

Commission to Study Environmentally-Triggered
Chronic Illness
(RSA 126: A: 73)
September 28, 2018
Minutes of the Meeting

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Pearson at 10:12.
- II. The Committee reviewed minutes of the meeting of 6-1-2018.
 - A. Sen Clark asked for the list of attendees and moved inclusion of the list.
Motion passed.
 - B. Gobain is to be St. Gobain
 - C. Dr. Chithalen's title is Toxicologist.
 - D. Correct Jim Chiles to Jay Chiles.
 - E. VI, A- letter will come from legislators.
 1. That letter should be posted under documents on our website.
 - F. Sen Fuller Clark asked for distribution of revised minutes. Motion passed.
- III. Lisa Morris, Director of Public Health Services came forward.
 - A. Dr. Sai Cherala, Director of Population Health
 - B. Michelle Roberge appeared.
 - C. Lisa Morris presented her preliminary report and signed memo of agreement with DES.
 - D. She described a proposed pilot study on arsenic and uranium exposures.
- IV. Dr. Cherala reported on the progress of DPH and DES toward data sharing.
 - A. The work group established standard operating procedures. This is not yet final.
 - B. She described pilot studies proposed for arsenic and uranium.
 1. The work group is examining what data exist on exposures and outcomes.
 2. Is it possible to do this?
 - C. Rep Ohm compared the proposed pilot to the need for research on opioids.
 1. Lisa Morris replied.
 - D. Rep Salloway noted that opioid is a policy issue and arsenic/uranium is environmental.
 - E. Dr. Sherman commented that environmental risk is not going away. Federal funding will go away. We need to do long-term planning.
 1. Rep. Pearson asked if this would be embedded in the budget process.
 2. Amy Costello noted that federal funding may shift.
 3. Rep Pearson related toxic waste dumping in Leominster, Massachusetts. He recommended including cost effectiveness measures in the documents.
 4. Rep Pearson and Salloway encouraged contact with Prof. Robert Woodward in Lee, NH.
 5. Sen Fuller Clark asked what financial resources are in place and what is needed to do this work.

a. Ms. Morris indicated the need to develop a plan for sustainability and funding.

6. Rep. Messmer reported her research with Prof. Woodward on cost savings.

7. Rep Salloway asked why it's not part of the budget process. Ms. Morris said "It's up to you guys, up to the Legislature."

V. Rep Pearson reviewed progress thus far in getting DHHS & DES to work together. He asked for further advice.

A. Ms. Morris & Rep Pearson discussed moving from retrospective prospective studies.

B. Dr. Sherman suggested the DHHS Oversight Committee as a vehicle.

VI. Dr. Sherman, representing the medical society.

A. He reported on the sub-committee of the commission.

1. DHHS is improving IT processes.

B. Sub-committee met with the state environmental epidemiologist from Massachusetts.

C. NH is now #1 for pediatric cancer rates.

D. Sub-group concentrated on creating maps of exposure and outcomes.

1. There is excellent data from the Dept. of Insurance.

2. The first step is a pilot study on arsenic in drinking water.

3. Second phase would be an expanded review of environmental contaminants.

4. Third stage suggests developing an automated system to create ways.

a. Rep Salloway pontificated about accessing both outcome and exposure data.

b. Mike Wimsatt, Director of Waste Management at DHHS joined Dr. Sherman.

c. Rep Salloway asked about pharmaceutical exposures in drinking water.

i. Rep. Messmer asked about use of urinalysis.

5. Sen. Fuller Clark asked for copies of the studies. She noted that medicines flow into toilets.

E. Dr. Sherman raised the issue of legal requirements to report contaminants in real estate transactions.

F. Dr. Sherman reviewed the fate of strategic health planning for the state under COH.

1. Ms. Morris replied that DHHS is revising its IT.

VII. Chairman Pearson Next meeting will be at 10am on Tuesday Oct. 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21.