathleen Rest, Union of Concerned Scientists
- Robert Rickard, DuPont
- Alan Roberson, American Water Works Association
- Jennifer Sass, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Gail Shibley, Oregon Department of Human Services
- Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Rosemary Sokas, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health and Administration
- Andrea Kidd Taylor, School of Community Health and Policy, Morgan State University
- Kevin Teichman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Marilyn Wind, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Nsedu Witherspoon, Children's Environmental Health Network (Co-chair)

**Regrets:**

- Linda Birnbaum, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program
- Stacy Bohlen, National Indian Health Board
- Ken Cook, Environmental Working Group
- Lois Gibbs, Center for Health, Environment and Justice
- Richard Jackson, University of California Los Angeles School of Public Health
- Paul Jarris, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Jim Jones, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- John Peterson Myers, Environmental Health Sciences
- Roger Rivera, National Hispanic Environmental Council
- Martha Stanbury, Michigan Department of Community Health
- David Wegman, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- Beverly Wright, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice , Dillard University

**Facilitation and Staff Team Members Present:**

- Gail Bingham, RESOLVE
- Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR
- Abby Dilley, RESOLVE
- Ben Gerhardstein, NCEH/ATSDR

- Kathy Grant, RESOLVE
- Jay Nielsen, NCEH/ATSDR
- Jennifer Peysor, RESOLVE
- Montrece Ranson, NCEH/ATSDR
- Jenny Van Skiver, NCEH/ATSDR

**Others Present:**

- Alan Bookman, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Sandra Bridges, Camp Lejeune Community Assistance Panel
- Sonya Ciletti, Lanxess Corporation
- Jacqueline Colson, Private Citizen
- Jeannie Economos, Farmworker Association of Florida
- Andrew Elligers, National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Janie Fields, Children's Environmental Health Institute
- Catherine Hollingsworth, Alaska Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Association
- Thomas Krohmer
- Karen Miller, Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition & Education and Communication work group
- Lisa Nagy, Preventive & Environmental Health Alliance, Inc.
- Donald Patterson, Envirosolutions Consulting Inc.
- Susan Prosterie, Texas Department of State Health Services
- Sharon Ramsay, Cornell Corporate Extension
- Amanda Raziano, American Public Health Association
- Levin Ronnie, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Tatjana Walker, University of Texas Health Center
- Kerry Williams, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Alison Willis, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment