

Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC)  
Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee (VRPAC)  
Joint Meeting  
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 2, 2011  
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

**Attendees**

**Convener:** Laura Lund, Science Advisor for Health Information and Strategic Planning (HISP), Acting Chair

**Committee Members:**

**Present:** Debra Castanon

**Phone:** Jonathan Teague, Krista Hanni, David Grant, Michelle Baas, Erlinda Valdez

**Absent:** George B. Abbott, Sue Holtby

Peter Abbott was unable to attend but sent an e-mail regarding his concerns.

**California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff:**

**Present:** Krista Christian, Julie Turner, Cindy Tanaka-Fong

**Additional Attendees:**

**Present:** Martin Kharrazi, PhD

Gina Castro

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. by Krista Christian

**A. WELCOME**

Krista Christian informed committee members that the meeting would be tape recorded to assist with minute taking.

**B. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Debra Castanon made a motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2011. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye to approve the minutes. Krista Hanni abstained. Minutes approved as written.

**C. State Registrar's Response for Projects reviewed on January, 12, 2011**

4 projects were reviewed and approved for release of data during the January 12, 2011, VSAC committee meeting.

**D. New Business**

2 Continuing projects and 7 new projects were reviewed.

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The first project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** "Study to Explore Early Development (SEED)"

**Principal Investigator(s):** Gayle C. Windham, PhD, Chief, CDPH, Epidemiological Surveillance Unit

**Project Type:** Continuing Project

**CPHS Approval:** Required

**Project No.:** 04-06-02

**Expiration:** December 12, 2011

**File(s) Requested:** 2006 and 2007 Birth Statistical Master File and 2006 and 2007 Birth Cohort File (BCF)

**Requested Identifiers:** BSMF (Name, Certificate Number, Address) BCF (Certificate Number and Address)

**Personal Contact:** Yes

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** Previous Data Request

**Summary:** Project # 04-06-02 (Centers for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology /SEED). This is a continuing study in which subjects will be recruited for participation (clinical exams, interviews, etc.). For this study, Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB) will use the cohort file to sample controls from among live births who survived the first year of life. Controls will be contacted and EHIB may use the address on the birth certificate as the starting point for that contact. The principal investigator is requesting to use 2006 and 2007 birth and birth cohort files previously obtained for another project.

This is a complex, multi-state study and for this, EHIB must work with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. They have an agreement in place with the California IRB for automatic approval of the protocol. Additional information can be found in the protocol, the Center for Disease Control IRB approval letter, and the letter of agreement.

**VSAC Discussion:** No comments

**VSAC Recommendation:** Debra Castanon made a motion to approve recommendation to the state registrar to release data. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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The second project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** "Persistent Organic Pollutants and Breast Cancer Risk: Chemicals Old and New"

**Principal Investigator(s):** Peggy Reynolds, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, Cancer Prevention Institute of California (formerly Northern California Cancer Center)

**Project Type:** New Project

**CPHS Approval:** Approved

**Project No.:** 10-12-59

**Expiration:** December 2, 2011

**File(s) Requested:** 2007, 2008, and 2009 Birth Statistical Master Files

**Requested Identifiers:** All personal identifiers

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** All Personal Identifiers

**History:** New Research Project

**Summary:** This project represents collaboration between investigators at the Cancer Prevention Institute of California (CPIC, formerly known as the Northern California Cancer Center), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL), Public Health Institute (PHI), City of Hope (COH), and UC Irvine (UCI). It is designed to analyze data and biospecimens collected under separate funding as part of the ongoing National Cancer Institute-funded California Teachers Study (CTS) and designated for the study of environmental exposures and health. This analysis project is funded by the California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP).

BFR = brominated flame retardants  
DDT = dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane  
PBDE = polybrominated diphenyl ether  
PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl  
POP = persistent organic pollutant

This proposal capitalizes on the vast and unique resources available from the CTS, an ongoing prospective study of breast cancer, to evaluate the risk of breast cancer associated with both the older and newer persistent organic pollutants (POP), addressing many of the key limitations common to the studies of polychlorinated biphenyl and dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane. In addition to providing the opportunity to conduct the first large-scale investigation into the risk of breast cancer associated with the polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) and replacement brominated flame retardants (BFR), the current proposal also will provide information on

disparities in the determinants of PBDE/BFR human exposures. This information is essential to optimizing the design of future epidemiologic studies on this topic as well as informing public health practices and regulatory action to curb exposures to these compounds. Their specific aims are as follows:

