

**Board of Scientific Counselors
National Center for Health Statistics
Coordinating Center for Health Information and Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**January 25, 2007
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Building
125 Worth Street Room 330
New York, New York 10013**

**January 26, 2007
Baruch College
135 East 22 St. Room 301
New York, New York 10010**

All attendees are listed in Attachment 1.

January 25, 2 PM Dr. June O'Neill called the meeting to order. Dr. O'Neill thanked the officials from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for hosting the first day of the meeting, and welcomed Dr. Steve Solomon, Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coordinating Center for Health Information and Service (CCHIS), who attended as a guest. Dr. O'Neill invited Dr. Solomon to make some opening remarks.

Dr. Solomon said he was in New York City for a meeting the night before with the CDC Foundation, at which CDC Director Julie Gerberding discussed health threats related to poverty, climate change and terrorism. Dr. Solomon highlighted the importance of NCHS within CCHIS and he thanked the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) for its service. Dr. Solomon said that the NCHS BSC will be a model for BSC's being created in the other CCHIS centers.

Dr. Edward Sondik provided an update on NCHS.

Dr. Steve Schwartz, BSC member and Registrar and Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Vital Statistics, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) gave a very brief description of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and then introduced the other speakers from the Department.

Dr. Lorna Thorpe, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Epidemiology, NYC DOHMH discussed how New York City uses Federal data and uses models to apply to local level. She described the Take Care New York initiative.

Dr. Charon Gwynn, Research Director, NYC HANES discussed New York City Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (HANES).

Dr. Thomas Frieden, Commissioner of the NYC DOHMH discussed how New York City uses epidemiological data for public health action within the City.

Discussion with Dr. Frieden -- Dr. Frieden said he wished he could access more data from the clinical system and lamented the barriers to data sharing, specifically his frustration with the lack of Medicaid data. When asked how he makes the case for funding for data collection, given competing needs for funds for health services, he said that he has the benefit of a mayor who values data, and that he works to make sure that data are released rapidly and in policy-relevant form. When asked what advice he had for Federal health agencies, he said that Feds should support local level data collection activities with technical support, funding, support for analysis and support for data dissemination. He said the role of the Feds is to provide leadership in data collection, analysis and dissemination.

Dr. Farzad Mostashari, Director, Primary Care Information Project (PCIP), described the PCIP, a new multifaceted program to support the adoption and use of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) among primary care providers in NYC's underserved communities

Discussion following Dr. Mostashari's talk -- Discussion centered on the importance of the link between public health information systems and electronic records systems. Dr. Elo suggested a presentation to the NCVHS privacy subcommittee from the public health community's perspective on this topic.

Dr. Bonnie Kerker, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Epidemiology Services, NYC DOMH, described several interagency investigations underway.

Day 1 adjourned at 5:30 pm

January 26, 8:30 a.m. The meeting reconvened at Baruch College.

Discussion about Natality Review and next steps--June O'Neill summarized the status of the BSC Natality review. She said that a large issue for the review panel was inadequate funding to fully implement the new birth certificates. Steve Schwartz said that NCHS knew there wasn't adequate funding to implement the certificates in all of the States but went ahead with implementation anyway. The result is that there is no uniform national dataset. Irma Elo reported that NCVHS was very concerned as well about lack of a uniform national dataset. Discussion centered on the question of the most effective way to have avoided and now to solve the problem. Should the BSC send a letter to the Secretary through Dr. Gerberding? Should NCHS have recommended to the Secretary that the new certificates not be implemented without adequate funding for full implementation?

The BSC agreed that the next step in the Natality review process would be to ask the Natality review committee to respond to the comments from the NCHS Division of Vital Statistics to their report. The BSC would then wrap up the natality review at the April

BSC meeting. The final version of the report should 1) correct any misstatements of fact identified by DVS; 2) highlight any outstanding differences between the review committee's conclusions and the DVS response; 3) frame issues in terms of scientific issues, not political/funding issues; and 4) include "lessons learned" to help facilitate improvements in the future.

The BSC agreed that, in the future, review panels should not present their report to the BSC until they have had an opportunity to incorporate the response from the NCHS program staff.

Presentation by Sanders Korenman about New York Census Research Data Center (RDC). Dr. Korenman said that currently the RDC has very few health-related files. He said the process for review of proposals takes 3-6 months, and about 3-4 proposals are received each semester. Schools pay \$20K/year as members; the cost for students is prohibitive if schools are not members.

