

Data Use and Network Content (DUNC) Meeting

May 23, 2007

Participants: Gregg Lande, Elizabeth Everman, Marina Counter, Rodney Garland, Jeff Lang (phone), Mary Scott, Mike Emerson, Nita Heimann

Introductions: Mary Scott, the new EPHT Program Manager

Discuss Content Work Group Feedback and DUNC

Gregg described his “mini-DUNC” at DEQ. He, Curtis Cude, Kevin Masterson, and Bruce Hope met to discuss the EPHT draft indicators for Air Quality. This group will continue to meet at DEQ and provide ideas and feedback to the DUNC on environmental indicators. He shared with DUNC the following findings of the DEQ DUNC.

1. Three themes in the National EPHT indicators were identified:

- *Trend analysis*
- *Research*
- *Advisories*

2. Observations:

- Most of the indicators focus on trends and research, none on advisories. The DEQ DUNC noted that there are several advisory systems within DEQ currently.
- Birth defects indicators could also be looked at in terms of chronic, long-term environmental toxins.
- Food, pesticides, and indoor environment are missing from the indicators and they wondered what was being done on these topics in other states.
- There are other environmental issues related to public health for which data are available such as wild fire air quality data that could be linked with EPHT website health messages on a seasonal basis.
- Land use data could be another vital data source for environmental health and is not mentioned in the EPHT draft indicators.

Marina reminded the group that there are many options for people to provide feedback and communicate with CDC. Members of SLAM, DUNC and OTAG can join a National EPHT workgroup, write a memo to a national workgroup or have EPHT staff communicate ideas and observations on their behalf either orally or in writing - just let us know and we help find the way that suits your needs best.

Review EPHT Data Priorities:

Data priorities for the next 14 months before the EPHT Network is launched in September 2008 were reviewed (see document on webpage). These are areas in which DUNC is assisting EPHT staff with network preparations and implementation.

The High-level priorities (in order) are:

- Trading Partner Agreements (TPAs) written and signed
- Metadata reviewed and published
- Content developed and published
- Data security, portal and analysis tools tested
- Partner training needs identified and training planned (Rodney encouraged everyone to let us know if there are capacity building training that EPHT could provide that would be useful for your staff)

Discuss Trading Partner Agreements:

A draft of the TPA was introduced to the group. It was written to be user-friendly and inclusive. After the draft is complete, it will need to be approved through contracts for legal review. The final TPA template is planned to be written in such a way that it would not have to go through contracts each time it is used by a new data steward. We would also like our partners to be able to modify this template and use it for their own data sharing arrangement, if desired.

Rodney asked the group to look over the agreement and provide feedback on applicability to their data. Does it work for both health and environment? Nita asked whether we will need to clarify who is authorized to use the raw data and distinguish this from the manager of the agency that is obtaining the data who may be the one signing the agreement. (This clarification of item #7 was done prior to emailing the draft TPA template to DUNC members on 5/23.)

Jeff asked if there were any TPA success stories in other EPHT states. Most states are still at the same point we are, so there has not been a lot of experience yet. An informal survey of what is currently being used in public health (OSCaR, Vital Stats, and OIS); found that there is no standardized TPA. Vital Stats has the most formal agreement template. OSCaR has one, but it is very specific to researchers, and did not address surveillance. DHS has an Information Exchange Assessment in limited use. EPHT's goal is to make a TPA template that useable by EPHT and by our data partners for other data sharing arrangements.

The TPA was sent out electronically for review by DUNC members and others in their offices. Feedback was requested by Tuesday 29, 2007. Suggestions will be incorporated then it will be sent to Contracts for approval.

The goal is to have the TPA template in a final form within a month. To get the process moving with the Oregon Center for Health Statistics, Mary Scott (EPHT Program Manager) will meet with Joyce Grant-Worley and/or Jennifer Woodward.

Miscellaneous

Mike asked how difficult would it be to get ER discharge data? Mary asked who is working with the hospital association to get data. Rodney was not sure, but he did say that we are not supposed to talk to them directly. Oregon Asthma Program has talked to Gwen Dayton, of the Hospital Association about what fields they have that might be useful. Rodney will follow-up on that, since we might be able to utilize this contact to obtain more information. Mike also made the point that we are not always aware of the reliability of the data from HDI.

Next Meeting: The new EPHT Epidemiologist, Mandy Green, and the new OIS IS7, Shawnalee Job will be at our next meeting. It will be held on June 27, Room 810 in the PSOB. The schedule for the rest of the year is listed below.

The main topic for the next meeting will be metadata. For that meeting we will set up the laptop and projector so we can see the general format and content. Draft metadata has been prepared by EPHT and sent to data stewards.

Schedule Correction: On the schedule that was distributed at the meeting there is an error on the June 27 Room. The Room should read PSOB – 810. The next meeting will be held in the State Office Building at 800 NE Oregon, NOT the EOE Building at 827 NE Oregon.

DUNC Meeting Schedule
Fourth Wednesday of each month

Date	Room
June 27, 2007	PSOB – 810
July 25, 2007	PSOB – 612
August 22, 2007	PSOB – 810
September 26, 2007	EOE – 827A
October 24, 2007	EOE – 827A
November 28, 2007	PSOB – 612
December 26, 2007	PSOB - 612