



CORHA Winter Member Call 2023

Thursday, February 16, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

Call Attendees

- *Joe Perz (CDC – Voting Member)*
- *Dawn Terashita (NACCHO – Voting Member)*
- *Erin Epon (CSTE – Voting Member)*
- *David Gifford (ASTHO – Voting Member)*
- *Kiran Perkins (CDC – Voting Member)*
- *Erica Washington (CSTE – Voting Member)*
- *Valerie Deloney (SHEA – Designated Alternate for Waleed Javaid)*
- *Linda Greene (APIC – Voting Member)*
- *Marisa D’Angeli (CSTE – Voting Member)*
- *Kris Ehresmann (ASTHO – Voting Member)*
- *Kim McCullor (APHL – Voting Member)*
- *Massimo Pacilli (NACCHO – Voting Member)*
- *Bonnie Herring (CDC)*
- *Elizabeth Mothershed (CDC)*
- *Julie Madaras (FDA)*
- *Kelly Wroblewski (APHL)*
- *Lisa McGiffert (Patient Safety Action Network)*
- *Lisa Tomlinson (APIC)*
- *Moon Kim (NACCHO)*
- *Matt Crist (CDC)*
- *Nicholas Moore (APHL)*
- *Grace Lee (ASTHO – CORHA Staff)*
- *Will Fritch (CSTE – CORHA Staff)*
- *Christina Baum (NACCHO – CORHA Staff)*
- *Erin Laird (ASTHO – CORHA Staff)*
- *Irene Halferty (NACCHO – CORHA Staff)*
- *Lindsay Jordan-Pierce (CSTE – CORHA Staff)*

Meeting Notes

- **Opening Remarks**
 - Erin Epon (CSTE) began the meeting by welcoming attendees and announcing that Co-Chair David “Giff” Gifford (ASTHO) would be leaving CORHA due to new and conflicting duties. Erin and others thanked Giff for his service on CORHA and expressed hope that he will remain in touch.
 - Giff also welcomed attendees and led the group through a roll call of voting members.
- **CORHA Announcements and Updates**
 - **CORHA Spring Meeting**
 - Will Fritch (CSTE) shared that members should hold May 9th – 10th for the CORHA Spring (in-person) meeting – email hold the date reminders to be sent this week. Contract negotiations are underway with the Courtyard by Marriott in Downtown Decatur. Registration forms will be shared once the venue contract is finalized.

- Bylaws Vote
 - Grace Lee (ASTHO) reviewed changes to the bylaws, which included minimal reorganization of existing content within the document and adjustment to the language addressing alternate members (i.e., “If a voting representative is unable to represent their organization at a quarterly meeting, they or their member organizations ~~must~~ **should** propose an alternate.”). Will Fritch held the vote by Zoom poll and confirmed by review of poll participants (names available to host only) that the vote passed unanimously.
- Product Updates
 - Will Fritch shared that APHL is currently making final edits to P&P chapter 6, the lab best practices chapter. A final draft is expected to be available within the next few weeks.
 - Will – P&P Chapter 8 (communications +) is currently with ASTHO and the Policy Workgroup following Joe’s provision of comments and suggested edits.
 - Will – A sub-workgroup has reconvened to finalize P&P Supplement A. Previous drafts of the supplement were approaching full chapter length so the group decided to pivot and streamline this supplement a bit. They are also aiming to revise the existing and posted medical product related assessment questions document and incorporate it into the final draft of supplement A, which they are aiming to wrap up within the next few months.
 - Will – P&P Chapter 7, the chapter on multi-jurisdictional outbreaks, remains in development. It has been reviewed to assess redundancy with other sections, particularly supplement A, and it will be prioritized for finalization after the sections noted above.
 - Will - The CRE product has been updated. It will be submitted for posting later this week. There are already plans to revisit this with the Detection and Response Workgroup and consider substantial revisions to this document, perhaps updating to a carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs) focus.
 - Will - The vote on the list of standardized variables for HAI outbreak response was successful. That document is now posted the CORHA website.
 - Joe Perz (CDC) added that the journal Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology (ICHE) will be publishing an article referencing this list, authored by the team at CDC which developed it.
- Workgroup Updates
 - Will Fritch shared that the Detection and Response Workgroup has recently implemented a product review and development calendar, so now in their monthly meetings they have been reviewing one existing page or resource to identify needed edits, and they’ve been previewing a draft for a new page. They’ve launched paged for Ebola and Mpox, have a new water-associated organisms page launching within the next couple of weeks, and hope to launch a *Burkholderia cepacia* page sometime next month.
 - Will - The Laboratory Workgroup is fortunate to have Kim McCullor and Nicholas Moore onboard as co-leads. Since their joining, the Lab Workgroup has made progress on several items. They now have a recurring meeting series, with