Response from Jennifer Madans about RDC – Dr. Madans described the agreement negotiated between NCHS and the Census Bureau for use of Census RDCs. NCHS is using the Census facility as a secure location for users to access NCHS data; but NCHS is not using the process and requirements that Census uses for accessing Census data. One significant difference in process, for example, is that NCHS does not judge scientific merit of proposals, as Census does. Under the agreement with Census, NCHS would create the analytic file and do the disclosure review before users were able to access the NCHS data. Dr. Madans said there is a large resource issue for NCHS in the arrangement with Census, because NCHS has to pay Census for RDC use and allocate staff resources to support the multiple Census RDCs.

BSC Discussion about RDC – Dr. Korenman said that Census RDC administrators will need training from NCHS on understanding and using NCHS data. There was a suggestion that NCHS explain on its RDC website the differences between our public use files and the confidential data. Bill Kalsbeek asked about adding other Census RDCs to the NCHS agreement with the New York RDC. Dr. Madans said that is not practical at this time given resources. Neil Powe stated that whatever actions we take related to RDC usage, we need to lower the barriers to access to students. Bill Kalsbeek said we should evaluate how the program is doing after one year.

Ann Aikin, NCHS described efforts to improve the NCHS website and asked the BSC to provide comments on the proposed plans.

Discussion following Ms. Aikin's talk Board members wanted to know if there was an easy way to know when data were updated on the NCHS website. Ms. Aikin said that reports such as vital statistics reports indicated in the title if the data were preliminary or final.

(Note: schedule noon talk by Gregg Van Ryzin about collection of NYC HANES data was cancelled.)

Dr. Ruth Stein update about NHIS/SLAITS review -- The decision was made to separate the BSC reviews of NHIS and SLAITS because of the large difference between the two surveys. The SLAITS review is targeted for September and the NHIS for January 2008. Dr. Stein asked BSC members to suggest reviewers and questions to ask. Discussion: One suggestion was to address linkages between NHIS and other surveys. It was suggested that at least one SLAITS reviewer represent a state health department. It was agreed that it might make sense to interview a HRSA staff person but not have one as a member of the SLAITS review panel. Marcie Cynamon suggested including someone with understanding about phone survey methodology, including multiple-frame approaches. Other comments from Board members: perhaps have an economist on the panel, maybe Dr. Bob Michael; important to have a person with background in survey operations as well as people familiar with survey analysis. Dr. Madans encouraged the Board to focus their review on the scientific quality of our current activities.

Dr. Virginia Cain discussion about NCHS Extramural program—Dr. Cain described her efforts to direct some funds from the CDC pool of \$26 million for extramural research, for research related to NCHS interests. She asked for BSC advice about how to advance the NCHS extramural research program. Neil Powe suggested a small grants program.

Update from Irma Elo as National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) liaison Dr. Elo said that NCVHS has devoted much less time in recent years to population health because of its focus on information technology. She said that the main opportunity for collaboration between the BSC and NCVHS is through the NCVHS Population subcommittee. She said the subcommittee has been focusing on 3 topics: 1) vital statistics, 2) data linkages, and 3) implementation of recommendations from report of 21st century health statistics vision. Irma said that these issues were also of interest to the NCVHS subcommittee on privacy and confidentiality. She said that there is no compelling reason for another big meeting between the two full committees (BSC and NCVHS) and suggested that the best way for continued collaboration was through smaller groups. She suggested giving the population subcommittee copies of the reports of BSC reviews of NCHS programs. Discussion: Debbie Jackson of NCHS, representing NCVHS staff, offered BSC members the opportunity to join in on the Feb 13 Population subcommittee conference phone call and the NCVHS executive subcommittee phone conference in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

I hereby confirm that these minutes are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

June E. O'Neill, Ph.D.

Attachment 1
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

01/25/07

BSC Members

June O'Neill
Irma Elo
Ray Greenberg
Michael Grossman
Donald Hernandez
William Kalsbeek
Thomas Koepsell
Neil Powe
Steven Schwartz
Matthew Snipp
Ruth Stein

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Employees

Charon Gwynn
Thomas Frieden
Bonnie Kerker
Farzad Mostashari
Lorna Thorpe

CDC Employees

Cain, Virginia S. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Harris, Althelia D. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Jackson, Debbie M. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Madans, Jennifer H. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Porter, Kathryn S. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Rothwell, Charles J. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Solomon, Steven L. (CDC/CCHIS)
Sondik, Edward J. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Ventura, Stephanie J. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)
Weinzimer, Robert J. (CDC/CCHIS/NCHS)

01/26/07

BSC Members

June O'Neill
Irma Elo
Ray Greenberg
Michael Grossman
Donald Hernandez
William Kalsbeek
Thomas Koepsell
James Lepkowski
Neil Powe
Steven Schwartz
Matthew Snipp
Ruth Stein

CDC Employees

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