

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES
MONITORING WORK GROUP**

**Meeting No. 7 Summary
Teleconference
June 11, 2010**

Meeting Objectives:

- Provide update from June 1 *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* Leadership Council (Leadership Council) meeting
- Discuss *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* Monitoring work group (Monitoring work group) recommendations and develop a plan for completion
- Develop plan for completion of other sections of the Monitoring Work Group report

Upcoming Meeting	When and Where	Suggested Agenda Items
Full Monitoring work group meeting	Teleconference, July 9, 2010, 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m., Eastern time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review draft, including recommendations ○ Determine steps to finalize report

I. Action Items

Task	Who	Completed by
<p>1. Draft and send recommendations to Jenny Van Skiver (jvanskiver@cdc.gov) and John Balbus (john.balbus@nih.hhs.gov).</p> <p>Each recommendation should consist of a single bullet point statement followed by 1–2 paragraphs on expected outcomes and improvements, implementation, timeframe, and mechanisms for evaluating and tracking outcomes.</p>	<p align="center">Recommendation Leads (L) and Helpers (H)</p> <hr/> <p>No. 1 L: John Balbus</p> <hr/> <p>No. 2 L: Roy Fortmann H: Rose Zaleski — incorporate discussion of use patterns and residential conditions</p> <hr/> <p>No. 3 L: Megan Latshaw</p> <hr/> <p>No. 4 L: Jennifer Parker 4b (reportable conditions) H: Martha Stanbury H: Mike McGeehin</p> <hr/> <p>No. 5 L: Martha Stanbury</p> <hr/> <p>No. 6 L: Megan Latshaw 6a (environmental and biomonitoring technology and assays) H: John Osterloh H: Roy Fortmann H: Dean Lillquist 6b (routine toxicologic testing)</p>	<p>June 29, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.</p>

	H: John Osterloh <hr/> No. 7 L: Jay Feldman H: Sharyle Patton H: Karen Pierce H: Nancy John <hr/> No. 8 L: Steve Whittaker H: Megan Latshaw H: Martha Stanbury H: Jennifer Parker H: Roy Fortman <hr/> No. 9 L: David Marker H: Sharyle Patton H: Karen Pierce H: Charlotte Keys	
2. Submit narrative text for report Section II, "Current Status of the Issues", and Section III, "Vision of a Successful System", to Van Skiver (jvanskiver@cdc.gov) and Balbus (john.balbus@nih.hhs.gov).	All members	June 29, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.

II. Call Summary

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review

Kathy Grant, RESOLVE, opened the call and provided introductions. John Balbus, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and work group chair, welcomed members to the call and thanked them for their participation. Balbus said that the work group will use this call to formulate its plan for fleshing out its recommendations.

Leadership Council Meeting Update

Balbus reported on the briefing he gave to the Leadership Council, noting that five of the work group's nine recommendations call mostly for expansion of existing monitoring activities along the continuum from chemical use and release, to environmental monitoring, exposure level monitoring, and monitoring and surveillance of health outcomes.

Balbus said the Monitoring work group's recommendations were among the more cogent of those presented to the Leadership Council, and that overall, he felt the Leadership Council response was positive. He shared several *Leadership Council* comments. The Leadership Council members:

- Expressed support for encouraging local data submission into relevant databases;
- Asked who would manage a shared data portal;
- Asked whether the recommended expansion of the Environmental Public Health Tracking program would include expansion of included health outcomes (Balbus said that the work group might partially address this in its recommendation No. 4b, where they talk about reportable conditions, but that he doesn't think it would be appropriate for the group to define which outcomes ought to be added.); and

- Expressed support for grappling with privacy issues and recommending ways to address the challenges of providing results to individuals.

Grant added that the timeframe for completing the action agenda has been adjusted, but that this will not affect the work group's timeline. The draft action agenda will be done in December, and the publication and dissemination of the final action agenda is anticipated to occur by January 31, 2011. The work group report deadline is still August 31, 2010. Grant also reminded members that their recommendations must be actionable.

