

CSTE Executive Committee Conference Call
November 22, 2006
Call Summary:

Participants:

Mark Baptiste
Eddy Bresnitz
Allen Craig
Bob Harrison

Jo Hoffman
Mel Kohn
Jennifer Lemmings
Marcia Mabee

Pat McConnon
Mack Sewell
Perry Smith

Agenda

- Legislative Briefing & National Notifiable Conditions Act - **Marcia Mabee**
 - o Senate and House change in power and new committee leadership (see CSTE Washington Report November 17, 2006).

Appropriations: Robert Byrd (WV), Chairman, Daniel Inouye (HI), Patrick Leahy (VT), Tom Harkin (IA), Barbara Mikulski (MD), Herb Kohl (WI), Patty Murray (WA), Byron Dorgan (ND), Dianne Feinstein (CA), Richard Durbin (IL), Tim Johnson (SD), Mary Landrieu (LA), Jack Reed (RI), Frank Lautenberg (NJ), Ben Nelson (NE).

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions: Edward Kennedy (MA), Chairman, Christopher Dodd (CT), Tom Harkin (IA), Barbara Mikulski (MD), Jeff Bingaman (NM), Patty Murray (WA), Jack Reed (RI), Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY), Barack Obama (IL), Bernard Sanders (VT), Sherrod Brown (OH).

- o Labor Education FY 2007 Appropriations:
 - o Neither House nor Senate has passed the 2007 Bill. In addition, potential billion dollar cut in Senate. This bill funds all CDC programs.
- o Pandemic Preparedness all hazards bill – Possibly passed soon.
 - o CSTE managed to keep out the federalizing of NNDSS
- o Senator Hagel and Representative Terry introduced bill – National Reportable Conditions Act (broader than infectious disease and includes environmental disasters and water contamination).
 - o All reporting would go to the Department of Homeland Security
 - o Not part of Pandemic All Hazards Act
 - o On table for 110th Congress
 - o CSTE has put forth a letter to Senator Hagel and Representative Terry stating concerns.
 1. Marcia met with Hagel staff before this was a Bill. CSTE's letter was sent a few weeks ago raising objections and asking for meeting with staff.

2. Hagel replied that he intends to reintroduce this act in 110th Congress and the recent spinach outbreak justifies this Bill. He said that they have taken some of our suggestions already and they have already solicited other public health input that was put into bill. Hagel did agree to meet with CSTE in next Congress.

Action Items:

- o Need to secure meeting with Hagel and Senator Kennedy
 - o Solicit help from ASTHO and ask ASTHO to get state health officers to contact key representatives
 - o Jim Hadler will draft op/ed and submit to NYT and Washington Post
 - o James Hodge is looking into legal basis for this Bill
 - o EC would like to meet with Kennedy staff with State Epis (in person or conference call): Ask Eddy Bresnitz and Jim Hadler to represent CSTE in December.
- RWJ and Related Contracts – Pat McConnon
 - o Should know before December 1. Expect to get full or partial reward.
 - o James Hodge will be working with CSTE
 - o Invite Hodge to the CSTE Annual Conference as part of the Surveillance Plenary
 - o RWJ submission includes: FERPA, Public Health Practice vs. Research, and BioSense Information Collection

Action Items:

- o Pat McConnon will send executive summary to the CSTE EC
- Cooperative Agreement Schedule – New 5 Year Agreement – Pat McConnon
 - o CDC has provided a 32 page document related to program announcement
 - o CDC is holding large scale meeting in early December that includes CSTE, ASTHO, NACCHO, and APHL to discuss workings of new cooperative agreements
 - o Cooperative agreement proposal is now due February 15
 - o Plan to have draft of cooperative agreement early January.
 - o Agreement years may overlap and we will have an overlap period of six months between two funding years, but the final process is not clear.
 - o Current funding year: 5.8 million including carryover (800K). Base funding from year to year is 2.6 million.
 - ECA Report – Jennifer Lemmings
 - o Draft Report of 2006 results and results comparing data from previous ECAs
 - o Matt Boulton and Dale Morse are providing insight into the discussion and recommendations sections

- Anticipate having statistical summary completed in December. At this time, we plan to distribute to states with a broader release that will coincide with upcoming publications.
 - Upcoming publications include MMWR (BT Update), PHR (Competency and Training), and broad discussion in the AJPH
- Annual meeting update - Bresnitz
 - Julie Gerberding, CDC, will attend the CSTE Annual Conference and participate in a plenary session
- CDC cooperative agreement - Treasurer
 - CSTE is working with CDC to address funds that have not been obligated in the CDC/CSTE Cooperative Agreement
- Organizational proposal - Mack Sewell
 - Development of Sections process: The EC does not favor developing sections and believes that interests of groups wanting sections can be met by the current structure
 - Mack has agreed to submit proposed changes to by-laws and to review inconsistencies in current language

President's items:

- Ellen will be leaving CSTE EC (ID Position) February 15. She has agreed to complete Annual Conference Planning process.
 - Bob Harrison will ask Chris Hahn to fill in until elections in June, including reviewing ID Position Statements.
- Ken Castro projected a reduction of TB Funding by 25% to states over the next few years. This will be a significant reduction to states. Reductions are viewed by some as disproportional between TB elimination and research.
 - Other ID program areas (WNV, ELC, etc.) are also seeing reductions in funding
 - The best strategy may not be fighting this disease by disease

Action Item: Put together a policy brief with Lisa Daly and Marcia Mabee on reductions of state ID funding (TB, WNV). Include portion on federalization of surveillance systems (state's right issue)

Next Call: December 15