

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES
POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

**Meeting No. 3 Summary
Conference Call
January 21, 2010**

Meeting Objectives:

- Review and finalize the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Policies and Practices Work Group (Policies and Practices Work Group)* charge
- Determine a work plan for the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Policies and Practices Work Group Subgroups (Subgroups)*
- Determine a timeline and the potential dates for full *Policies and Practices Work Group* calls and meetings
- Decide on the next steps and assignments

Upcoming Meeting	When and Where	Suggested Agenda Items
Fourth work group meeting (teleconference)	March 16, 2010 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m Eastern Standard Time (EST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and give feedback on draft work products from the <i>Subgroups</i> • Discuss an approach to the web dialogue

I. Action Items

National Conversation Updates	Who	Completed by
Send information on trainings for the shared web-space to all <i>Policies and Practices Work Group</i> members	Montrece Ransom	January 21, 2010 (Completed)
Work Group Charge and Finalization	Who	Completed by
Finalize and distribute final charge	Ransom, Richard Jackson, Abby Dilley, and Tom Sinks	January 26, 2010 (Completed)
Discuss the best way to hear from and provide feedback to the <i>National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Serving Communities Work Group (Serving Communities Work Group)</i>	Dilley, Ransom, and <i>National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures (National Conversation)</i> team	March 1, 2010
Discussion of Work Plan and Process	Who	Completed by
Finalize the <i>Subgroups'</i> assignments and determine the leadership	Jackson, Dilley, Sinks, and Ransom	February 10, 2010 (Completed)

Future Work Group Conference Call and Meeting Times	Who	Completed by
Send out a Doodle scheduling system request for the next call (meeting no. 4) and the spring in-person meeting (meeting no 5)	Dilley	February 10, 2010 (Completed)
Wrap-Up and Next Steps for Work Group	Who	Completed by
Develop and distribute the <i>Subgroups'</i> guidance to the members of the <i>Work Group</i>	Jackson, Dilley, Sinks, and Ransom	February 10, 2010 (Completed)
Share template for final <i>Policies and Practices Work Group</i> report	Ransom	February 10, 2010 (Completed)

II. Meeting Summary

1) Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Richard Jackson, the *Policies and Practices Work Group* chair, opened the meeting with welcoming comments. Dr. Jackson advised members of the *Policies and Practices Work Group* that CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden had appointed Dr. Howard Frumkin to serve as special assistant for climate change and health. Ben Gerhardtstein noted that Dr. Henry Falk, acting director of the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), is committed to the *National Conversation* project and will continue moving forward as planned, adding that a new co-chair of the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Leadership Council (Leadership Council)* will be named in the coming weeks. Following this welcome, Abby Dilley, the *Policies and Practices Work Group* facilitator, reviewed and finalized the meeting agenda. Dilley then led the *Policies and Practices Work Group* through a roll call. The results of the roll call are at the end of this summary.

2) National Conversation Updates

Dr. Jackson asked Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR staff member, to the *Policies and Practices Work Group*, to provide a brief update on the December 11, 2009 *Leadership Council* meeting. She noted that the *Policies and Practices Work Group* chair provided updates on the *Work Group's* progress to the *Leadership Council*, and received feedback from the *Leadership Council* members on the *Policies and Practices Work Group* charges.

Ms. Ransom also reviewed the updated *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Process Map (Process Map)*. She noted that because the *Leadership Council* had extended the timeline for the *Work Group* reports has been extended. The draft *Policies and Practices Work Group* reports will now be due August 2010 and the final reports will be due October 2010. She also noted that the inputs from both the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the National Association of County and City Health Officials will be sent to the *Work Groups* and the *Leadership Council* for consideration in April 2010. *National Conversation* partners are developing a *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Community Conversation Toolkit* to assist community leaders in convening local

meetings on public health and chemical exposure issues. The goal of this effort is to gain community-level input into the *National Conversation* project. A report summarizing input from the community conversations will be prepared and disseminated to the *Work Groups* and *Leadership Council* for consideration in July 2010.

Work Group Charge and Finalization

The majority of the conference call discussion was devoted to the *Policies and Practices Work Group* charge:

The Policies and Practices Work Group will identify high priority actions that can be taken across the spectrum to better prevent harmful chemical exposures, eliminate inequities, and spur the development and use of safer alternatives. In order to accomplish this, the group will review past and current policies of government agencies and private industry, as well as select policy proposals, government and industry plans, academic research, and proposals from non-governmental organizations. Members will use the following “layers of prevention” framework to guide its work:

- 1. Primary prevention—Spurring safe and healthy alternatives.*
- 2. Secondary prevention—Managing and using chemicals to minimize health risks.*
- 3. Tertiary prevention—Protecting the health of at-risk and contaminated communities.*

For each layer, the following questions would be answered:

- What is the baseline or current situation?*
- What should policy approaches look like if they are to strengthen this prevention layer?*
- What is the role of federal environmental health agencies in promoting these policies?*
- What resources are necessary for government and private entities to get there?*

The Policies and Practices Work Group will focus its efforts on 1) identifying a set of universal principles that protect the public from environmental chemicals, 2) characterizing and analyzing these principles as they relate to select policies and proposals through the lens of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention, and 3) developing a practical set of action options grounded in these principles.

