



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

RECEIVED FEB 24 2005

February 9, 2005

Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letters forwarding the position statements adopted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) during your 2003 and 2004 annual meeting.

Enclosed are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's responses to the position statements for which you requested our comments. These position statements were circulated and comments were solicited from the appropriate parties.

We look forward to continued collaboration with CSTE regarding public health issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,


Stephen B. Thacker, M.D., M.Sc.
Director
Epidemiology Program Office

Enclosures

cc:

OD

EPO

ES

Dr. John Horan

Dr. Matthew McKenna

Dr. John Ward

Mr. Dennis Jarvis

(others who drafted comments)

Prepared by and contact: John Horan, DAPHT/EPO, (404) 498-6169

Epidemiology Program Office Comments

CSTE Position Statement 03-EC-02, Support for Workforce Development in Applied Epidemiology

Workforce development in applied epidemiology is a high priority for CDC. Through our Office of Workforce and Career Development (OWCD) and our Coordinating Center for Public Health Information and Services (CoCHIS), CDC is taking a multi-pronged approach to this issue:

- CDC staff are partnering with CSTE to convene an expert panel that has recently begun the process of defining competencies for applied epidemiology. We believe this is one of the essential first steps for developing the workforce – defining their roles and the skills needed to perform them well.
- The EIS Program and the State Branch in OWCD provide placement and mentoring of EIS Officers assigned to state and local health departments. In recent years we have been able to increase the numbers of EIS field placements, and currently there are 49 EIS Officers in field assignments.
- The Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) Program assigns experienced epidemiologists to state and large metropolitan health departments to strengthen terrorism preparedness and emergency response, and to help build epidemiologic capacity. This program presently has 19 CEFOs assigned in 17 states and 2 large local health departments.
- The State and Local Applied Training in Epidemiology (SLATE) program involves collaboration among CDC, CSTE, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the Association of Schools of Public Health/Centers for Public Health Preparedness to build epidemiologic capacity for frontline public health workers. SLATE projects include development of a course on “Contemporary Public Health Surveillance,” development and implementation of a train-the-trainer course on “Making the Case for Case Investigation,” and production of a revised and updated *Principles of Epidemiology* text that will be made available in modular format to facilitate training.

recommendations, recently presented to CDC's Executive Leadership Board, include:

- Increasing support for the SLATE program, to increase development, delivery, and evaluation of applied epidemiology training;
- Providing support for the Academic Health Departments (AHDs) project of the Association of Schools of Public Health, including evaluation of the AHDs' impact on the "pipeline" for graduates entering governmental public health;
- Seeking input from state, local, and tribal representatives to explore effective approaches for CDC field staffing.

CDC looks forward to working with CSTE on these activities, and continuing our collaborative efforts to develop and strengthen workforce applied epidemiology.