

Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness

HB 511

RSA Chapter: 126-A: 73

9-15-17

Call To Order:

Chairman Rep. Mark Pearson called the meeting to order at 10:01AM.

Rep. Salloway, clerk, distributed minutes of the 9-6-17 meeting and a contact information sheet to be signed by attendees. The chairman invited new members to introduce themselves. Rep. Weber is replaced by Rep. Messner. Added to the minutes was designation of Rep. Pearson as chairman and Rep. Salloway as clerk.

Organization:

A: Rep. Pearson asked that data bases be included in minutes.

David C. Bates will create a web site to make data accessible to the commission.

B: Rep. Pearson introduced Tyler Brannon of the NH Insurance Dept.

He described the NH Comprehensive Health Data Information System. This data goes back to 2005. Most people with insurance are in this data base. There is a website with this data. This has been used to assess cost of care. DHHS controls research access to this data. This is a large, complex data set.

C. Rep. Pearson noted that those who are uninsured aren't in the data base.

D. Rep. Kotowski asked about managed care data and Medicare data. These are pending,

E. Rep. Messner asked about residency data by zip code.

F. Ms. Porter noted the categories of insured, uninsured and self-pay.

G. Dr. Sherman asked who else might be missed in this data base. Mr. Brannon noted that some are not covered in the data base. Insurance department is attempting to get data from neighboring states. Dr. Sherman asked about coding for multiple diagnoses.

H. Rep. Salloway asked about death certificate data-not available on this data base. Up-coding, somewhat. DHHS has the data and some ability to analyze it.

I. There is a report available on the NH Insurance Dept. web site.

J. Dr. Sherman asked if there is a disease burden report for the state. Jo Porter identified a report from UNH which chronicles rates of chronic diseases.

K. Ms. Levesque asked about the NH Health and Equity Report Card. Rep. Messner asked that UNH report its data to the commission.

L. Dr. Wold asked about Medicaid data. Most recent data is two years old. Mr. Dumond will provide the Health & Equity Report Card.

Mr. Dumond introduced staff from Environmental Services.

A: **Dr. Kathleen Bush, Environmental/Public Health Tracking.** Dr. Bush reviewed data bases at DHHS. Data is found at <https://wisdom.DHHS.NH.GOV>. Dr. Sherman asked if data sets overlap. Untreated disease is not reported. The data exists but DHHS does not permit access. Ms. Porter noted that discharge data is more comprehensive than claims data. Rep. Salloway asked if DHHS could identify cancer spots. Dr. Bush declined. Mr. Dumond asked for examples - Lyme disease was described. Ms. Porter asked for release of the guidelines for access to data. Rep. Messner clarified the commission's need for data.

B. **Dr. Christine Bean, Director of Public Health Labs.** Dr. Bean described the role of the public health lab. Data is in a lab information data management system. It is not accessible to outsiders. Dr. Sherman asked if data could appear in the Wisdom system. Yes!

C. **Amanda Cossar, Biomonitoring Program.** She reviewed methods, criterion and programs. Water and home arsenic and uranium are being studied. The intent is to put this data on Wisdom. Dr. Sherman asked if the lab study looked at health history. Yes! Dr. Pearson asked if water testing was available to the public. Yes! Mr. Dumond asked who funds this. CDC! Rep. Kotowski asked if CDC would publish reports. Yes!

D. **Mike Wimstat, Waste Management Division.** DES has developed a one-stop data site on environment, especially hazardous waste disposal, air emissions, Dr. Kathleen Bush Dr. Kathleen Bush petroleum water discharge, solid waste facilities. EDM is environmental monitoring data. Also automated data logs report in real time. Dr. Sherman asked if geographical data is now available. Ms. Levesque asked if organizations work together

to combine information on outcomes. DHHS restricts data. DES is willing to work on this. Mr. Dumond identified efforts at cooperative efforts. Dr. Bush added descriptions of collaborative efforts. Dr. Sherman described the Seacoast cancer cluster.

- E. **Whitney Hammond, Chronic Disease Prevention.** Cancer registry is federally funded since 1986. Data is available to researchers on request. Dr. Sherman, the registry is not used proactively to look for hot spots. Rep. Messner asked about out-of-state data. It is collected. Ms. Porter observed that this is cancer incidence reporting. Dr. Wold asked if there was a list of monitored chronic diseases. Yes!

Next meeting goal will be to continue identifying sources of data. Ms. Porter noted the distinction between data and reports. She will organize speakers from UNH.

Mr. Dumond will speak on lead exposure.

We will meet again on October 6, 2017. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.