The *Policies and Practices Work Group* members made suggestions for addressing the *Leadership Council* comments on this charge, as well as specific language modifications.

Questions and Discussion:

Cross-fertilization with Serving Communities Work Group

The *Policies and Practices Work Group* members suggested that we look for opportunities to hear from and provide feedback to the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical*

Exposures Serving Communities Work Group to ensure that the thoughts and ideas of the *Policies and Practices Work Group* members are incorporated. Ms. Dilley said the group would figure out the best way to provide the opportunity.

Risk Assessment v. Risk Alternatives

The *Policies and Practices Work Group* members noted that other *Work Groups* are looking at risk assessments, while the *Policies and Practices Work Group* should focus on risk alternatives.

3) Discussion of Work Plan and Process

Subgroups

The *Policies and Practices Work Group* determined to move forward with their deliberations through establishing three *Subgroups* based on the layers of prevention framework. Each *Policies and Practices Work Group* member was asked to identify first and second choices for *Subgroup* assignments. Ms. Dilley suggested that the *Policies and Practices Work Group* leadership finalize the *Subgroup* assignments, taking into account requests as well as encouraging a cross-section of interest and expertise in each, and determine *Subgroup* leadership.

Future Work Group Conference Call and Meeting Times

Ms. Dilley opened the discussion about dates for future *Policies and Practices Work Group* meetings. She noted that the next meeting will be a conference call in March. She mentioned that the *Policies and Practices Work Group* leadership and facilitation team has proposed that the Spring meeting be extended to two days in order to accommodate all the tasks that the *Policies and Practices Work Group* needs to accomplish during the meeting. Ms. Dilley advised that the Spring, in-person meeting should be scheduled for sometime in April or May.

Ms. Dilley said that a meeting request for the next call (meeting no. 4) and the Spring in-person meeting (meeting no. 5) will be sent to members. (NOTE: Subsequent to the call, a poll was sent and the following dates were established: Conference Call—March 16, 2010, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 pm Eastern Standard Time(EST)/10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST); and the in-person meeting will be held April 8–9, 2010, in Washington, D.C.)

4) Wrap-Up and Next Steps for Work Group

Ms. Dilley said that an updated version of the charge will be prepared and shared with the group by January 26, 2010.

Work Group Report Template

Ms. Ransom noted that the WGCC is working on a template for the final *Policies and Practices Work Group* report. Once the template is ready within the next few weeks, it will be distributed to *Policies and Practices Work Group* members to help guide our work. In addition, the leadership of the *Policies and Practices Work Group* will begin creating an internal timeline based on the *Process Map*.

Subgroup Next Steps

Dr. Jackson observed that a good charge is emerging from the *Policies and Practices Work Group* deliberations, and that a memo that outlines the group's next steps and instructions will be provided to members soon so that the *Subgroups* can start to meet virtually and over the phone. Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

IV. Participation

Members Present:

Brenda Afzal, University of Maryland School of Nursing
Laura Anderko, Georgetown University
Beth Anderson, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Nicholas Ashford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Caroline Baier-Anderson, Environmental Defense Fund
Patricia Beattie, Arcalis Scientific
Arlene Blum, Green Science Policy Institute
Linda Bruemmer, Minnesota Department of Health
Ken Cook, Environmental Working Group
Kerry Dearfield, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service
Catherine Dodd, City and County of San Francisco
Pamela Eliason, Toxics Use Reduction Institute
Rick Hackman, Procter & Gamble Inc.
Robert Harrison, University of California, San Francisco
Kristin Hill, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Richard Jackson, UCLA School of Public Health, *chair*
Lin Kaatz Chary, Gary CARE Partnership
Annette McCarthy, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
John McLeod, Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Anne Rabe, Community Concerned About NL Industries
Kristin Ryan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Tom Sinks, NCEH/ATSDR *senior liaison*
Brian Symmes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Kristen Welker-Hood, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Regrets:

Lynn Bergeson, Bergeson & Campbell, P.C.
Sarah Brozena, American Chemistry Council
Doug Farquhar, National Council of State Legislatures
Timothy Malloy, UCLA School of Law
Gail Shibley, Oregon Department of Human Services/Public Health Division

Facilitation & Staff Team Present:

Benjamin Gerhardstein, NCEH/ATSDR *staff*
Abby Dilley, RESOLVE *facilitator*
Montrece Ransom, NCEH/ATSDR *staff*