

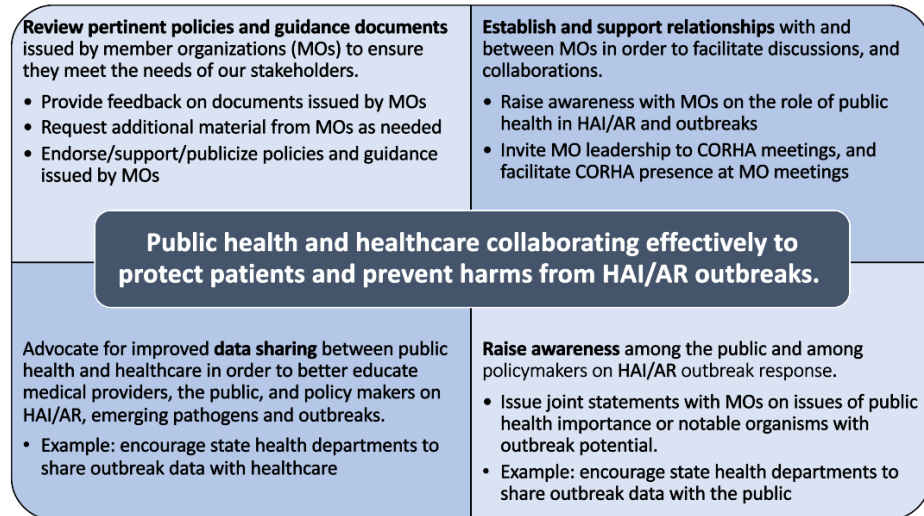
CORHA Fall Meeting 2023 Meeting Notes

Atlanta, GA | Hybrid via Zoom

Wednesday, November 8th

- **CORHA Strategic Map and Vision**

- CORHA leadership provided an overview of the context of the strategic map, as well as an overview of key strategies for CORHA to achieve CORHA's vision.



- **Prompt 1 (Quadrant 1): Review pertinent policies and guidance documents issued by member organizations (MOs) to ensure they meet the needs of our stakeholders.**
 - CORHA may need to identify the needs of the member organizations and what parties to provide feedback.
 - May also be helpful to set top CORHA priorities for the year to help guide what CORHA supports.
 - Explore processes for MOs to present and highlight new guidance docs and items in progress with CORHA members and through CORHA platforms.
 - Compendiums, endorsements, spotlights on the website, etc. are opportunities for CORHA.
 - CORHA endorsement is highly desired by MOs.
 - Engage member organizations in supporting CORHA's promotion and related activities.
 - CORHA should be leveraging boots on the ground to provide tools to people once an outbreak occurs.
 - CORHA review and feedback needs to be through the lens of outbreak detection and control.
 - Refining review processes may also be needed, depending on the audience and platform of the CORHA product.
 - Can CORHA develop a pathway to aggregate multidisciplinary feedback?
 - Ongoing crosstalk between CORHA and CORHA's MOs is important for coordination of activities and promotion.

- Raising awareness amongst policymakers and the public is important to support HAI/AR outbreak response.
 - Formal endorsement would be highest bar to clear but can we support and publicize materials?
- **Prompt 2 (Quadrant 2): Raise awareness among the public and among policymakers on HAI/AR outbreak response.**
 - State HDs can be part of the surveillance and reports to highlight HAI/AR data.
 - CORHA can work on how to present data to the public.
 - Use “storytelling” practices to make data accessible and meaningful to the public.
 - Social media presence may be an opportunity for CORHA to increase its reach, especially to the public. Name recognition and public presence should be an added activity for CORHA.
 - Pre-prepared material will be good for CORHA to have prior to the next outbreak so we are in a good position to publicize the work of CORHA.
 - CORHA can rethink how data is shared by sharing experiences from individuals.
 - Authorship for papers can include CORHA as an affiliated organization.
- **Respiratory Season: Detection and Response for Respiratory Outbreaks**
 - CDC recently released some materials on respiratory virus season.
 - [Preventing Transmission of Viral Respiratory Pathogens in Healthcare Settings](#) – Summary of existing infection control measures that should be implemented into standard procedures to prevent the spread of all viral respiratory infections in healthcare settings.
 - “Source control is recommended for those residing or working on a unit or area of the facility experiencing an outbreak of respiratory infection. Universal use of source control could be discontinued as a mitigation measure once the outbreak is over (e.g., no new cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection have been identified for 14 days).”
 - Source control recommendation is relevant to CORHA.
 - [Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes](#) – Summary of recommendations for long-term care facilities to PREPARE for respiratory virus season, to RESPOND when a resident or healthcare provider develops signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, and to CONTROL transmission when spread has been identified in a facility.
 - Vaccination is the most important action long-term care facilities can take.
 - Monitor community-level transmission and implement masking policies.
 - There are currently no metrics from CDC yet on masking guidance yet. The local and state HDs must collaborate to establish these metrics.
 - Some local HDs established local thresholds to trigger masking. This might be a good area for the CORHA Policy WG to work on.
 - Notify local/state HD once a respiratory virus is detected.

