

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

**Meeting #2 Summary
Teleconference
January 29, 2010**

This National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Leadership Council call included the following call objectives:

- Discuss revised milestones of the National Conversation and how elements of the process integrate with one another;
- Discuss and approve revised operating procedures for the National Conversation;
- Discuss charge for the Policies and Practices work group; and
- Plan next steps.

Upcoming Call	When & Where	Suggested Agenda Items
Leadership Council Call	March 2010	○ TBD

I. Action Items

National Conversation Updates	Who	Completed by
1. Provide input to Gail Bingham on options for filling co-chair position.	Leadership Council (LC) members	ASAP
2. Fill co-chair position.	Gail Bingham	Two weeks ¹

National Conversation Milestones and		
3. Add to the process map an LC meeting to check in on progress in implementing action items 6 months after the implementation summit.	Gail Bingham	Next LC call
4. Schedule LC calls and meetings for remainder of 2010.	Gail Bingham	Next LC call
5. Post process map on NC Web site.	NCEH/ATSDR	Feb. 5, 2010

¹ This is likely to take longer than estimated. RESOLVE and the co-chair are consulting Leadership Council members for nominations and plan to bring a recommendation to the Leadership Council at its next call.

National Conversation Procedures	Who	Completed by
6. Confirm that the representation language in the Operating Procedures is acceptable to federal agency members.	Gail Bingham	Next LC call
7. Post Operating Procedures on project management site	NCEH/ATSDR	Next LC call

Work Group Updates	Who	Completed by
8. Post work group charges on NC Web site	NCEH/ATSDR	Feb. 5, 2010

Community Conversations	Who	Completed by
9. Establish public involvement subcommittee	NCEH/ATSDR	Feb. 12, 2010
10. Establish community conversation funding subcommittee	NCEH/ATSDR	Feb. 25, 2010

II. Agreements Reached

The Leadership Council reached the following agreements:

- Approved the National Conversation Operating Procedures subject to confirmation that the language regarding members' representation is satisfactory to federal agency members.
- Approved the Policies and Practices work group charge.

III. Call Summary

National Conversation Updates

Dr. Henry Falk briefed the group about Dr. Howard Frumkin's transition from NCEH/ATSDR director to special assistant to the CDC director on climate change and

public health. During the search for a permanent NCEH/ATSDR director Dr. Falk is serving as acting director. Gail Bingham will solicit input from LC members and others regarding options for filling the National Conversation co-chair position that Dr. Frumkin held. Dr. Falk noted that he will join the LC as a member and stressed that NCEH/ATSDR—and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) generally—remain committed to this process and will see it through to a successful conclusion. Leadership Council co-chair Nsedu Witherspoon thanked Dr. Frumkin for his leadership in launching the National Conversation. Witherspoon also stated her desire to continue leading the LC with a successor co-chair, and noted she was pleased to have Dr. Falk join the group.

In response to questions from LC members, Dr. Falk noted that NCEH/ATSDR's resource commitment remained the same and that he would examine whether additional resources were necessary, and were available to assist in fulfilling the National Conversation's goal. Gail Bingham reminded the group that significant staff and monetary resources have been committed to the project. She further noted that setting priorities among activities was also important.

Regarding the co-chair vacancy, several members stated a desire to have a senior CDC/ATSDR official serve. Others expressed a more general desire to have a senior official from one of several relevant federal government agencies serve as co-chair. The members noted that with the amount of time participants were devoting to the National Conversation, a prominent government agency role would demonstrate a commitment to the process. Members also said the co-chair should be someone who could be a credible advocate for the ideas that emerge from National Conversation deliberations. The choice of co-chair must also be considered in relation to the recent CDC determination that a CDC official serving as co-chair would trigger requirements contained in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Nsedu and Gail invited members to share ideas and said that in consultation with the Leadership Council, they hoped to make a decision about a co-chair within 2 weeks.

National Conversation Milestones and Integrating Process Elements

NCEH/ATSDR staff member Ben Gerhardstein provided an overview of the National Conversation process map. He noted that the document was meant to respond to the group's desire, stated at the December 2009 meeting, for a clearer sense for how the various elements fit together. These changes included 1) pushing back the due dates for work group reports by a month, and 2) holding community conversations from April to June 2010. This would allow for documenting the results of community conversations in July 2010 and would allow the Leadership Council to take responsibility for those results in developing action recommendations. Members asked to add a meeting following the implementation summit to check in on action agenda implementation progress. Members noted that action-agenda items could be addressed to both the public and private sector. Gail Bingham said that in the coming weeks she would schedule all the 2010 Leadership Council meetings and would add a check-in meeting to the process map following the implementation summit.

Gail reminded members that they will soon be added as users to the National Conversation project management Web site. Gail also told members that the project management site would include tools for sharing documents (such as meeting summaries), posting events, and writing documents collaboratively. She thanked members who participated in recent project-management site orientation Webinars and noted that members will have access to a user manual for the site and an archived recording of one of the orientation Webinars.

A revised version of the process map is available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation/docs/Natl%20Conv%20Process%20Map.pdf>.

National Conversation Procedures

Gail Bingham summarized the changes to the Operating Procedures document made after the December 11, 2009 meeting. These changes include

- Adding biologically produced chemical substances to the scope of the project;
- Adding a section on transparency that explicitly requires consultation with the public, including a commitment to receive written comments on work group reports and the action agenda;
- A clarification that although members will make decisions as individuals, each member was selected to represent their organization's perspective;
- Adjusting the Leadership Council's role to assume primary responsibility for managing public input (e.g., the results of Web-dialogues and community conversations). As time permits, work groups are also encouraged to consider input;
- Clarifying that the National Conversation will operate with the same level of transparency as a FACA-process and that federal agencies are expected to follow their decision making processes in implementing any recommended actions; and
- Adjusting the decision-making section to ensure clear recommendations are made and that minority reports can be considered.

