

CORHA FALL MEETING 2022

CORHA In-Person Fall Meeting Notes November 2 - 3 | Emory Conference Center Hotel + Virtual

Wednesday, November 2

9:45 – 10:45 am: *From Flu to COVID-19, From GAS to MPX: How to Address Outbreak Response Needs for both Existing and Emerging Infections*

A. Key Takeaways

- There were many challenges experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:
 - i. Transparency of data, access to appropriate patient-level data, and other data infrastructure issues
 - ii. Staffing issues, hospitals running very close to margins, and staff burnout
 - iii. Political impacts to public health, societal impact on public health, and the future of pandemic responses
 - iv. Scaling of resources, actionability of workforce size, and strategies to understanding transmission
 - v. Need for workforce resiliency and technical training
 - vi. Lac access at the local level, availability of testing
- Bi-directional communication and implementing communication guidelines will improve coordination between local, state, federal, and private sectors. Finding a balance between self-reporting and regulation of reporting will also improve partnerships. Establishing clear roles, allowing local/state public health agencies authority to control transmission, and expanding staff at all levels will also improve response.
- To improve lab capacity for testing, there must be more mobile testing methods and expansion of non-traditional testing sites. Courier services to move specimens in a timely manner, prioritization of testing, and ensuring access and availability can expand testing capacity.
- Existing and emerging pathogens that are of concern:
 - i. Legionella in LTCFs
 - ii. Waterborne pathogens
 - iii. Fungal infections above C. auris
 - iv. Common respiratory viruses other than COVID
- To respond to existing and emerging infections, there is concern about the surge of misinformation and vaccine hesitancy.

11:15 – 12:30 pm: *CORHA Activities Presentation and Discussion*

A. Key Takeaways

- Engagement with the CORHA website has been increasing significantly in recent months and there is hope that this will continue with new P&P content postings and continued promotion.
- Key takeaways around promoting CORHA (e.g., products, brand recognition)
 - i. Consider an intentional “relaunch” period

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- ii. Explore additional opportunities for promotion with partners, including “big stages”, promotional videos or testimonials, and more inclusion of CORHA in existing messaging from partners
- iii. Explore opportunities for a CORHA social media presence
- Key takeaways around effective use of limited member/SME capacity
 - i. Simplify email messages and subject lines; utilize tables of contents; make asks clear/explicit; consider sending messages around noon (recognizing that varies by time zone).
 - ii. Consider a meeting rather than an email when engagement is needed (not just sharing updates).
- B. Next Steps or Action Items
 - Consider implementation of the action items listed under ‘promoting CORHA’ and ‘limited capacity’ key takeaways above.

1:30 – 2:30 pm: *CLUSTER Trial: An 82 U.S. Hospital Cluster Randomized Trial (CRT) to Assess the Impact of an Automated Statistical Outbreak Detection Tool and Response Protocol to Limit Hospital Transmission*

- A. Key Takeaways
 - Standardized approach to outbreak detection and reporting: how hospitals and other facility settings can use this strategy.
 - Automated cluster detection coupled with a response protocol:
 - i. Reduced cluster size by 64% pre-COVID but not during COVID
 - ii. Reduced the risk that a hospitalized patient becomes part of a cluster
 - 1. 57% pre-COVID, 35% over entire intervention
- B. Next Steps or Action Items
 - Be on the lookout for the published data for promotion and awareness.
 - Consider ways CORHA can use this strategy and outcomes in future resources.

3 – 4:15pm: *Workgroup Breakout Sessions*

Policy Workgroup

- A. Participant List
 - Dawn Terashita
 - Moon Kim
 - Richard Martinello
 - Lisa Tomlinson
 - Grace Lee (virtual)
 - Christina Baum (virtual)
 - Lisa McGiffert (virtual)
 - Kris Ehresmann (virtual)
 - Chris Baliga (virtual)
- B. Key Takeaways
 - Policy workgroup members approved the changes made to the workgroup charge, with the new priority being when and how data should be publicly shared and reported.

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- The group agreed that starting with existing products, such as the HAI Notifications Framework document, and spreading the word across the partner organizations will boost awareness.
 - i. Including partners such as national healthcare administrators may be useful.
 - ii. The group will find ways to leverage communications and promotions to boost engagement with CORHA products.
- The members worked on gathering **ideas** for guidelines on data reporting and sharing, which included discussions such as the definitions between an “outbreak” and “exposure”, standardized methods of reporting, legal barriers, etc.

C. Next Steps or Action Items

- ASTHO will work on compiling the discussion items gathered at the workgroup meeting.
- The group will convene about once a month to work on the new priority area of the workgroup charge.

Detection and Response Workgroup

A. Participant List

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Linda Greene | • Matt Crist |
| • Scott Steffen (virtual) | • Amelia Keaton |
| • Will Fritch (virtual) | • Mary Alice Lavin |
| • Julie Marders | • Joe Perz |
| • Erin Epton | • Kiran Perkins |
| • Waleed Javaid | • Marisa D’Angeli (virtual) |
| • Erica Washington | • Massimo Pacilli (virtual) |
| • Ayana Hart | |

B. Key Takeaways

- The workgroup needs a calendar for product review and development, which will be addressed at the next WG meeting.
- The A-to-Z page will require some reorganization, which will be addressed at the next WG meeting.
- The workgroup needs a workgroup for supplement A, which will require pulling in FDA partners. Will to follow-up with Joe and WG leads to get this moving again.
- The workgroup will discuss if they need a workgroup related to re-use and/or sterilization.

