

COUNCIL FOR OUTBREAK RESPONSE: HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS AND ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT PATHOGENS

Healthcare-associated Infections (HAIs) including antibiotic resistant (AR) pathogens cause hundreds of thousands of illnesses and deaths among U.S. patients each year. Despite significant progress, patients are still experiencing preventable harms in the context of outbreaks and other adverse events that stem from delayed recognition of emerging infectious diseases with potential for healthcare transmission, unsafe healthcare practices, contaminated drugs and medical device risks.

Consistent and coordinated approaches are needed to speed up detection of new threats, develop tools to support outbreak investigation, stop outbreaks from spreading, and better inform prevention activities. To address these needs, CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion has funded the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) to create and co-lead the Council for Outbreak Response: HAI/AR (CORHA).

MISSION, VISION, AND MEMBERSHIP

MISSION

To improve practices and policies at the local, state and national levels for detection, investigation, control and prevention of HAI/AR outbreaks across the healthcare continuum, including emerging infections and other risks with potential for healthcare transmission.

VISION

Public health and healthcare collaborating effectively to protect patients and prevent harms from HAI/AR outbreaks.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, the Council established a Governance Committee comprising membership from ASTHO, CSTE, CDC, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). During 2016, the Council will expand to include additional member organizations and workgroup participants.

INITIAL ACTIONS

2015 STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

The Council's Governance Committee met in December 2015 for a two-day strategic planning process (see Strategic Map) and identified the following priorities: (1) creation of a sustainable Council model; (2) development of standardized approaches to outbreak detection and reporting; and (3) supporting consistent and coordinated approaches to investigation and control. The Council will work to **'Build Capacity for Public Health and Healthcare to Improve Outbreak Detection, Response and Prevention.'**

GOVERNANCE

The Council's Draft Bylaws outline the Governance Committee and broader Council member roles and responsibilities.

NEXT STEPS

ENGAGING PARTNERS

As additional members, partners, and workgroups come together, the Council will evolve into an interactive and multidisciplinary collective representing the interests of healthcare consumers; the medical community; state, local and territorial public health authorities; professional associations; and federal agencies.

PROPOSED WORKGROUPS

- **The Detection and Reporting Workgroup** will help identify standard definitions for outbreaks and adverse events as well as thresholds and best practices for detection and reporting.
- **The Investigation and Control Workgroup** will support consistent, coordinated and effective approaches to investigation and control including appropriate levels of response.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Kate Heyer (kheyer@astho.org) and Nicole Bryan (nbryan@cste.org).