

Data Use and Network Content Workgroup (DUNC)
1/31/2007, 3:00-4:00 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday February 28, 2007

3:00-4:00 pm

Room 827A (across the street from PSOB, 827 NE Oregon, Suite 250)

Participants: Rodney Garland, Gregg Lande, Michael Heumann, Nita Heimann, Joyce Grant-Worley, Michael Emerson, Richard Leman, Mandy Green, Elizabeth Everman, Diane Stockton, Patricia Westling, and Robert Vega (phone)

Meeting Overview

- December meeting notes were approved.
- Review of Questions for the DUNC.
 - Due to time constraints, only questions 1 and 2 were discussed at this meeting. We will continue reviewing these questions throughout the project.
 - Change language from “draft” to “living document.”
 - When talking about groups, clarify whether the group being referred to is a national or Oregon group (this should be done throughout all documents).
 - What are Trihalomethanes in Drinking Water? A chemical byproduct of the chlorination disinfection process, which may lead to cancer. There is some of the data in the Drinking Water Program’s database.
 - In the National Content Workgroup (CWG), they are addressing pathways of exposure, but more concerned about developing indicators to use, and how they will be measured.
 - Regarding air quality data – is CWG considering modeled versus monitoring data? Rodney stated that both will be used, but which will be considered first is still under discussion.
 - The CWG is aware that asthma is still not reportable in many states within the National EPHT Program. They are also discussing whether to use EPA or state DEQs as a data source for environmental data.
 - How much responsibility does the DUNC have to make these decisions? Not so much initially, it will be mostly done at a National level. However, state Technical Advisory Groups will be able to provide feedback through the state EPHT representative.
 - What does birth rate measure? It is not an environmental determined health effect. Joyce Grant-Worley would like more clarification on this and why it is included.
 - Oregon does not have a birth defects registry. The CWG is aware that many states do not have a birth defects registry, even though it is a core measure, and they will address this lack in the future.

- Is it possible to narrow the field to one finite insured group in order to have cleaner data, such as Medicaid? Oregon EPHT tried this but we need to determine the policy of using the data.
 - BRFSS data is available, but there are also some limitations to that. OAP added a child asthma component for the next survey.
 - County-level data is probably where we will start. We do not know whether or not it will go to a finer geographic scale, and how accurate that data may be is not yet determined.
 - To create nationally-consistent data is going to be a very difficult task for the national group because registries and data collection quality differs from state to state.
 - How difficult would it be to look at the measures and determine what the level of granularity may be? The CWG is working on this but we do not know when they will have answers.
- Database Inventory
 - Rodney gave a brief history of the Inventory.
 - Is there a place for data access tools? If so, Vista PH should be added into the inventory.
 - Gregg pointed out that some of the DEQ databases have changed. This is probably true of some of the other databases as well.
 - Michael Heumann pointed out that inventory numbers 34 is not correct, but number 35 is correct for that same information.
 - Rodney asked for people to let him know if they see other errors, as we need to keep this document as current as possible. We have a decent idea of what is available at ODHS and DEQ, but not many of the other databases, especially outside of state systems.
 - Michael Emerson stated that Oregon Healthy Teens has some questions about asthma that would be good to include in the inventory.
 - Air Indicator Report for Public Access and Community Tracking (AirPACT), Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS), Real Estate Transactions (RET) drinking water data, DEQ Pacific Northwest Water Quality Exchange, DEQ Air Quality, and Hospital Discharge Index data are all databases that Rodney has gained access to. Rodney has worked collaboratively with the Oregon State Cancer Registry (OSCaR) OSCaR and Lead Program and has worked with some of their data.
 - Michael Heumann pointed out that Washington (Seattle, Puget Sound area) has a daily monitoring service that sends alerts to people for asthma regulation. DEQ has the information available daily, (AQI) that anyone can access daily.
 - Rodney will make modifications to the inventory (and others as they come available) and post it back to the website.
 - Summary of Environmental Health Indicators Work
 - These were developed through CSTE subgroups. Then SEHIC further developed this, along with a how-to guide.

- All of the Indicator documents are posted on the EPHT website at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/epht/DUNC.shtml>.
- Next Meeting
 - Nita Heimann will provide a demonstration of VistaPH and the data within VistaPH to both the SLAM and DUNC teams.