

## **Connecticut Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee Minutes February 23, 2011**

### **Attendees:**

Ray Andrews, Lauren Backman, Laurie Brentlinger, Dale Cunningham, Louise Dembry, Carol Dietz, Diane Dunnigan, Nancy Dupont, Wendy Furniss, Brenda Grant, Robin Heard, Diana Kelly, Cathy Ligi, Alessandra Litro, Robert Magnoli, Meghan Maloney, Harry Mazadoorian, Richard Melchreit, David Neville, Mary Palulski, Lynn Pepin, Julie Petrellis, Jean Rexford, Richard Rodriguez, Jack Ross, Joanne Smarden, Ethel Smith, Lisa Winkler

**Call to order:** Richard Melchreit called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Review and approval of prior Advisory Committee meeting minutes (11/4/10):** The draft minutes were reviewed and approved.

### **EIP Projects:**

Richard Melchreit gave an update on the spending activities for the EIP grant. Only \$3000 has been spent to date and there was a conference call with CDC and they support the DPH spending. DPH assured CDC that the money will be spent by 12/31/11. We now have an Epidemiologist 2, Meghan Maloney that started 1/28/11 and the Dialysis contract is being signed by the Network of New England. The DPH will be hiring temporary nurse chart reviewers to work on the prevalence survey.

DPH recently sent out a survey via survey monkey to determine what types of trainings are needed for infection control staff. DPH will use the money from the ELC grant to put on APIC trainings for staff in CT. Discussion was had amongst the group about what types of hospital personnel need to be trained and what types of trainings will be appropriate.

### **Prevention Collaboratives update (CUSP: Stop BSI/CAUTI, MDRO):**

**CUSP: Stop BSI – CUSP:** Stop BSI has been operating for 18months and is beginning to wind down as new CUSP initiatives begin. HRET will be releasing project data that is said to be statistically significant and once CHA receives the data, it will be shared. CHA will be beginning the CUSP: CAUTI project, and is still enrolling participants. They hope to reduce the CAUTI rate by 25%.

**MDRO Collaborative** – The workshop on C.Difficile prevention, environmental cleaning, and culture change/addressing resistance was a success. They are waiting for CMS to give new directions for future initiatives.

### **Dialysis:**

A contract with the Network of New England is in the process of being signed by Jenny Kitsen. The contract is for a planned surveillance project of outpatient hemodialysis patients. The specific goal of this project to identify evidence-based “Core Interventions” that will decrease blood stream infections in at least 35 outpatient dialysis centers located in the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The contract will begin March 1, 2011.

**Legislative/Government Relations:**

Thus far it has been a quiet session. It was suggested that we may need to remind our legislators that this committee exists and to put issues in the hot seat.

**CLABSI data validation:**

The second cycle of validation (covering data from the last quarter of 2009) continues. Lauren will present the data at the next committee meeting in May.

**Hospital-specific CLABSI reporting: rollout plan:**

The hospital specific posting of the facility specific data will be on the website within the next few weeks. The new DPH Commissioner has sent a letter to each hospital's CEO (with a cc to key staff: Infection Preventionists and hospital epidemiologists) about the data. Each hospital was given a week or two to review and make comment on the data and webpage. We are still collecting letters from hospitals at this time. When the webpage is ready for posting, DPH will announce it through a press release. The committee suggested a press conference or press release be issued by DPH and the Governor's Office to announce this information to the public. A press release from the Governor's Office will have more of an impact on the public.

**Education Initiative:**

The Education Subcommittee is working on standard presentations about HAIs that can be given at schools, nursing homes, senior centers etc. Different members of the committee will be able to give the presentation to any audience. The DPH will be examining possible revisions to the DPH HAI webpage. The handwashing education campaign will be looked over for 2012. The DPH HAI Program will look to collaborate with nursing programs to educate the new workforce. Different advertising methods were discussed to educate about HAI's.

**State HAI planning process, timeline:**

The planning conference has been moved to June 2011. We will be having a call with the HIP Steering Committee to inform them of the upcoming conference. Upcoming brainstorming sessions will be scheduled for the sectors to come up with goals & objectives. DPH will send out an email to everyone with the date change of the planning conference. DPH will send out the notes from the breakout sessions for the November conference to all speakers and facilitators.