

2013-2014 CSTE Executive Board Conference Call July 3, 2013

Executive Board

Tim Jones (TN)
Renee Calanan (CO)

Laurene Mascola (CA)
Sharon Watkins (FL)

Marci Layton (NY)
Joe McLaughlin (AK)

CSTE Staff

Jeff Engel

Beverly Christner

Jennifer Lemmings

Agenda

**Tim would like to note that the EB conference calls will start on time.*

1. Government relations update: VA Reporting Bill; Udall Amendment to Immigration Bill

The VA Reporting Bill will be featured in the next issue of the CSTE Newsletter. Tim Jones (TN) had the opportunity to testify in Congress in the House Veteran Affairs Committee in June. The Bill has received favorable notice in the House and is expected to sail through the House of Representatives. The Bill will mandate VA facilities to obey state and local notifiable disease reporting regulations. The Senate may hold this Bill because of procedural issues and may not take it up until next year. As it stands, the VA Headquarters have issued a policy that requires VA hospitals to report notifiable diseases to their state and local health departments.

The Udall Amendment to the Immigration Bill has passed the Senate. The Bill will strengthen border security and provide a pathway to earned citizenship. Five million dollars of appropriations have been allocated to the Border Infectious Disease Surveillance System, which has replaced the defunded Early Warning Infectious System. CSTE has had conversations with New Mexico State Epidemiologist Michael Landen, who is not opposed but feels that the \$5 million in appropriations can be distributed to other priorities. CSTE intends to track the movement of this Bill.

2. New Subcommittee on PH-Primary Care integration, assignment to Cross-Cutting Chair

A new subcommittee titled Public Health-Primary Care Integration has been assigned to the Cross Cutting Steering Committee. CSTE staff assigned are Jessica Pittman and Meredith Lichtenstein, and CSTE members Tom Safranek (NE) and Katrina Hedberg (OR) will Co-Chair. The subcommittee will be assigned to a Member at Large Executive Board member. There will be more discussion as the subcommittee develops beginning in September.

3. Orientation Schedule for New EB Members

New Executive Board Orientation Materials are being prepared. Materials will be mailed and a conference call will be scheduled for a review of the materials.

4. Implementing Bylaws Changes

The Amended Bylaws will be announced to the membership in July. Beverly and Jeff will be working on policy guidelines for the nomination process, elections and online voting and will present a proposal to the Executive Board at the October EB Meeting.

Action Item:

- Beverly and Jeff will work on the proposal that will reflect the new voting changes for all active members in the Executive Board Election. The proposal will be delivered at the October Executive Board Meeting.

5. CDC/APHL Virologic Influenza “Right Size” Project

CSTE has been asked by APHL to help out the Right Size Project. The Right Size Project is a collaboration with CDC and APHL that was launched in 2010 to systematically define the rational, vital capabilities needed and the optimal size for influenza virologic surveillance and address the following questions:

- How much influenza surveillance is really needed? What is the “right size”?
- Do we need more or less laboratory testing?
- How do we know the surveillance data we have provides an accurate picture of what is really happening?

There are a series of teleconferences and webinars on the Right Size Project; the announcement of dates and times was emailed to the Executive Board on July 3, 2013.

6. CDC OSELS Reorg/EIS Changes

Tim (TN) received an email from Denise Koo (OSELS) that highlighted upcoming changes to the EIS program.

- Doug Hamilton has been detailed to OSELS
- Improving on the EIS matching process
- Adding additional courses to the EIS program
 - Informatics
 - Healthcare delivery
- The restructuring of EFAB

Joe (AK) commented that Denise Koo (CDC) and Diana Benysl (CDC) have reached out to CSTE to discuss the upcoming proposed changes to the EIS program and have solicited input and feedback from CSTE. There is an interest that OSELS can learn and model their EIS program from the CSTE Fellowship program. OSELS is open to establishing a routine dialogue in the format of conference calls or teleconferences with CSTE leadership during the reorganizing of the EIS program.

Action Items:

- Joe (AK) will forward the discussion document from Diana Benysl (CDC) to the Executive Board.
- The Executive Board would like to provide feedback to the EIS program. Jeff will follow up with Denise Koo (CDC) to establish some type of routine dialogue.

7. International Opportunities

All of the current CSTE international consultations are coming from the CDC Influenza Division. CSTE has a team that is expected to travel in July to Cambodia, and this will be the last scheduled international consultation for CSTE. For the month of June, there was an international consultation to Cote d'Ivoire. CSTE has received some funding for next year from the Influenza division to continue with the international consultations. There are some remaining funds from the Office of Global Health that have not been expended and can be used for international consultation. Jennifer has reached out to Nabil Ahmed from OGH to use the remaining funds for global outreach.

Action Item:

- Jeff will communicate to CDC that CSTE would like to continue global outreach.

8. Establish Monthly State Epi Call

CSTE will begin monthly informational conference calls with the state epidemiologists and Executive Board.

Action Items:

- Jeff will survey the State Epidemiologists for dates and times that will accommodate their schedules.
- Once a date for the first call has been scheduled, Jeff will select a leadership group from CDC to provide a 20-minute update or presentation.