- Project Firstline has created a variety of resources to promote infection control best practices during respiratory virus season, including a [webpage](#) and [infographic](#) that outline infection control actions, [signs](#) encouraging masking, and a [one-pager](#) explaining the risk of germs in the respiratory system.
 - CORHA has several existing products that may be useful to highlight during respiratory virus season, including influenza and updated COVID thresholds.
 - A pan-respiratory tool with a summary of accompanying evidence may be helpful due to the co-circulation of viral respiratory pathogens. A broad approach may be beneficial if the pathogen is not known or if there are multiple pathogens.
 - A general source referencing testing methodologies (strengths, weaknesses, performance, turnaround time, reimbursement, etc.) may be useful, especially when it comes to intra- and inter-facility interactions.
 - Gaps discussed
 - Major gap related to duration of isolation
 - Guidance for RSV and immunocompromised individuals
- **Growing Public Health – Healthcare Connections through Data Sharing**
 - The CORHA Policy WG has been working on data sharing and reporting. As of now, data sharing is very slow and needs modernization.
 - Access to electronic health records (EHRs) before and during an outbreak has also been a topic of discussion for the WG.
 - Seth Kroop is the Associate Director of Policy at the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotions at CDC who provided an overview of data reporting requirements.
 - CDC can help CORHA connect with the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) office at CDC. CDC's [PH Daily Strategy](#) is also a succinct document that describes the framework for DMI.
 - The goal is to streamline processes and link public health and healthcare for surveillance and enhanced outbreak detection.
 - CDC is compelled on a voluntary basis or by another federal entity to implement reporting requirements (which were expanded during COVID).
 - There is a wide variance amongst local and state health department authorities for access to EHRs.
 - Some jurisdictions have direct access to EHRs for both HC and PH professionals. CORHA may be able to lead the development of material for legal entities for more jurisdictions to be able to access EHRs.
 - There is an option for facilities to provide education on data for employees. Federal entities are doing a lot of outreaches to facilities to meet this requirement.
 - CORHA can be a space for the exchange of best practices for access to and sharing of data.
 - CORHA needs to learn more about Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR), and it would be beneficial to learn more about the experiences in Washington State

regarding access to EHRs. Systems need to talk to each other about what data is being exchanged, and how.

- Some states have regulations for NHSN data validation, which CORHA may be able to explore.
- CORHA's member organizations all have a need for data modernization and for working with vendors, federal entities like CMS and ONC, and other partners.

- **Breakout Sessions**

- Policy
 - The Policy WG has been working on a document on data reporting of HAI outbreaks. The WG has been incorporating feedback received from CORHA leadership.
 - The Policy WG has also been developing new workgroup charge priorities. One priority has been working on access to EHRs before and during a healthcare outbreak, and the other has been on better resourced and staffed facilities during an outbreak.
 - WG members are in the process of writing drafts of a letter to CMS to inquire about access to EHRs.
 - WG members and ASTHO staff are connecting with partners to gather state/local examples of training and staffing requirements.
- Detection and Response (D&R)
 - The D&R group continued to discuss their calendar for reviewing the pathogen-specific products on the CORHA website.
- Lab
 - The Lab WG has been working on materials to accompany chapter 6 of the P&P.
 - There is an opportunity to provide testing-focused resources to reflect nuances of testing for different viruses.
 - The WG can also provide general guidance, e.g. discussion of different testing methodologies (strengths/weaknesses for their performance).
 - Focus on types of labs where those tests may be more frequently performed in, general expectations on turnaround time, and reimbursement.
 - APHL roadmap resource may be a good guide for influenza.
 - The focus would be geared towards public health labs, but also described the number of tests that should be done and the best test type to be used.