1. Screen for major predictors. Identify major predictors of body burden levels of PBDEs and BFRs in a sample of approximately 360 disease-free CTS participants for whom serum samples and additional questionnaire data have been collected in order to identify:
  - a. Disparities in body burden levels by selected behavioral and socio-demographic characteristics, and
  - b. Indoor and outdoor correlates of body burden levels.
2. Assess risk. Use a case-cohort study design within the CTS to estimate the risk of breast cancer associated with body burden levels of PBDEs, BFRs and other POPs, alone and in combination with other potential exposures. In addition, evaluate whether risks due to body burden levels differ by:
  - a. Markers of tumor hormone responsiveness, or
  - b. Selected behavioral, socio-demographic, or genetic host susceptibility factors.
3. Explore windows of susceptibility. Use existing questionnaire data and record linkage to birth files for a subset of the CTS to enhance exposure estimates for two potential time windows of susceptibility:
  - a. The perinatal period, and
  - b. Early reproductive years.

**VSAC Discussion:**

- The Cancer Prevention Institute of California (CPIC) is not a state entity.
- Social Security Numbers (SSNs) are no longer available on Birth Statistical Master file requests.
- Krista Hanni inquired about who has access to the data. Researchers were listed on the application, but additional clarification was needed by committee members.
- Concern was raised that the protocol was outdated. An updated protocol would require Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) approval.

**VSAC Recommendation:** The researcher will be contacted for additional information including: 1) a copy of CPIC's policies and procedures relating to security and confidentiality 2) clarifying who has access to the data listed on the application 3) asking about their use of SSN and 4) confirming that we will not be providing SSN. Debra Castanon motioned to table this for

discussion at the next meeting. Krista Hanni seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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The third project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** Do “accidents” happen? An Examination of Injury Morbidity and Mortality among Maltreated Children”

**Principal Investigator(s):** Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Doctoral Candidate, U.C. Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research

**Project Type:** New Project

**CPHS Approval:** Approved

**Project No.:** 09-12-51

**Expiration:** December 2, 2011

**File(s) Requested:** 2007, 2008, and 2009 Birth Statistical Master Files

**Requested Identifiers:** California identifiers only

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** New Research Project

**Summary:** This project involves the linkage of several administrative sources in California to explore whether infants identified as intentionally injured, or at risk of sustaining an intentional injury, demonstrate characteristic patterns of unintentional injury morbidity and mortality. The specific aims of this research are:

1. Decompose risk factors associated with unintentional and intentional injuries during infancy;
2. Examine similarities and differences between child welfare populations of intentionally injured infants and non-child welfare populations of unintentionally injured infants;
3. Explore if the receipt of child welfare services influences an infant's risk of subsequent injury; and
4. Investigate racial disparities in unintentional and intentional injuries, including possible reporting disparities in maltreatment referrals originating from medical providers.

The research objective is to determine whether infants referred to child protective services (cases) demonstrate fatal and nonfatal injury patterns distinct from those of a similarly socioeconomically disadvantaged population of infants belonging to the same birth cohort (comparison group).

**VSAC Discussion:** A business agreement is not needed as this is not fall under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

- David Grant expressed concern about using data in a home computing environment. The principal investigator stated in an e-mail that the data she would be working with would be de-identified and will not contain any unique personal identifiers.
- Jonathan provided information that the Office of State Health Planning and Development follows regarding the return of data, source and product files, and procedures researchers follow if they have to revisit analysis of the data.

**VSAC Recommendation:** Deborah Williams motioned to approve recommendation to the state registrar to release data. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Debra Castanon abstained. Committee members all voted aye.

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The fourth project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** "California Hospital-Insurer Contracting"

**Principal Investigator(s):** Katherine Ho, Assistant Professor, Columbia University.

**Project Type:** New Project

**CPHS Approval:** Approved

**Project No.:** 07-10-54

**Expiration:** October 7, 2011

**File(s) Requested:** 2003 Linked PDD/ED/AS/Vital Statistics Birth Cohort File

**Requested Identifiers:** California Identifiers only

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** New Research Project

**Summary:** The major research questions to be addressed in this project consider the relationships between US health insurers and the hospitals in their markets. Managed care health insurers restrict their enrollees to visiting hospitals within specific networks. This two-part study will (1) study the extent of insurer steering of consumers to particular (e.g., low-cost) hospitals and insurers' quality rankings of hospitals; (2) look at the contracting process between hospitals and insurers, evaluating its effects on consumer welfare, hospital profits, and hospital incentives to invest in new technology and quality.

