

Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered  
Chronic Illness  
(RSA 126: A: 73)  
April 13, 2018  
Minutes of the meeting

In Attendance: Rep. J.C. Salloway, Rep. Mindi Messmer, Julie Bosak, Rep. Mark Pearson, Rep Joe Guthrie, Tom Sherman, Mike Dumond, Thomas Wold

- I. Call to Order at 10:10 by Chairman Rep Pearson.
  - A. Rep. Pearson reported on the progress of HB 1356 mandating collaboration between DHHS & DES.
  - B. Rep. Pearson spoke to final results emphasizing the need to facilitate data flow.
  
- II. Homework Assignments
  - A. Rep. Pearson asked Rep. Salloway to report on Media announcements of environmental risks.
    - 1. Howard Altshiller of Seacoast Media Group provided information.
    - 2. The committee added links from DHHS & DES to the public.
    - 3. Rep Pearson suggested creating categorized lists for public, professionals, and environmentalists.
      - a. Dr. Sherman suggesting regionalized lists.
    - 4. Rep. Pearson noted the need to include Mass, Maine and Vermont TV Media.
    - 5. Rep. Salloway will update the distributed list as passed out by Mr. Bates.
      - a. DHHS & DES can be asked to create categorized lists. They already do this.

Salloway	Where does the decision get made as to how widely info is disseminated?
Sherman	By rule we want to protect privacy but not insult public.
Pearson	Not insult, but unnecessarily alarm. Sounds like DES/DHHS have thought of this.

- 6. Mr. Dumond cautioned to meet the levels of health literacy in the public.
  - a. Rep. Pearson will invite PIO's from DHHS & DES for our next meeting.

- III. Dr. Sherman reported on the committee with Dr. Bush and Mr. Dumond.
  - A. How to communicate risk and public health.
  - B. They asked what data they have.
    - 1. Dr. Bush had previously distributed much material.
    - 2. Dr. Sherman chronicled the number of contaminants that we may not know.
      - a. He described the current methods used in emerging contaminants. Their data is at the town level.
      - b. The key is how granular the data can be reported without violating privacy.
      - c. Rep. Salloway noted that we can get down to census track data but this is not equivalent to exposure time.
      - d. Data maybe misleading.
      - e. Commission could recommend review of the rules regarding privacy.
  - C. Claims data, cancer registry, hospital data are all available.
    - 1. Amy Costello and Tyler Boannon have reviewed these data bases previously. Some data is missing.

2. Dr. Sherman believes the volume of missing data is small.
  - D. Mr. Dumond noted that DHHS is updating systems.
    1. The committee learned a great deal from Massachusetts
  - E. Dr. Sherman recommended regional coordination.
  - F. Mr. Dumond suggested the limits of sharing data.
  - G. Dr. Bush described national efforts at coordinating methods, software and data.
    1. Mr. Dumond and Dr. Bush have limited time availability to participate in the final report.
- IV. Chairman Pearson reviewed what we need to accomplish in the final report.
- A. Rep. Messmer pointed out that these are bills in the Senate to fund a state toxicologist and risk assessment.
  - B. Dr. Sherman cautioned the absence of Dr. Bush and retirement of Mr. Dumond.
  - C. Dr. Wold added to Rep. Messmer's list of diseases to track.
  - D. Mr. Dumond noted the costs which Mass spent on similar activity.
    1. There is increased Federal funding.
  - E. Rep. Salloway reviewed general directions for a final report.
  - F. Rep. Messmer went arsenic and bladder cancer.
    1. She suggested extension of the life of this commission
  - G. Dr. Wold commented on Mass. Link of cost to clinical outcomes.
    1. Dr. Sherman explicated that link.
- V. Next meeting will be

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Jeffrey Salloway, Clerk