- **Council Meeting**

- CORHA voting members were briefed on changes made to the Bylaws (specifically the membership categories and definitions), Supplement A of the CORHA Principles and Practices, data reporting document, and updates to the COVID Thresholds document.
 - CORHA members will vote upon changes to the Bylaws and the COVID Thresholds document.

Thursday, November 9th

- **2023 – 2024 Priorities for CORHA**

- Themes from the prior day of the CORHA Fall Meeting were gathered from the group.
- Each group was asked for strategies on how to achieve the themes gathered from the group. Below are summaries from each table discussion:
 - Write a letter to CMS on granting access to EHRs, perhaps making it a requirement from regulatory agencies. Compile a playbook providing instructions for jurisdictions to implement systems for access to EHRs.
 - Examples of HDs providing best practices and use CSTE and ASTHO resources to query jurisdictions on how to improve these best practices. This would save a lot of staff time on the lag from accessing EHRs.
 - Not a lot of resources are needed for this goal, aside from ASTHO, CSTE, CORHA leadership, and connections at CMS.
 - The letter would have a description justifying access to records and staying in compliance with HIPAA.
 - Increase capability and use of evaluating genomic data.
 - The goal is to use some funding from hospitals to increase genomic data use, increase public health lab capacity, and reduce reluctance from hospitals to send samples to PH labs.
 - Funding sources can be from the CDC and NIH.
 - Using existing Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) networks may be an avenue for accessing sequencing capabilities.
 - Funding for genomic data use through collaboration with partners, reviewing the landscape of use of genomic data, and advocating for regulation of genomic data and data sharing.
 - Including CMS representatives and advisory groups as partners.
 - Both open data sharing and advocacy are important to emerging infections.
 - Leveraging CORHA and CORHA's perspective for advocacy initiatives for infection prevention and response.
 - Use already existing resources, such as blog posts and other resources, to further promote CORHA.
 - Reinforce the need for continued funding for HAI/AR outbreaks.
 - Continued partnership between member organizations within CORHA.
 - Inform CORHA membership on relevant CORHA resources and products, and review CORHA processes.
 - Increasing awareness and understanding of CORHA amongst various stakeholders.
 - The CORHA [Principles and Practices](#) audience is state and local PH staff; CORHA can work to increase the use of the document.
 - Work on coordination of dissemination of CORHA products, perhaps directly linking this dissemination into ELC grants.
 - Engagement of HC members to inform further work of CORHA.

- **Workgroup Breakout Sessions**

- Policy, Lab, and the Detection and Response workgroups all continued work from the previous days' agendas to further their respective charges.
- **Workgroup Breakout Session report outs**
 - Policy
 - Resource to developing access to EHRs
 - Letter to CMS
 - Reworking document on public sharing of data reporting, as well as work on what form this document takes and where it is posted.
 - *Needs from the Council:*
 - Review time
 - Invite CMS representative to a future workgroup meeting.
 - Opportunity to include the American Hospital Association feedback.
 - Lab
 - Working on developing products that will serve as supplemental guidance for Chapter 6 of the P&P.
 - Interpretation of lab results, especially if there are discrepancies, and how the results drive action.
 - Standardization of data sharing
 - *Needs from the Council:*
 - Review time
 - Detection and Response
 - Build out a viral respiratory pathogen page on the CORHA website.
 - Taking on promotion work around the new CDC materials on respiratory season.
 - Streamline current tools on the CORHA website.
 - *Needs from the Council:*
 - Writing a blog post
 - Coordinating with the communications taskforce