**VSAC Discussion:** No comments.

VSAC Recommendation: Jonathan Teague made a motion to approve recommendation. Krista Hanni seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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The fifth project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** "Perinatal Exposure to particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide in Relation to Autism Spectrum Disorders"

**Principal Investigator(s):** Gayle C. Windham, California Department of Public Health, Epidemiological Surveillance Unit

**Project Type:** New Project

**CPHS Approval:** Approved

**Project No.:** 10-12-63

**Expiration:** December 2, 2011

**File(s) Requested:** Birth and Birth Cohort – 1994, 1996 previously obtained for public health surveillance.

**Requested Identifiers:** Yes

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** New Research Project

**Summary:** Environmental exposures are suspected to contribute to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), but have been scarcely studied. They plan to conduct an epidemiologic study examining PM 10 and NO2 exposure perinatally in relation to subsequent ASD diagnosis using pre-existing data, to result in a published manuscript. The hypothesis is that higher exposure to these pollutants during key periods of pregnancy and postnatal life will be associated with increased prevalence of ASD. The study will be a nested prevalent case cohort study, linking autism surveillance data and air pollution monitoring data from California and North Carolina. Air pollutant exposure will be assigned using each child's residential address and date of birth, utilizing a geostatistical model of pollutant concentration over space and time, based on United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria pollutant monitoring data. All data needed was originally collected for other purposes.

The California ASD surveillance data was assembled by Centers for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology (CADDRE) under prior CPHS approval #02-04-06 and #02-08-06) and was recently deemed public health practice, not research.

**VSAC Discussion:** Krista Hanni expressed concern on the files being sent by US mail. She wanted to know if we had any protocols on how we send

files by mail. Krista Christian explained the protocols we use sending files – password protected files, passwords are sent via e-mail or by telephone and data media sent by Federal Express. Krista Hanni’s concern was how they were sending the files between themselves and to their researchers. She wanted to know if we require more when they send de-identified data. The protocol mentions that they would be using a secure file transfer or sending a strongly encrypted file by US mail.

As there was no information on data de-identified or warranting of lesser standard of security, Jonathan Teague mentioned we would need clarification on this.

**VSAC Recommendation:** Krista Hanni motioned to approve recommendation with stipulation to the state registrar for release of data. The requester must send it via a method where the package can be tracked and must be signed for. We will ask them to include this in an addendum and approve upon receipt. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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The sixth project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** “Age-Specific and Age-Adjusted Cause-Specific Mortality Rates for Arab Americans”

**Principal Investigator(s):** Kendra Schwartz, Wayne State University

**Project Type:** New Project

**CPHS Approval:** Protocol will be forwarded to CPHS after approval by VSAC.

**Project No.:** Pending CPHS review

**Expiration:** Pending CPHS review

**File(s) Requested:** 1999-2008 Death Statistical Master File

**Requested Identifiers:** All Personal Identifiers

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** New Research Project

**Summary:** Individuals from the Middle East (hereafter, Arab Americans) constitute a distinctive subgroup of whites that is receiving increased attention in health disparities research. Most health studies on Arab Americans have been conducted in Michigan and some in California. Few studies are available regarding overall mortality rates. The current study has two objectives: (1) calculate age-specific and age-adjusted cause-specific mortality rates for Arab Americans 25 years of age and older in California; and (2) compare these mortality rates with rates for blacks and whites in

California. The hypothesis is Arab Americans will have higher age-specific mortality rates compared to blacks and whites among the older age groups. Also, cause-specific mortality rates for Arab Americans compared to whites and blacks may differ, highlighting important disparities. They have analyzed results from Michigan death certificates, and they are embarking on this project to compare mortality rates of Arab Americans in Michigan and California. These findings will provide relative comparisons and what may be contributing to higher, lower, or similar death rates. In addition, the current study will allow them to validate the Arab American surname list developed by Schwartz and colleagues in the sample in California.

**VSAC Discussion:** Clarification was made by Julie Turner that requests for death data receive VSAC recommended approval and are then forwarded to CPHS for review and either approval or waiver.

