

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

**Meeting No. 1 Summary
Teleconference
October 26, 2009**

Call Objectives:

- Welcome and introduce members of the Work Group
- Reach shared understanding of vision and goals for the National Conversation and Work Group's role
- Reach shared understanding of Work Group selection
- Review the Work Group charge (to be refined at 1st in-person meeting)
- Discuss goals and objectives for the first in-person meeting on November 16th in Washington, DC
- Discuss agenda items and background materials for November meeting
- Decide on next steps and assignments

I. Action Items

Item	By Whom	By When
Please email one or two short articles that you want to share with the group to help inform the group's work to Kim DeFeo at kdefeo@cdc.gov . Kim will compile an annotated bibliography of these articles to serve as a resource for the group.	All	Ongoing
Please email Kevin at Teichman.kevin@epamail.epa.gov with any suggestions for ideas or language to include in the work group charge	All	Bring to Work Group Meeting (November 16 th)
Revision of work group charge	Kevin Teichman	Completed
Distribution of the Leadership Council membership list	Abby Dilley	Completed

II. Call Summary

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Kevin Teichman, the work group chair, welcomed the group and members introduced themselves to one another. Abby Dilley, work group facilitator, reviewed the call agenda.

Overview of Vision and Goals for National Conversation & Work Group's Role

Kevin noted that while this effort was initiated by the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), this project goes well beyond these agencies and stressed that the group needs to ensure it is thinking broadly in terms of recommendations. He perceives the goal for the workgroup is to develop 2-3 short-term and 2-3 long-term recommendations to put forth to the Leadership Council for their consideration in developing the action agenda.

Ed Murray, the work group senior liaison, gave an overview of the vision (that the US and public will use and manage chemicals that are safe and health for all people) and goal (to develop an action agenda to strengthen the nation's approach to protecting the public from harmful chemical exposures) of the National Conversation and provided some background on why having this conversation is important. Ed discussed the role of the Leadership Council, the guiding body for this process made up of approximately 40 national leaders – including the work group chairs and at least one member from each work group -- who will produce the final action agenda. A list of Leadership Council members will be circulated to the group and is posted on the National Conversation website: www.atsdr.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation. Ed also discussed the role of the Work Groups as the engine of this process, responsible for putting forth recommendations for action to the Leadership Council. The work groups will likely hold 10-12 meetings over the course of this project (every 4-6 weeks), as determined by the chair.

Draft work group reports will be due in late spring 2010 with the final reports being due by summer/early fall 2010. Members were reassured that work group reports will be included in their entirety as an appendix to the final action agenda and that the Leadership Council will not revise these reports. The Leadership Council will review the recommendations of all the work groups and will develop an action agenda based on these recommendations. The Leadership Council's first meeting will be in early December and will review the charges for each work group and reconcile any overlap between the groups.

Kevin noted that it is his intention to represent the consensus view from the work group as we move forward with recommendations but also to share any minority opinions in a minority report. This issue cuts across all of the workgroups and will be addressed in the operating procedures under consideration by the Leadership Council.

Overview of Work Group Composition, Selection Process, and Other Opportunities for Stakeholder Input

Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR staff, reviewed the work group composition (30 members with a broad set of experiences and expertise) and the selection process for membership. Over 450 nominations were received for 180 work group member spots on 6 work groups. The Work Group Coordinating Committee (WGCC), consisting of work group chairs, liaisons and staff, drove the selection process.

Kim also briefly described other mechanisms for stakeholder input: public meetings; web-forums, which will be launching in the coming months; and the community conversation toolkit, which is expected to roll out in early 2010.

Discussion of the Work Group Charge

Kevin led the discussion of the work group charge and noted that he wants the group to constantly consider to what policy purpose we are recommending a specific action to ensure that our effort will really impact policy makers and how they make decisions. Any questions of overlap between the charges of the different work groups will be addressed chair to chair,

through the WGCC or Leadership Council. NCEH/ATSDR staff are also in constant communication and can help flag any of these issues as they arise.

Members suggested several additions and modifications to the draft charge and ideas for discussion including:

- A focus on computational toxicology
- Specific inclusion of biological concerns in the definition of “chemicals”
- Compilation of scientific information: ToxProfiles, IRIS, etc.
- Endocrine disruption
- Chemical sensitivity
- Re-evaluation of risk assessment paradigm to deal with cumulative/multiple exposures
- Emerging contaminants

Kevin asked people to email him with any other suggestions and he would revise the charge and send it back to the group. The charge will be discussed again at the in-person meeting on November 16.

Identification and Discussion of In-Person Meeting Agenda Items

The first face-to-face meeting of the Scientific Understanding work group will take place on November, 16, 2009, in Washington, DC. Goals of this meeting include solidifying the work group charge and developing a specific work plan.

Kevin asked members to think about 2-3 short-term items that they think are high priority for this work group to tackle as well as 2-3 long-term items. Ideas members suggested for discussion at the meeting include: computational toxicology, fine particle toxicity, individual susceptibility, and mold.

Kim is collecting any background articles or reports that members feel provide important information for the work of this group and will develop an annotated bibliography that can serve as a group resource. Please email Kim at kdefeo@cdc.gov with 1-2 short articles or reports if you want them included.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps for Work Group

Abby summarized the call and next steps and let everyone know that a draft call summary will be circulated to capture the highlights of the call. Kevin thanked everyone for their participation in a robust discussion.

III. Participation

Members Present

George Alexeeff, California EPA
Cheri Baysinger, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Nancy Beck, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Richard Becker, American Chemistry Council
Frank Bove, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Mark Buczek, Suprestra- Retired
Doris Cellarius, citizen
Janice Chambers, Mississippi State University
Bob Hamilton, Amway Corporation
Susan Hanson, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe

Final Document

Jean Harry, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Rebecca Head, APHA Environment Section Chair & Monroe County Health Department
Wade Hill, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Jeff Jacobs, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Jim Klaunig, Indiana University Center for Environmental Health
Carrie McMahon, Food and Drug Administration
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
Deirdre Murphy, US Environmental Protection Agency
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
Rick Sedlack, The Soap and Detergent Association
Russell White, American Petroleum Institute

Facilitation & Staff Team

Kevin Teichman, Chair, EPA
Ed Murray, ATSDR
Abby Dilley, RESOLVE facilitator
Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR staff
Ben Gerhardstein, NCEH/ATSDR staff