

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES
SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING WORK GROUP**

**Meeting No. 10 Summary
Teleconference
October 26, 2010**

Call Objectives:

- Discuss and reach an agreement on the final edits to the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* Scientific Understanding Work Group (Scientific Understanding Work Group) report
- Discuss and agree on the final steps for completing the report

I. Action Items

Review of the Scientific Understanding Work Group Report	By Whom	By When
1. E-mail proposed changes to definitions in report to Scientific Understanding Work Group members	Kim DeFeo	October 27, 2010
2. Make edits agreed upon during the call	Kim DeFeo	November 3, 2010
3. Add language to Recommendation 13 that mentions exposures can be detected in cerebrospinal fluid and that discusses tools for more holistic approaches to exposure assessment	Kevin Teichman, Jean Harry, Margaret Shield	November 3, 2010
4. Edit the reference to mercury in the introductory section of the report	Lisa Nagy, Jean Harry	November 3, 2010
5. Add text to highlight the unique susceptibilities of children, older adults, and people with illnesses and other underlying physiological conditions	Jean Harry, Bob Hamilton, George Alexeeff	November 3, 2010
6. Add definition of “chemical body burden”	Jean Harry	November 3, 2010
7. Suggest references for indoor air quality (p. 12 of the report)	Lisa Nagy, Jean Harry	November 3, 2010

8. Condense Recommendation 8	Steve Lester, Frank Bove, NCEH/ATSD staff	November 3, 2010
9. Reconcile numbers used for high-production volume chemicals and the number of chemicals in production	Kim DeFeo	November 3, 2010
10. Review report for places where unique susceptibilities could be mentioned more explicitly and suggest language to use	Ed Washburn	November 3, 2010
11. Ask the <i>National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures</i> Leadership Council (Leadership Council) members, who made comments on the Scientific Understanding Work Group report, if they are comfortable sharing their names with work group members	Gail Bingham	November 3, 2010

II. Call Summary

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Kevin Teichman, chair of the Scientific Understanding Work Group, welcomed members to the call. He thanked everyone for their efforts to date and noted that the group is close to finalizing the report. Dr. Teichman especially thanked Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR staff, for her work accommodating the public comments. He noted that those work group members who were not on the call will have a chance to review the report.

Dr. Teichman said the Leadership Council members have read and discussed all six *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* work group reports. The Leadership Council has a structured outline for putting together the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* action agenda and will consider all the recommendations that the work groups have suggested for possible inclusion. In the last meeting, the Leadership Council noted no recommendation specifically deals with exposure. Dr. Teichman offered to develop one. He assured members he stipulated that this would have to be a 13th recommendation from the Scientific Understanding Work Group and not at the expense of an existing recommendation.

As the group prepared to review the draft report, Dr. Teichman reminded them that the concept of consensus is that every member can “live with” the wording of the report. He also reminded everyone to think about whether they could agree with the report overall.

Gail Bingham, RESOLVE facilitator, reviewed the agenda for the call.

Review of the Scientific Understanding Work Group report

The group reviewed each section of the report and discussed any areas where members had concerns or suggested edits. Edits that were agreed to on the call were made in the report during the call and are not reflected below.

Recommendation 13

The group reviewed the new recommendation on exposure. To fill a gap that the Leadership Council had noted, Dr. Teichman's staff wrote a draft recommendation on exposure for the Scientific Understanding Work Group's consideration. The essential action being recommended is to "develop standard protocols and tools to predict potential human exposures to chemicals across the life cycle of chemical products and processes."

The work group discussed this recommendation. One member suggested adding language about how evidence for exposures can be found in cerebrospinal fluid in addition to in blood. The group also agreed to add language about novel approaches to exposure assessment that look at the lifecycle of chemical exposures over a lifetime (e.g., the exposome¹).

The group discussed the need for the report to consistently cite the number of chemicals in production (i.e., 10,000 vs. 83,000). Staff agreed to research this and ensure that the numbers are consistent in the report and properly cited. The group also agreed that the report needs to define high-production volume chemicals as those that are produced or imported in quantities of at least a million pounds per year into the United States.

Recommendations 5, 6, and 7

One member shared that he would like to see more about physiological susceptibility in these recommendations and in the entire report. Another work group member requested to know which Leadership Council members shared comments on the Scientific Understanding Work Group report. Ms. Bingham agreed to ask the Leadership Council members if they are comfortable with her sharing their names.

Recommendation 8

The group agreed to condense the language on this recommendation regarding ATSDR's methods to investigate the public health effects of contaminated sites.

Recommendation 9

The group agreed to research the definitions of "precautionary principle" and to add a footnote directing readers to www.sehn.org/precaution.html for additional definitions and resource information on the precautionary principle.

Recommendation 11

The group revised the title slightly to reflect a more logical relationship between "precautionary principle," "risk assessment," and "decision-making paradigm."

Next Steps

The group discussed the next steps for finishing up the report. Ms. Bingham agreed to get an edited version to the work group members by the end of the following week after she has received edits from work group members by November 3, 2010. The members agreed to give their final signoff on the report to Ms. Bingham by November 15, 2010. Ms. Bingham agreed to send out a "to-do" list to the group the following day.

¹ For more information on the exposome see <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/exposome/>

III. Participation

Members Present:

- George Alexeeff, California Environmental Protection Agency
- Frank Bove, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Mark Buczek, Supresta—Retired
- Doris Cellarius, community activist
- Bob Hamilton, Amway Corporation
- Susan Hanson, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
- Jean Harry, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Rebecca Head, Monroe County Health Department
- Wade Hill, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- Jeff Jacobs, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
- Stephen Lester, Center for Health, Environment, and Justice
- Claudia Miller, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
- Fred Miller, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Frank Mirer, Hunter College Urban Public Health Program
- Lisa Nagy, The Preventive and Environmental Health Alliance
- Richard Niemeier, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- Melissa Perry, Harvard University
- Stuart Schmitz, Iowa Department of Public Health
- Margaret Shield, Hazardous Waste Management Program, King County

Regrets:

- Nancy Beck, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
- Cheri Baysinger, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- Richard Becker, American Chemistry Council
- Kristi Jacobs, Food and Drug Administration
- Rich Sedlack, The Soap and Detergent Association

Facilitation and Staff Team Members Present:

- Kevin Teichman, Chair, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Ed Murray, ATSDR
- Gail Bingham, RESOLVE facilitator
- Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR staff

Other Participants:

- Ed Washburn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency