

Connecticut Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 26, 2010

Attendees: Ray Andrews, Lauren Backman, Laurie Brentlinger, Karen Buckley-Bates, Lillian Burns, Kathryn Cusano, Louise Dembry, Louise DeChesser, Carol Dietz, Nancy Dupont, Wendy Furniss, Brenda Grant, Alison Hong, Laura Jordan, Diana Kelly, Cynthia Kohan, Alessandra Litro, Harry Mazadoorian, Richard Melchreit, David Neville, Gayle Nobert, Mary Pakulski, Julie Petrellis, Diane Pomarico (phone), Jean Rexford, Richard Rodriguez, Jack Ross (phone), Douglas Waite, Lisa Winkler

Call to order: Richard Melchreit called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.


Review and approval of prior Advisory Committee meeting minutes (2/11/10) and Advisory Committee Special Meeting (3/11/10): The draft minutes were reviewed. The February 11, 2010 draft minutes were accepted with grammatical corrections to the paragraph under the heading “Annual Surveys”; the March 11, 2010 minutes were accepted as written.

Program (federal stimulus funding) update:

The Emerging Infection Program position, now reclassified to an Epidemiologist 2, has completed a round of interviews and an offer will be made soon to the leading candidate. Gayle Norbert has been hired as a part-time Infection Control Practitioner position, and was introduced to the Advisory Committee. The DPH Human Investigations Committee (our IRB) has approved the protocol of the HAI prevalence and antibiotic use assessment protocol. The three hospitals that will be participating in the Phase 2 project the summer are taking the protocol to their IRBs for review.

Prevention Collaborative report:

CUSP: Stop BSI - A new cohort will begin in July, which means that any hospitals can join and current hospitals can add new ICUs to the project. The national project is expanding to add non ICU CLABSI from the “floors” and new HAIs can be tracked, including Ventilator Associated Pneumonias (VAPs) and Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs).

MDRO Collaborative - The full-day May 20th statewide MRDO conference sponsored by Qualidigm and the state MDRO collaborative, and supported with federal stimulus (ARRA ) funds, was very successful. Drs. Guh (from CDC), Melchreit, and Parry gave lectures and participated in a panel with active participation by the audience. In the afternoon session, Dynamic Training, Inc., which has worked with the Columbia Presbyterian System (including Stamford Hospital), trained persons who will be leading hand hygiene coaching projects in health facilities. The session was very well received. Qualidigm and Stamford Hospital staff can be contacted for additional information about the Dynamic Training session, if desired.

Legislative/Government Relations Report:

The DPH “technical” bill passed the legislature, and will soon be signed into law. A copy of the technical bill will be posted on the HAI website.

SIR

The “Standardized Infection Ratio” for CLABSI for the states that have mandatory CLABSI reporting, Connecticut among them, will be posted on the CDC website on Friday, May 28th. Hospitals should anticipate that they might get questions about their facility rates, though CDC is publishing only statewide rates, and they may receive questions about facility-level prevention practices. Questions about the state SIR can be referred to DPH.

Proposal regarding public reporting of facility-level data

The work group of HAI Committee members, lead by Louise Dembry and Jean Rexford, reported on their work on the template for reporting of hospital-level data. The group presented a template based to a large degree on the Vermont report template that the group members felt would be easy to use and clear for the public. While the template involves text to help interpret the table, it is understood that additional background and technical explanations would be supplied on the DPH website and in the annual report to the legislature. Lauren Backman was commended for her work on preparation of various model templates that the group was able to choose from.

The Committee unanimously passed a motion to adopt the template recommended by the working group. A motion was made and passed to post the data from the hospitals for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 on the DPH HAI website on or around January 1, 2011, and to update the posted data to cover the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 by March 1, 2011 and to include the latter data in the annual report to the legislature that is due May 1, 2011.

Educational initiatives and CLABSI data validation

The second cycle of validation has begun (covering data from the last quarter of 2009). As we move forward with posting the facility specific data, the Education Subcommittee will be examining possible revisions to the DPH HAI webpage, and can use the findings of the January focus group to aid in this work.

Health Improvement Planning

The Health Improvement Planning process has begun. The Steering Committee held its first meeting by phone, and will be holding its first in-person meeting immediately after the adjournment of this Committee meeting, to create a vision statement and mission for the plan.

Annual surveys

A motion was made and passed unanimously to recommend that the DPH HAI NHSN Group share the data from the facility annual NHSN surveys with DPH.

Future meetings:

The next in-person meeting will be the regular scheduled (quarterly) meeting of the HAI Advisory Committee and will be held at CHA on Wednesday, August 4th 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. A meeting of the Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee may be held immediately after.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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