

Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered Chronic Illness

HB 511

RSA Chapter: 126-A: 73

10-20-17

I: Meeting was called to order at 10 am by Chairman Pearson.

A: Minutes of the meeting were distributed.

1. Ms. Costello noted corrections of her title and department.
2. Dr. Sherman noted a spelling correction Mr. Wimsatt.
3. Minutes were approved.

B: Next meetings will be Monday, November 13 and Friday, Dec. 8.

C: A chart outlining risk factors and disease outcomes was distributed. Dr. Wold voted that some toxins and outcomes are possible but not adequately documented to be included.

1. This chart will be posted on the commission website.
2. Dr. Sherman added the risk of radiation.
3. Rep. Ohm observed the need to identify dose and length of exposure as variables.
  - a. Dr. Sherman suggested an expanded Excel spreadsheet.
  - b. Ms. Costello asked for clarification of categories.
4. Dr. Sherman noted the need to age-categorize.

II: Website

A: Mr. D.C. Bates noted his efforts to add data bases to the commission website.

### III: Interim Report

A: Report of progress is due Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

1. A draft was distributed.
  - a. Ms. Costello and Dr. Sherman suggested edits. Rep. Pearson added his pithy edits.

B: An attendee (Whitney), from DHHS, asked for an edit regarding data suppression rules.

1. Rep. Pearson spoke of the need to generate data while protecting privacy.
  - a. Dr. Bush noted that such data is available publicly.
  - b. Ms. Costello asked that the data suppression rules be made available.
2. Edits were discussed and recorded by Mr. Bates for revision to the final document.

C: Rep. Messmer moved adoption of the document as amended. Seconded by Dr. Wold and passed in voice vote.

### IV: Dr. Bush presented the NH Health Data Portal known as WISDOM.

A: She demonstrated the utility of WISDOM to demonstrate rates of disease incidence across the state.

1. Rep. Pearson asked if the department initiated studies.
  - a. Dr. Bush indicated that they use collected data from other sources.
2. Dr. Sherman asked if anyone is tasked with identifying hot spots.
  - a. Dr. Bush described the lead surveillance program.

- b. Dr. Sherman asked if the data were coordinated. Dr. Bush noted limited resources. Dr. Bean described how coordinating committees struggle to bring people, agencies and data together.
3. Rep. Guthrie asked what resources are needed to advance this effort.
  - a. “Something is better than nothing,” Dr. Bush, i.e., it takes time.
4. Ms. Costello asked about task force funding. There is none.
5. Rep. Salloway noted that outcomes as reported are “dirty data” and we need to be cautious in attributing outcomes to risk.
  - a. Ms. Costello and Dr. Bush discussed the concept of attributable risk.
6. Mr. Bates noted the decline in federal funding.
7. Dr. Sherman asked if there is a way to measure the results of surveillance and intervention
  - a. Rep. Salloway issued a caveat that measuring outcome is difficult.

V: Rep. Pearson suggested agendas for future meetings.

A: Dr. Sherman asked for a witness who could describe the power and utility of statistical data.

1. Rep. Pearson offered perspective on using data from other states.

B: Dr. Sherman asked if we could build a map of the location of data sets.

1. He suggested that we reach out to other states to both gather and disseminate our results.

VI: Meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeffrey Salloway, Clerk