

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES
SERVING COMMUNITIES WORK GROUP**

**Meeting No. 4 Summary
Teleconference
January 19, 2010**

Meeting Objectives:

- Finalize *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures (National Conversation)* Serving Communities Work Group (Serving Communities Work Group) charge as revised based on input from the *National Conversation* Leadership Council (Leadership Council)
- Provide update on *National Conversation* activities and timeline
- Discuss work of the four Serving Communities Work Group subgroups, address any gaps or overlapping efforts
- Discuss overall work group process and timeline going forward
- Decide on next steps and assignments

I. Action Items

Item	By Whom	By When
Send out draft work product(s) to entire Serving Communities Work Group/post draft work product(s) on the <i>National Conversation</i> project management site	Subgroup leaders	January 29, 2010 (assuming project management site is up)
Send subgroup template to all work group members	Kathy Grant, RESOLVE facilitator	January 19, 2010
Send out call-in information for webinars	Ben Gerhardstein, National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) staff	January 24, 2010
Email Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR staff, at kdefeo@cdc.gov for research assistance	Subgroups	As needed
Send out subgroup conference call information to the entire work group (so others might listen in if they choose)	Subgroup leaders	As scheduled

II. Meeting Summary

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, and Charge

After Kathy Grant, RESOLVE facilitator, reviewed the agenda, Peggy Shepard, Serving Communities Work Group chair, welcomed everyone to the call and led a discussion to finalize the work group charge. Ms. Shepard reviewed the changes suggested by the Leadership

Council, and, after discussion, the group agreed to new wording. The final charge will be sent to the Leadership Council for approval.

National Conversation Update

Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR staff, advised that Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Tom Frieden has appointed Dr. Howard Frumkin to serve as special assistant to CDC's director for climate change and health. The incoming NCEH/ATSDR acting director, Dr. Henry Falk, is committed to the *National Conversation* project, and strong agency support continues, thus groups will continue to move forward as planned. Ms. Shepard noted that a new co-chair of the *National Conversation* will be named in the coming weeks to work side-by-side with Nse Witherspoon, Leadership Council co-chair.

Ms. Grant reviewed the updated process map and timeline for the *National Conversation*. She noted that the timeline for the work group reports has been extended, in response to *Leadership Council* concern over the short timeframe for work group report writing. The draft work group reports will now be due in August 2010, and the final reports will be due in October 2010. Ms. Grant also noted that the inputs from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the first Web dialogue will be sent to both *National Conversation* work groups and the Leadership Council for consideration in April 2010. Community conversations will begin in late spring and continue into the fall. A report summarizing input from the conversations held through June will be sent to the work groups and Leadership Council for consideration in July 2010.

Ms. DeFeo encouraged each subgroup to fill out the template that was sent to each subgroup leader. This template calls for a summary of the current problems/obstacles/gaps, desired outcomes, and possible solutions to issues under consideration by that subgroup. Each subgroup is asked to narrow its recommendations to four short- and/or long-term recommendations to the full work group. A more detailed template for the full work group report should be ready to share within a few weeks.

Serving Communities Activities and Timeline

Each subgroup gave a status report on its activities to date.

Community Advocacy, Leadership, and Research Subgroup

Community Advocacy, Leadership, and Research Subgroup Leader Mark Mitchell reported that the 7-member subgroup had three phone conferences. He reported that the group has developed and is focusing its discussion on a list of seven community actions. The subgroup is developing recommendations and formatting its work to fit the subgroup template.

Government Operations (Internal & External) Subgroup

Government Operations (Internal & External) Subgroup Leader Liam O'Fallon reported that the 5-member subgroup has held 2–3 conference calls. The subgroup is focusing its efforts on six areas: 1) data and evaluation, 2) training, 3) coordination and partnerships, 4) regulation and enforcement, 5) communication and education, and 6) operations and practices. The group is working to narrow its list of recommendations. Subgroup members are interested in learning about any overlap with other subgroups to ensure they do not spend time on duplicative efforts. Mr. O'Fallon expressed some concern about being limited to four recommendations because this group would prefer to develop a recommendation for each of the six areas it is examining.

Addressing Past and Current, and Preventing Future, Environmental and Chemical Exposures Subgroup

Addressing Past and Current, and Preventing Future, Environmental and Chemical Exposures Subgroup member Scott Levy reported that this 9-member subgroup has developed seven or eight recommendations. Subgroup members are narrowing these recommendations and filling out the subgroup template.

Restoring Health and Developing Community Resiliency Subgroup

Restoring Health and Developing Community Resiliency Subgroup member Suzi Ruhl reported that the subgroup has confirmed its first meeting for January 21, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. EST. Meanwhile, members have been independently researching issues for consideration by the full work group.

Work Group Process and Timeline

Although Ms. Grant is still awaiting responses from a few work group members, she asked everyone to hold the following dates for upcoming meetings:

- February 22, 2010, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. EST (teleconference);
- March 24, 2010, 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. EST (teleconference); and
- April 29–30, 2010 (in-person meeting).

A work group member asked how overlap among the *National Conversation* work groups will be addressed. Ms. Grant responded that areas of potential overlap are discussed on *National Conversation* Work Group Coordinating Committee calls (in which Ms. Shepard; Dr. Harper, NCEH/ATSDR senior liaison; Ms. Grant; and Ms. DeFeo participate). Ms. Grant also mentioned that the project management site will be the perfect place to post documents and review the work of other subgroups to look for potential areas of overlap. Once each subgroup has a draft document, Ms. Grant urged that the documents be distributed by e-mail or posted on the project management site so that we can learn about each group's work. This information will assist in determining if overlap exists and, if so, how it should be addressed.

Next Steps

Ms. DeFeo offered to assist with any research, time permitting. She encouraged people to contact her if she can be of assistance.

III. Participation

Members Present

Loretta Asbury, ATSDR (in for Hilda Shepeard)
Lisa Conti, Florida Department of Health
Steve Crawford, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point
Jeannie Economos, Farmworkers Association of Florida
Jerry Ensminger, Camp Lejeune Community Assistance Panel
Karla Fortunato, Health & Environmental Funders Network
Lori Geckle, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
Derek Guest, formerly of Eastman Kodak, currently Environmental & Sustainability Solutions
Elizabeth "Buzzy" Guillette, formerly of University of Florida
Rita Harris, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program
Mercedes Hernández-Pelletier, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health
Michael Kent, Contra Costa Health Services
Scott Levy, The Permanente Medical Group
Egide Louis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Mark Mitchell, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
Liam O'Fallon, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Suzi Ruhl, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice
Ken Smith, NACCHO
Arturo Uribe, Mesquite Community Action Committee

Regrets

Nancy Bock, The Soap and Detergent Association
Robert Bullard, Environmental Justice Resource Center
Melinda Downing, U.S. Department of Energy
Mildred McClain, Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice
Pam Miller, Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Sarah Norman, Baltimore City Health Department
Barbara Sattler, University of Maryland, School of Nursing
Hilda Shepeard, ATSDR
Beverly Wright, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

Facilitation and Staff Team Members Present

Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Serving Communities Work Group chair
Carolyn Harper, NCEH/ATSDR senior liaison
Kathy Grant, RESOLVE facilitator
Kim DeFeo, NCEH/ATSDR staff
Ben Gerhardstein, NCEH/ATSDR staff