C. Next Steps or Action Items

- During the next D&R workgroup meeting we will review a draft calendar with page responsibility assignments, we will discuss options for better organizing the A-to-Z page, and our FDA partners will revisit options for CORHA to address re-use, high-level disinfection and/or sterilization.
- A sub-workgroup will reform to continue progress on P&P Supplement A.

Lab Workgroup Breakout

A. Participant List

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- Daniel Diekema (virtual)
- Tracy Stiles
- Kimberly McCullor
- David Gifford
- Nicholas Moore
- Erin Laird

B. Key Takeaways

- Workgroup discussed lab capacity (infrastructure, training, etc.) and prioritization of sample testing, environmental sampling challenges, and electronic infrastructure and how to emphasize these in future resources.
- Workgroup recognized areas for improvement to include additional resources that target a lab audience and perhaps expanding the workgroup expertise and partner organization reach.

C. Next Steps or Action Items

- Co-chairs will plan to develop outline of new chapter and reach out to workgroup for support
 - i. Unclear if environmental will be included or if it is a separate section, flesh this out as outline is drafted
- Will discuss meeting frequency once framework is approved.
- Workgroup recruitment: engage old/new members.

4:15 – 5pm: *Council Business Meeting*

A. Participant List

- Joe Perz
- David Gifford
- Erin Epton
- Dawn Terashita
- Julie Marders
- Erica Washington
- Waleed Javaid
- Linda Greene
- Kate Heyer
- Grace Lee
- Erin Laird
- Scott Harris (virtual)
- Kris Ehresmann (virtual)
- Marisa D'Angeli (virtual)
- Massimo Pacilli (virtual)
- Will Fritch (virtual)
- Christina Baum (virtual)

B. Key Takeaways

- Council members would like for each member organization representative to propose an alternate in case the representative is unable to attend a CORHA meeting.
- Members discussed the need to reach out to other organizations to be involved with CORHA, such as certifying agencies, hospital associations, etc. These organizations can convene with CORHA on a more ad hoc basis.
- Ensuring targeted outreach across all CORHA partner organizations will expand the reach of CORHA products.
- Members would like to build in a more formal way of onboarding new members into the existing CORHA framework.

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- Members all agreed that the format of the hybrid meeting has enhanced the ability for members, both virtual and in-person, to brainstorm, engage, and participate in a robust and dynamic way.

Thursday, November 3

9 – 10am: What's missing from CORHA's outbreak response toolkits? Addressing gaps and making improvements to current and future CORHA products

A. Key Takeaways

- CORHA may be able to provide input/guidance on reporting, such as using electronic mining of electronic health records.
- Working to identify how different entities and partners fit into a response, especially when taking an all-hazards approach, may be an area where CORHA can provide guidance. Thinking through the audience and how CORHA products are used for advocacy will be important.
- There are many opportunities for CORHA to increase visibility of CORHA products and work.
 - i. Ensuring partners are dividing up the work into manageable tasks and tying priority areas together will be ways to further broadcast CORHA.
- Enhanced communication and promotion of CORHA products will further enhance CORHA's efforts. Bi-directional work will be needed to ensure the needs of all stakeholders are being met.
- While there are challenges to the threshold framework, CORHA partners generally agreed that the approach does work. CORHA may be able to come up with a risk assessment or other product that would aid in decision-making. The thresholds framework is an effective way to invite facilities in a non-regulatory level.

10:30 – 11am: Standardized Variables List for Healthcare Outbreak Response with Health Equity Considerations

A. Key Takeaways

- There is overwhelming interest in understanding the extent to how socioeconomic factors influence susceptibility to HAIs. Discussion highlighted the difficulties in obtaining this information consistently and accurately.

B. Next Steps or Action Items

- If interested in volunteering for this pilot, please reach out to the speakers Ayana Hart and Kiran Perkins.

11 – 12pm: HAI Outbreaks, Regulatory Agencies and Accreditors: What to Share and When

A. Key Takeaways

- There is a lack of clarity regarding what is required vs recommended for reporting and what needs to go to non-regulatory public health (State Epi in some jurisdictions) vs state survey agencies/regulators.

B. Next Steps or Action Items

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- There will be follow-up after this meeting to continue to discussion and potential development of a CORHA resource to help clarify what 'should' vs 'needs' to be reported, and to whom. This may involve development of a visual aid.

1 – 2:30pm: *From Flu to COVID-19, From GAS to MPX: Opportunities and Needs for CORHA Going Forward*

A. Key Takeaways

- There are many opportunities to make CORHA more visible and well-known. Members floated ideas of having an ambassador program, developing one-pagers of CORHA products, and bringing in other partner organizations to work with CORHA as possible means of reaching a broader audience.
- Finding creative ways to reach folks, such as through videos, social media (TikTok, hashtags, podcasts, etc.), etc. may be novel ways to boost engagement with CORHA.
- CORHA may work on partnership development and outreach to hospitals, and how to notify hospital partners of CORHA activities.
- CORHA may find opportunities to have discussions earlier on outbreaks, such as how to standardize variables, work on data modernization and informatics, and aligning reporting guidelines.

B. Next Steps or Action Items

- CORHA's partner organizations will bring back the topics discussed at the Fall Meeting to work on opportunities to boost visibility and engagement with CORHA products.