

Connecticut Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee Minutes November 4, 2010

Attendees: Ray Andrews, Lauren Backman, Laurie Brentlinger (phone), Karen Buckley-Bates, Dale Cunningham, Carol Dietz, Nancy Dupont, Brenda Grant, Alison Hong, Jenny Kitsen, Cindy Kohan, Cathy Ligi, Alessandra Litro, Trini Mathew (phone), Richard Melchreit, Gayle Nobert, Jon Olsen (phone), Julie Petrellis, Jean Rexford, Richard Rodriguez, Jack Ross (phone), Douglas Waite

Call to order: Richard Melchreit called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Review and approval of prior Advisory Committee meeting minutes (8/4/10): The draft minutes were reviewed with correction of two typos and an updated date for the next statewide Qualidigm MDRO conference (moved from October 1 to December 1, 2010 due to a scheduling conflict).

Report from the CDC's annual HAI ELC grantee meeting:

Alessandra Litro and Richard Melchreit attended the CDC's grantee meeting. There was considerable discussion about the importance of prevention collaboratives and encouragement for states to be very active and engaged in this area. Validation studies were also highlighted. There was nothing definitive about funding beyond the ARRA period.

EIP Projects (Point Prevalence, Denominator):

The Point Prevalence project continues to progress according to plan. All three participating hospitals completed their surveys in August and state HAI staff completed the chart reviews in early October. A data evaluation/validation team hired by CDC will soon be coming to review a sample of the charts. That will complete the pilot phase. The full survey will be performed next summer, so hospital enrollment will begin in early 2011. It is anticipated that all or nearly all Connecticut hospitals will be invited to enroll. The CLABSI denominators sampling evaluation has not yet begun, but will be enrolling hospitals and will be launched after the EIP HAI epidemiologist is hired, giving DPH enough staff to run the project.

HAI Program, federal stimulus update (ELC, EIP):

The Emerging Infection Program Epidemiologist 2 position still is in recruitment.

Prevention Collaboratives update (CUSP: Stop BSI, MDRO):

CUSP: Stop BSI – CUSP: Stop BSI has been operating for 18 months and is beginning to wind down as new CUSP initiatives begin. CHA will be beginning the CUSP: CAUTI project, and is enrolling participants for the cohort that will begin in January 2011. The Johns Hopkins and Keystone Center programs that have been involved in Stop BSI will work on CUSP: CAUTI.

MDRO Collaborative – The date of the workshop on *C. difficile* prevention, environmental cleaning, and culture change/addressing resistance needs to be moved back from October 14 to December 1 due to a scheduling conflict.

Dialysis:

The Network of New England the CMS Quality Improvement Organization for New England dialysis centers, has been in discussions over the past several months with CDC, CMS, and state health departments about HAI surveillance projects. Recently, DHHS Region 1 (New England) successfully competed for DHHS special project HAI funding, and the Network will receive \$30,000 in 2011 to help dialysis center enroll in NHSN and use it for blood stream infection surveillance.

Legislative/Government Relations:

No suggestions were received from the Committee after the August meeting regarding legislative initiatives. As everyone knows there will be a new Governor and legislature in January 2011. That fact plus the project significant budget shortfall will make for a very important and challenging legislative session. The need to address the budget gap will doubtless impact many existing state funded programs. There is no way of projecting how things may turn out.

CLABSI data validation

The second cycle of validation (covering data from the last quarter of 2009) continues. 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 2010 focus group to aid in this work.

Hospital-specific CLABSI reporting: rollout plan:

We are aiming to release the first hospital specific CABSI report (post it on the DPH website) in January 2011. First, the webpage needs final touches by the HAI Advisory Committee ad hoc workgroup. Once it is ready, it will be sent through the approval process at DPH. When that is complete, the DPH Commissioner will send a letter to each hospital's CEO (with a cc to key staff: Infection Preventionists and hospital epidemiologists). Each hospital will be given a week or two to review and make comment on the data and webpage. If the hospitals wish to submit a letter that will be posted on the DPH website, they will be invited to do so at that time. When the webpage is ready for posting, DPH will announce it through a press release.

Education initiatives:

Lauren Backman will convene the HAI Education Committee again to work on the webpage update (see "CLABSI validation" above) and to be prepared to work with the DPH Communications staff if/when ARRA funds are available for a publicity campaign in 2011.

State HAI planning process, timeline:

We are on track for the Stakeholder Engagement Conference that will be held on November 19 at SCSU. Over 100 persons from the full range of healthcare sectors have enrolled. An excellent cadre of speakers and breakout facilitators will be leading the sessions. Dr. Galvin and a senior SCSU official will be giving the welcome.

Next steps for the Committee, 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, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Wednesday, February 2, 2011.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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