

**Healthcare Acquired Infections**  
**November 19, 2007**  
**8:00 – 10:00 AM**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Lillian Burns, Karen Buckley-Bates, Brenda Grant, John Fontana, Richard Garibaldi, Brian Fillipo, Louise Dembry, Diane Selvidio, Cindy Kehan, Jennifer Martin, Susan MacArthur, Tanya Court, Jean Rexford, Bonnie Capasso, Ray Andrews, Harry Mazadoorian, Lloyd Mueller, Trish McCooey, Joseph Garner, Julie Petrellis, Laurie Brentlinger, Diane Dumigan, Brian Cooper, Jill Kentfield, David Neville, Hari Chanda, Jennifer Cox

The meeting was called to order by Karen Buckley-Bates at 8:05 am.

**DPH presentation:**

Dr. Matthew Cartter presented to the workgroup activities of the Department of Public Health's Epidemiology Program on MRSA surveillance. His presentation included a history of MRSA cases, including information about the case in Virginia created media attention; JAMA article by CDC; DPH efforts: MRSA Hotline, Community forums, DPH LAB MRSA PFGE testing, and DPH surveillance efforts.

**Education Subcommittee:**

The Education subcommittee hired Policy Studies Inc. (PSI) to carry out the education campaign. PSI has worked with other states on this issue including the Massachusetts Dept of Public Health. Of all the applicants, PSI was the most diverse in educational opportunities. Prior to creating the education campaign PSI needs to know from the workgroup the following information:

- Who is the target audience?
- What is the message the workgroup wants to portray?

A meeting has been scheduled at the Legislative Office Building's cafeteria for 11/28/07 12:00 noon to discuss these issues.

**CDC NHSN implementation:**

A letter from Commissioner Galvin was sent to all hospitals requesting each hospital enroll in NHSN by 12/1/07 and begin reporting by 1/1/08. The letter included the link to enroll and system requirements.

**CHA Training:**

The initial training has been completed all hospitals participated except for 3. Those hospitals scheduled a separate session and have since been trained. The next training is scheduled to take place on 12/5/07.

**Discussion on Data Collection:**

The survey of ICU beds was completed by CHA. A summary handout was distributed to all workgroup members. The intent of the survey was to make a decision on information the

workgroup will require hospitals to report beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. The summary will be revised to include a list of hospitals and which types of ICU's they have. This will be used as a tool to ensure all aspects/types of ICU reporting have been identified. The following reporting guidelines were created:

- Every Hospital will Participate
- Pediatric ICU and/or a Neonatal ICU: hospitals with Pediatric ICUs will need to report data from at least the Pediatric ICU.
- Adults: reporting from Medical ICU or combined ICU (Medical/Surgical). Each hospital with a Medical ICU or Medical/Surgical ICU will report on at least one of the Medical ICUs. Hospitals should consider their selections based on the ICU with the most complete surveillance including the largest suspect infection rate.

DPH will check surveillance from other states (i.e. New York) to see if they are missing anything.

The next meeting is taking place on January 30, 2008 – 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

**BEST PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 21, 2007**

**Present:** Julie Petrellis, Diane Smith, Bonnie Capasso, Jon Olson, Kimberly Skehan, Julie Moy

**Guests:** William Rifkin MD, Norma Gyle Dep. Commissioner DPH

**Addendum**

Diane Smith called the **meeting to order at 1:10 PM.**

The **minutes** of January 2007 meeting were accepted. Crystal Jeter's name was misspelled.

**Handouts** were available from the National Patient Safety Foundation announcement of the National Patient Safety Awareness week - March 4 – 10, 2007, and "Abstract – Creation of Public Health Infection Prevention Messages in Connecticut Hospitals"

**Health Messaging – Julie Petrellis** presented Crystal Jeter's abstract on hand washing which suggested health messaging programs to improve community awareness of hand washing and respiratory etiquette. A survey was completed by classmates, church members and CHA employees regarding their knowledge about hand washing. The survey indicated that people do not read and are not interested in handouts.

**Discussion continued** regarding reaching the public and educating them to change the need to sneeze and/or cough in their sleeve.

- . The benefit of hand gels, displaying them in the facilities.
- . How hand gel is an acceptable substitute for hand washing unless hands are visible dirty.

**Dr. Rifkin** mentioned hand washing with soap and water was needed when caring for patients with open sores and C. difficile, which is becoming a growing problem in hospitals.

**Diane Smith** suggested using inserts for information with state employees paychecks, as we did with the wallet medication cards.

**Dr. Gyle** commented that the public rarely keeps inserts.

**Bonnie Capasso** suggested using billboards.

**Julie Pretellis** agreed that billboards and public service announcements (PSA) were good and that Crystal Jeter's next project will include gathering information on their use.

**Dr. Rifkin** commented on hospitals having difficulty with the clinicians and to get patients to observe providers using hand-washing procedures and then address those clinicians that are not following hand-washing procedures.

**Julie Pretellis** said that there was a need to get patients to ask providers "did you wash your hands". Everyone needs to work together to get this message out. Discussion pursued on how to get this message out, e.g., posting signs, buttons with the logo "did you wash your hands".

**Jon Olson** suggested that a pennant be given to patients with a logo to remind providers of hand washing. For those patients that are comatose the pendant could be placed on the bed frame.

**There** was further discussion on billboards and marketing costs, but since health care providers and insurance companies already use billboards, there may be a way to use them to advertise hand hygiene.

**Dr. Rifkin** suggested having a marketing survey, patient reporting physician hand washing.

**Bonnie Capasso** suggested that CHA have a contest to get a symbol/logo for the hand hygiene project.

**Dr. Rifkin** said that for Waterbury Hospital it could be "Waterbury Hospital, we wash hands".

**ASSIGNMENTS:** **Julie Pretrellis** offered Crystal Jeter to explore the billboards.

**Dr. Rifkin** will investigate the cost effectiveness for billboard use.

**Next meeting date: March 21, 2007 at CHA at 1 – 3 PM.**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.**