Discussion of Work Group Recommendations

Balbus asked whether members on the call who were unable to attend the May 6–7 in-person meeting had any questions or concerns about the recommendations.

One member said that the current draft lacks an adequate discussion of ambient air monitoring. Balbus asked the member to submit any text for inclusion in the report to Dan Goldstein, Monsanto, (daniel.a.goldstein@monsanto.com); Van Skiver, NCEH/ATSDR staff, (jvanskiver@cdc.gov); and himself (john.balbus@nih.hhs.gov).

A member expressed concern about the usefulness of information emerging from biomonitoring activities, noting that biomonitoring information can be confusing and may not even provide information on exposure in some cases. The ability to compare levels in people to levels in animals exhibiting effects makes biomonitoring meaningful.

Balbus acknowledged this suggestion and noted that recommendation No. 6 might be too narrowly written. The word “technology” could be replaced with “science.” Improving interpretability of biomonitoring so that funding agencies specifically require it could be helpful. Balbus asked the member to submit a paragraph describing success in this type of work, and said we will add text on this issue into recommendation No. 6.

A member said that recommendation No. 2 requires a discussion of activity patterns and residential conditions. She volunteered to draft relevant text for inclusion. Balbus asked the member to write it in a way that makes it actionable.

A member requested clarification on recommendation No. 8a. Balbus confirmed that this recommendation is getting at the need to harmonize sampling and analytical techniques for a number of disciplines, which should now be identified. Data should be integrated horizontally and comparisons made without trumping state and local sovereignty to determine what types of investigations they should be doing. This sort of information should also be inserted into earlier sections of the report.

A member brought up that the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* Health Outcomes Subgroup section will contain content addressing vulnerable populations in its discussion of the tension between national and local data. She offered to write about the difficulty of drawing inferences from data at the national level.

A member expressed concern about the practicality of expanding reportable conditions. Another member noted that many difficult issues are related to reportable conditions. An example is that with small numbers, answering community members' questions is usually not possible.

Balbus said we might discuss this issue in the “Impediments and Opportunities” section of the report. We might also be able to include a point and counterpoint discussion, or sidebar content on the tensions between what is deemed ideal by communities, and what is deemed responsible and feasible by authorities.

Next Steps

The members should contact the lead drafters for each recommendation to assist with polishing them. Any content should be added to the draft work group report stored on the project management site by 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 29, 2010. Van Skiver will notify members when a compiled version has been posted to the site. Contact Van Skiver at 770-488-3964 or jvanskiver@cdc.gov with any questions on document management.

III. Participation

Members Present:

Herb Buxton, U.S. Geological Survey
Roy Fortmann, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Megan Latshaw, Association of Public Health Laboratories
David Marker, Westat
John Osterloh, U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health
Jennifer Parker, U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics
Martha Stanbury, Michigan Department of Community Health
Richard Van Frank, Improving Kids' Environment
Rosemary Zaleski, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc.
Dean Lillquist, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Steve Whittaker, Public Health—Seattle & King County

Regrets

Henry Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health
Alison Edwards, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Jay Feldman, Beyond Pesticides
Daniel Goldstein, Monsanto
Nancy John, Cherokee Nation
Charlotte L. Keys, Jesus People Against Pollution
Richard Matheny, Farmington Valley Health District
Michael McGeehin, NCEH/ATSDR senior liaison
Sam LeFevre, Utah Department of Health
Sharyle Patton, Commonwealth
Karen Pierce, Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates
Ruthann Rudel, Silent Spring Institute
Trey Thomas, Consumer Product Safety Commission
Alan Woolf, Children's Hospital, Boston

Facilitation and Staff Team Members Present:

John Balbus, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, chair
Kathy Grant, RESOLVE facilitator
Jenny Van Skiver, NCEH/ATSDR staff