

Minutes of the Healthcare Data Advisory Council
April 13, 2011

Board Room 1586
Alabama Department of
Public Health
The RSA Tower
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present

Donald E. Williamson, M.D.; State Health Officer; Chairman
Laura Bell; Alabama Hospital Association
Beth Goodall; Alabama Hospital Association
Keith Granger; Alabama Hospital Association
Scott Harris, M.D.; Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Stacey Hollis; Consumer
Michael Jordan; Business Council of Alabama
Donna Joyner; Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Plan
William McCollum, M.D.; Mineral District Medical Society
Patty Miller; Alabama Hospital Association
Alan Stamm, M.D.; Association for Professionals in Infection Control
Susan Warren; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama

Members Absent

Beth Anderson; Alabama Hospital Association
Rick Finch; Business Council of Alabama
Linda Jordan; Alabama Hospital Association
Wickliffe Many, M.D.; Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Sherry Melton, M.D.; Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Michael O'Malley; Alabama Association of Health Plans
Debbie Unger; State Employees' Insurance Board

Staff Present

Robert Kurtts, Communicable Disease
Dagny Magill, Epidemiology
Kelly Stevens, Epidemiology
Sharon Thompson, Epidemiology
Tom Geary, Licensure and Certification

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Healthcare Data Advisory Council was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dr. Williamson, and roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES (EXHIBIT "A"):

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of August 24, 2010, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF HAI STATE COORDINATOR AND EPIDEMIOLOGIST:

Kelly Stevens introduced the new HAI State Coordinator, Sharon Thompson, and the HAI Epidemiologist, Dagny Magill.

BRIEF ON TECHNICAL WORK GROUP MEETING HELD JANUARY 12, 2011:

The technical workgroup met January 12, 2011 to discuss the final report format in which the healthcare-associated infection (HAI) data will be published. Issues discussed included the importance of a simple, user-friendly format for consumers, including narrative and pictorial displays to compare infection rates. Detailed, expanded statistical analysis will be included as well to compare the standardized infection ratios among Alabama hospitals to the national rate. The methods of hospital comparison were discussed, and three categories will be used to group hospitals: geographic location within the seven hospital regions, size or the number of patient days, and acuity.

The HAI staff expects to give hospitals individual feedback on their submitted HAI data after a 6 month reporting period. The 2011 public report is expected to be published in June or July of 2012 following analysis by the HAI staff and time for review and comment by the Advisory Council and hospitals.

The next Technical Work Group Meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, May 18, 2011. Representatives from the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF), Blue Cross Blue Shield, MedMined Carefusion, as well as several hospital NHSN mentors are expected to be among those present.

UPDATE ON HOSPITAL REPORTING:

Ms. Stevens gave a brief update on the NHSN facility reporting. As of April 13, 2011, 97 of 98 hospitals have enrolled. Green Hospital has had technical and staffing difficulties, however, HAI staff continues to work with Green to resolve the problems. Randolph Medical Center enrolled and reported for January, but closed in March, 2011. Common reporting issues were discussed, including missing catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) data, inaccurate denominator data, missing secondary procedure data, and discrepancies between electronic and chart data.

The Advisory Council recommended a more formalized feedback for hospitals focusing on data concerns, validity, and procedures. Monthly phone chats, regional meetings, and training opportunities for hospitals were presented as possible solutions to eliminate confusion amongst hospitals and ensure consistency and quality in data collection and reporting.

VALIDATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN (EXHIBIT "B"):

Ms. Sharon Thompson presented several documents to the council, including an approximate time-line of the HAI reporting process, External Validation plans to be conducted by ADPH, and the Internal Validation draft plan which would serve as a recommendation and guidance to hospitals. Recommendations for the use of more verbally clear terminology for Internal and External Validation were suggested. The group discussed the need to survey all hospitals to ensure that all events from each location that are required to be reported are being reported correctly.

HEALTHCARE FACILITY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN:

Ms. Thompson announced the education and awareness campaign for HAI reporting has begun. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness of all hospital personnel in aiding Infection Preventionists in HAI detection. All hospitals in Alabama will be receiving posters, postcards, and pens. Items were presented at a recent Association for Professionals in Infection Control Regional meeting and staff received positive feedback on the campaign.

ALABAMA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION COMPREHENSIVE-BASED UNIT SAFETY PRACTICE (CUSP)

UPDATE:

Carrie Rhodes presented the update on the CUSP project, announcing there has been, thus far, a 35% reduction in rates of participating hospitals (1.8 central line bloodstream-associated infection (CLABSIs) per 1,000 central line days to 1.17 CLABSIs per 1,000 central line days). The baseline for the Alabama hospitals participating was 2.16, however the newest reported rate was 1.53. To date 70 hospitals are participating in the CLABSI CUSP project. An additional nine hospitals have recently begun participating in a CAUTI CUSP project.

ADDITIONAL HAI PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

Ms. Thompson discussed a needs assessment survey to primarily gauge where gaps exist with regards to NHSN training. The needs assessment survey will also focus on the need for HAI education and awareness among all hospital staff. This survey will be distributed electronically in early May so that HAI activities can be organized to address the needs beginning this spring.

The Spring AQAF meeting will take place in Birmingham, AL on April 26, 2011, and HAI staff will all be in attendance. Dr. Williamson will give a presentation geared at the CEO audience, and Ms. Thompson will participate in an HAI data reporting panel discussion.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Dr. Williamson presented the revisions to the Notifiable Disease Rules. The changes to the Notifiable Disease Rules are currently out for public comment until May 5, 2011. There will be a public hearing on April 26, 2011 at 9 p.m.

Dr. Williamson also presented an update on the recent *Serratia marcescens* outbreak investigation. Dr. Williamson offered to present findings at regional APIC meetings at the close of the investigation. The Council welcomed this offer.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

The Technical Work Group Meeting is tentatively set for May 18, 2011 at 9 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Williamson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Donald E. Williamson, M.D., Chairman
Healthcare Data Advisory Council

Kelly M. Stevens, M.S.
Director, Division of Epidemiology

Approved July 13, 2011