One member noted that federal agency representatives may need further discussion on the language describing their participation as individuals as opposed to agency representatives. Members approved the Operating Procedures subject to confirmation that the individual-member representation language is satisfactory to federal agency members. Gail stated that she would follow up with federal agency representatives.

The Operating Procedures, as discussed on the call, are available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation/docs/Natl%20Conv%20Procedures%20DRAFT.pdf>. The final Operating Procedures are available at <http://www.nationalconversation-projectsite.org/all/node/1826> (on the member-only project management site).

Work Group Updates

Dr. Richard Jackson, chair of the **Policies and Practices** work group, provided an overview of the group's charge and work plan. He noted that the group had divided into three subgroups focusing on primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. Each group has co-leaders. The group will be working toward articulating chemical policy principles then distilling recommendations from those principles. Leadership Council members voiced no concerns about the group's charge.

Peggy Shepard briefly described progress on the **Serving Communities** work group. She noted that while several work groups overlap in some areas, each approaches issues from a different perspective. Thus at this time, overlap does not concern her. Gail Bingham observed that National Conversation staff will help ensure that work groups share information. That way, she added, we will identify areas of overlap early in the process.

Dr. Kathy Rest provided an update on the **Education and Communication** work group. She noted that the group had modified its charge in several ways to address the concerns Leadership Council members raised at the December 11 meeting. To meet the goal of addressing not only government sectors but industry as well, Dr. Rest would like to add an industry member who has a working knowledge of educating the public about chemical exposures. The **Education and Communication** work group has two subgroups: one focused on the public and the other on public health professionals. Both, she said, are working diligently.

Dr. Andrea Kidd Taylor outlined the **Chemical Emergencies** work group's recent activity. The two subgroups, "Systems and Coordination" and "Training and Capacity Building," have been very active, developing outlines for their deliverables, compiling case studies, material on relevant laws and regulations, and building a matrix of unmet needs.

Dr. Kevin Teichman described the **Scientific Understanding** work group's progress. The group has divided into five subgroups: 1) assessment of risks to individuals, 2) risks to communities, 3) technologies—with a focus on green chemistry, 4) frameworks, and 5) data mining (i.e., better use of available databases).

Dr. John Balbus provided an update on the **Monitoring** work group. It has three subgroups: 1) environmental concentrations of chemicals, 2) biomonitoring, and 3) health outcomes. The group has begun building an available-database catalog. John will coordinate several aspects of the Monitoring group's work with the Scientific Understanding work group.

NCEH/ATSDR staff member Julie Fishman noted that a work group report template was under development and will soon circulate to work group members. The template will provide structure for drafting concise, reports with clear recommendations.²

Each work group's final charge is available at http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation/work_groups.html.

Community Conversations

Ben Gerhardstein gave an overview of plans for developing a Community Conversation Toolkit. Community leaders can use the Toolkit to hold local meetings about public health and chemical exposure issues. Meeting results will be fed back to the National Conversation. Ben noted plans to form two volunteer subcommittees of work group and Leadership Council members. One will provide input on public engagement in the National Conversation (both the community conversation and Web-dialogue mechanisms) The other will guide the process of providing a limited number of mini-grants to community groups to help defray the costs of convening a meeting. One member noted his organization's experience recruiting the lay public to weigh in on complex public health questions. The member said it is a useful way to gain insight on the public's values. The logistics also can be challenging. Another member suggested that participants should receive more information about the National Conversation, and that staff should consider other ways to ensure that the results of community conversations are useful to work groups and 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
- Caroline "Cal" Baier-Anderson, Environmental Defense Fund
- John Balbus, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Henry Falk, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Lois Gibbs, Center for Health, Environment and Justice
- Daniel Goldstein, Monsanto
- Rick Hackman, Procter & Gamble
- Richard Jackson, University of California Los Angeles School of Public Health
- Paul Jarris, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

² The work group report template is now available at <http://www.nationalconversation-projectsite.org/all/node/1420> (on the member-only project management Web site)

- Jim Jones, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 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
- 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
- Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Rosemary Sokas, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health and Administration
- Martha Stanbury, Michigan Department of Community Health
- Andrea Kidd Taylor, School of Community Health and Policy, Morgan State University
- Kevin Teichman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- David Wegman, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- Nsedu Witherspoon, Children's Environmental Health Network (Co-chair)

Regrets:

- Scott Becker, Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Linda Birnbaum, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program
- Stacy Bohlen, National Indian Health Board
- John S. Bresland, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
- Lisa Conti, Florida Department of Health
- Ken Cook, Environmental Working Group
- Jesse Goodman, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- John Peterson Myers, Environmental Health Sciences
- Robert (Bobby) Pestronk, National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Roger Rivera, National Hispanic Environmental Council
- Marilyn Wind, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Beverly Wright, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice , Dillard University

Facilitation & Staff Team Present:

- Gail Bingham, RESOLVE
- Abby Dilley, RESOLVE
- Julie Fishman, NCEH/ATSDR
- Ben Gerhardstein, NCEH/ATSDR
- Dana Goodson, RESOLVE
- Kathy Grant, RESOLVE
- Ed Murray, NCEH/ATSDR

- Jenny Van Skiver, NCEH/ATSDR

Others Present:

- Members of the public, listening by phone