monthly meetings occurring on Third Wednesdays from 2 - 3pm ET. They are also in the process of finalizing the workgroup roster, having reached out to all those who were previously involved. Finally, preliminary discussions have begun around developing a lab-focused outbreak response product. The initial notes and plans around that document will be brought to an upcoming GC call for their consideration.

- Grace Lee shared that the Policy Workgroup has been exploring ways to broaden the reach of the notifications framework product that they developed. They have also been discussing data reporting in sharing in the context of HAI outbreaks, as addressed in their Workgroup charge. They have also been working on P&P chapter 8, as mentioned above.

- CORHA Promotion and Engagement

- Christina Baum (NACCHO) shared that NACCHO is finalizing a survey which CORHA member organizations can share with relevant stakeholder groups – not just CORHA members – to identify where and how they access the type of information that CORHA publishes. This will provide insight into how CORHA materials are currently being used, where they're falling short, and how they might be made more useful.
 - Joe suggested distributing this through all CORHA member organizations and not just CSTE, ASTHO, and NACCHO.
- Christina – NACCHO is also conducting outreach to member organizations to identify the best points of contact for engagement in communications activities.
- Christina reminded the group of the information available through the CORHA spotlight series, CORHA insider (distributed to members), and CORHA correspondence (distributed more broadly).
- Erin added that she and multiple other members have been working to spread the word about CORHA and increase engagement.

- VIM-CRPA Multi-State Outbreak Update

- This update was provided by Marissa Grossman, PhD, MPH, who is the lead Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer assigned to this outbreak.
- CDC is investigating an outbreak of Verona Integron-mediated Metallo- β -lactamase (VIM) and Guiana-Extended Spectrum- β -Lactamase (GES)-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-GES-CRPA) associated with a contaminated medical product – artificial tears.
- This outbreak was recognized in late September/early October 2022 when whole genome sequencing identified close relationships (0 – 14 SNP differences) between VIM-CRPA clusters in multiple states involving patients with no epi-linkage (suggesting a contaminated medical product). The sequence type involved in this outbreak is ST1203, which had only rarely been identified in the U.S. previously.
- Specimens associated with this outbreak were collected as early as May 2022 and have been collected from both inpatient and outpatient settings.
- There have been instances of permanent vision loss and enucleation associated with this outbreak (preliminary data not yet ready for distribution).
- A case-control study was conducted which revealed that a majority of case patients had exposure to artificial tears. Identification of a specific brand was challenged by complexities on both the healthcare facility side (i.e., not charting specific brands used)

and on the manufacturing side (i.e., multiple brands produced by same manufacturer). Ultimately, EzriCare artificial tears (preservative-free, multi-use vial) were implicated.

- CDC recovered VIM-CRPA (outbreak strain), as well as other organisms, from multiple opened artificial tears vials. FDA is currently testing sealed product.
 - CDC has issued an Epi-X and HAN related to this outbreak. FDA published a warning to consumers. Global Pharma (the manufacturer) has issued a voluntary recall for EzriCare and Delsam Pharma eyedrops.
- Wrap-up and Closing
 - Joe asked the member organizations with only one specified representative to consider identifying an alternate.
 - Erin closed the call and again thanked Giff for his service to CORHA.