



CORHA August Member Call 2022

Thursday, August 18, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Call Attendees

- Joe Perz (CDC - Voting Member)
- Dawn Terashita (NACCHO - Voting Member)
- Erin Epton (CSTE – Voting Member)
- David Gifford (ASTHO – Voting Member)
- Waleed Javaid (SHEA – Voting Member)
- Kiran Perkins (CDC – Voting Member)
- Erica Washington (CSTE – Voting Member)
- Linda Greene (APIC – Voting Member)
- Marisa D’Angeli (CSTE – Voting Member)
- Kris Ehresmann (ASTHO – Voting Member)
- Matt Crist (CDC)
- Rick Wild (CMS)
- Scott Steffen (FDA)
- Julia Marders (FDA)
- Kelly Wroblewski (APHL)
- Kevin Spicer (CDC)
- Elizabeth Beshearse (CDC)
- Elizabeth Mothershed (CDC)
- Amelia Keaton (CDC)
- Tracy Stiles (CDC)
- Will Fritch (CSTE – CORHA Staff)
- Beth Daly (CSTE – CORHA Staff)
- Lindsay Pierce (CSTE – CORHA Staff)
- Grace Lee (ASTHO – CORHA Staff)
- Jaclyn Abramson (NACCHO – CORHA Staff)

Meeting Notes

- Welcome Remarks
 - CORHA voting members were introduced by the co-chairs.
 - The updated [strategic map](#) was presented to voting members. The Governance Committee (GC) agreed on keeping the strategic map from 2020-2023 the same for 2023 – 2025. The reasoning behind this decision was because from 2020 – present, all CORHA members were pulled away from CORHA work to the urgent pandemic response. The strategic goals through 2025 remain the same.
- CORHA Announcements and Updates
 - CORHA Products
 - The [HAI Notifications Framework](#), [Candida auris](#), and [nontuberculous mycobacteria \(NTM\)](#) products were recently finalized and approved by the GC.
 - The **carbapenem-resistant enterobacterales (CRE)** product is in the middle of the review process.
 - The Group A Strep product is forthcoming.
 - A monthly update on the progress of CORHA products is sent out in the CORHA Insider.
 - CORHA Communications
 - CORHA has two monthly newsletters. The first is the **CORHA Insider**, which is distributed internally to CORHA members and partners. The [CORHA Correspondence](#) is distributed externally to the broader CORHA audience. Both newsletters feature outbreak news, CORHA products, and other relevant updates.



- These newsletters aim to keep members, partners, and the CORHA audience informed. Please feel free to share the contents of these newsletters with your organizations.
- The [CORHA Spotlight Series blog series](#) features the work of CORHA members and their expertise. A blog is published monthly and is featured in both CORHA newsletters.
 - The latest blog was a 2-part series on the Importance of Patient Notification and CORHA's HAI Outbreak Notification Framework.
- NACCHO regularly shares promotional language for new CORHA products.
- **CORHA Fall Meeting**
 - The CORHA meeting convenes the full Council. As CORHA members may recall, these in-person meetings met twice a year in Atlanta prior to COVID. Since the pandemic, CORHA has hosted these meetings virtually.
 - This year, CORHA will be having a hybrid meeting, scheduled for **November 2 -3**. The GC and CORHA staff are working on the invitee list and the agenda to accommodate the hybrid meeting format.
 - GC members have discussed potential agenda items:
 - Surveillance in public health and healthcare settings
 - Investigation and reporting
 - Lessons learned from COVID-19
 - If you have any suggestions for agenda items, please email glee@astho.org.
- Status of the [“Principles and Practices for Healthcare Outbreak Response “CORHA P&P”](#)
 - Review of chapters 1 – 5 of the P&P was completed by the Technical Editor, with only a few remaining questions left to be addressed.
 - Chapter 6 is with a contractor at Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).
 - Supplement A and Chapter 7 are in earlier stages of review with CSTE.
 - Chapter 8 edits are currently being incorporated into the document by the CORHA Policy WG leads.
 - Supplement B sources that were behind a paywall have been updated and approved by the GC.
- Update on the revised ***“Proposed Investigation/Reporting Thresholds and Outbreak Definitions for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings”*** document
 - Co-chairs provided an overview of the changes made to the COVID-19 Thresholds document. There was a lot of discussion and work put into the revisions, as there were many perspectives with competing interests.
 - CORHA members agreed that a perfect document for COVID-19 Thresholds is impossible to attain in a dynamic environment. It is important for CORHA to continue updating the document as the pandemic evolves.
 - Co-chairs motioned for a vote to approve the document. The 13 voting members had one week to submit their vote via a Qualtrics survey.
 - A simple majority of affirmative votes approved the updated COVID-19 Thresholds document. The updated [version](#) has been posted to the CORHA website.
- Other Council Business
 - Workgroup Meeting Updates
 - The **Policy Workgroup** leads have met to discuss some of the group's working documents. They have also expressed their interest in resuming working



meetings with all members. A topic that workgroup leads would like to discuss in future meetings is addressing the lack of consistency on reporting and data sharing.

- The **Lab Workgroup** is in the process of nominating new workgroup co-chairs. Once these co-chairs are named, the workgroup will resume meetings.
- The **Detection and Response (A+B) Workgroup** is finalizing the new workgroup charge. This workgroup will be working on the A-Z library to identify missing topics and addressing gaps with CDC resources. They will also be working on reviewing current resources on the CORHA website.
- Interest Group Updates: *These groups emerged from the CORHA Spring Meeting that was held in May and meet on an ad hoc basis.*
 - **Standardized Variables with Health Equity Considerations**
 - The goal of CDC's variables list is to standardize variables for HAI outbreak investigations and make these variables publicly available to which CDC and health departments and facilities can refer to when deciding what information is most appropriate to collect and when it should be collected. The list acts as a start to data collection that ultimately will help to evaluate factors related to health inequities associated with HAI outbreak. This is important to address IPC efforts as it relates to health disparities.
 - The group discussed their thoughts on the health equity considerations in the variables list. Themes that emerged were challenges in implementation of the list, high variability in data collection, and lack of trained staff in vulnerable healthcare settings.
 - One item that emerged from this discussion was using CORHA as a platform to publish the variables list and having some CORHA members, such as the Detection and Response Workgroup, piloting the variables in their jurisdictions.
 - **Interacting with Surveyors and Accreditors in Healthcare Outbreak Investigation Workgroup**
 - This group emerged from the CORHA Spring Meeting after discussions on where accrediting organizations and surveyors' roles are during the outbreak investigation.
 - Some themes the workgroup discussed were the importance of collaboration to strengthen patient protection, aligning definitions, terminology, and messaging with regulatory agencies, and standardizing reporting.
- **Closing Remarks**
 - CORHA members are encouraged to stay informed on ongoing CORHA activities through the CORHA website, newsletters, and meetings.