

Data Use and Network Content (DUNC) workgroup

Oregon Technical Advisory Group to the Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Network

Meeting notes

October 22, 2008

Location: PSOB Room 612, 800 NE Oregon St, Portland

Participants: Nita Heimann (co-chair), Richard Leman, Angie Wahlquist, Vicki Buelow, Marina Counter, Mandy Green (co-chair), Rodney Garland, Gregg Lande, Curtis Cude, Jenny Staab, Jean Richardson, Nancy Goff

Mandy gave an update on the Oregon and National EPHT portals. Oregon has posted reports and FAQs on several environmental public health topics on its website and is planning to launch the web-based query application soon. CDC's EPHT website will officially launch in December, and this first version should be complete in February. There will be a national Tracking conference February 24-26, 2009 in Washington, D.C. The call for abstracts is open until November 7: <http://www.blsm meetings.net/cdctrackingconference/abstract.cfm>.

The next full meeting of Oregon EPHT's Technical Advisory Group (OTAG) will be held on November 17, 2008 from 1-4 pm in Room 1-E of the PSOB building. The DUNC subgroup will not meet in November and instead will participate in the OTAG meeting.

Mandy gave a demonstration of the web-based query system using the Real Estate Transaction (RET) private well drinking water module, the death records module and the childhood blood lead testing module. The group discussed the queries and results and gave feedback to the EPHT team. The overall reaction was positive.

Roundtable updates

Gregg mentioned that EPA dropped its ambient lead standard by a factor of 10. DEQ used to measure this in Oregon but did not find exceedances of the standard at that time. They may now add a monitor in Portland and maybe one in McMinnville. Gregg mentioned the NATA emissions data and that EPA is still working on 2002. DEQ gives them data every 3 years. They model at the tract level, but typically release county-level data. DEQ and an advisory group have done a review of ambient benchmark concentrations for 50 air pollutants, and Deanna Connors from our office was on that team. The Portland Air Toxics Solutions (PATS) project is getting underway to do metro-area data analysis and modeling of air toxics. DEQ is putting together the advisory committee for PATS and expects a one-year process.

Nita gave an update on the public health workgroup for data confidentiality and small number suppression. The group will work on standards and has had an initial meeting. There is a wiki site for the group to use and documents are posted

Meeting notes archived at

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/epht/Meetings.shtml#DUNC>

there. Nita talked about the upcoming Community Health Assessment conference on November 19th in Eugene. The focus is on county health departments, but all are welcome to attend.

Rodney said that they often use wikis for process documentation and collaborative tools in the Asthma Program. They are working on an evaluation of their surveillance system and the Burden of Asthma report is under review.

Nancy talked about her role as the EPHT health educator and encouraged DUNC members to talk with her or connect her with other stakeholders who may have an interest in Tracking.