**VSAC Recommendation:** Krista Hanni motioned to approve recommendation to the state registrar to release data. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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The seventh project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** "The California Teachers Study"

**Principal Investigator(s):** Leslie Bernstein, PhD

**Project Type:** New Project

**CPHS Approval:** Approved

**Project No.:** 95-06-09

**Expiration:** June 3, 2011

**File(s) Requested:** 2008 and 2009 Death Statistical Master File

**Requested Identifiers:** All Personal Identifiers, including out-of-state events

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** New Research Project

**Summary:** The California Teachers Study (CTS) is a multi-centered, breast cancer-focused, National Institute of Health-funded, long-term research study. Started in 1995 with approximately 133,000 women, it continues today to be one of the largest and longest cohort studies proposed to study women's health related to breast and other cancers. Four California institutions, plus the California Cancer Registry (CCR), teamed together to create the cohort. Cancer outcome information is provided to the study via quarterly linkages with the CCR, and demographic specific contact

information is managed by the team at University of Southern California (USC).

The CTS study population was created through collaboration with California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS) in which teachers and other education professionals, either active or retired, who were women, were invited to participate. As a cohort study, participants were recruited irrespective to any health related measures - all those who wished to join were included. In cohort designs, external control groups were generally not utilized; however, sub-analyses within the cohort often separate their population into CTS members with specific cancer outcomes vs. those who are cancer free.

The aims for the first five study years (1995-2000) were to evaluate relationship of breast cancer and: (1) lactation; (2) combined estrogen/progestin hormone replacement therapy; (3) abortion/miscarriage; (4) dietary intake; (5) alcohol consumption; (6) physical exercise activities; (7) other factors; (8) cigarette smoking; and (9) tobacco smoke exposure.

The aims for the second five study years (2004-2009) were to address methods for: (1) follow-up; (2) use of additional questionnaires; (3) collect blood samples; organized around (4) hormone therapy, (5) dietary exposures, (6) alcohol intake, (7) physical activity, and (8) environmental tobacco smoke (ETS).

The aims for the current five study years (2010-2015) are around whether behavior modifications of (1) physical activity, (2) obesity phenotypes; (3) aspirin use will have an impact on cancer types. In the third five years, principal activities will be to: (1) continue our current follow-up, (2) collect and update time-dependent exposure data, (3) expand blood collection approaches, (4) continue analyzing key etiologic predictors of cancer.

**VSAC Discussion:** Debra Castanon had concerns with the statement about the use of Universal Serial Bus (USB) drives to transfer encrypted files and suggested the word "discouraged" and should be replaced by "disallowed."

**VSAC Recommendation:** Debra Castanon made a motion to approve recommendation with stipulation to the state registrar to release data. The researcher will be asked to replace the word "discouraged" with "disallowed" in the statement, "Use of USB drives to transfer these encrypted files is discouraged...". We will request them to provide a copy of USC security policies and provide full names of people who will access the data. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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The eighth project reviewed by the committee was:

**Project Title:** "Longitudinal Study of Hospital Outcomes for California's Children"

**Principal Investigator(s):** Linda Remy, PhD, Research Director, University of California San Francisco (UCSF), Family Health Outcomes Project (FHOP)

**Project Type:** New Project

**CPHS Approval:** Approved

**Project No.:** 09-06-02

**Expiration:** April 1, 2011

**File(s) Requested:** 2001-2003 Birth Statistical Master File, 2009 Birth Statistical Master File, 2009 Fetal Death Statistical Master File

**Requested Identifiers:** All Personal Identifiers

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** New Research Project

**Summary:** The Department's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Branch contracts with UCSF Family Health Outcomes Project (FHOP) to perform this ongoing research project. The principal investigator is requesting the birth file 2001-2003 and 2009.

Family Health Outcomes Project examines changes in hospitalization patterns and health outcomes among people under age 25. FHOP links data files from OSHPD, CDPH Health Information and Research, and United States Census. Records are reviewed to (1) eliminate duplicates, (2) create single episodes of care, (3) identify readmissions with condition-specific intervals, and (4) identify other admissions for the same child within specific time intervals. With the linked file, FHOP calculates population-based prevalence rates by time, race/ethnicity, and health insurance coverage.

Confidential datasets are used as the base source for creating annual and longitudinal, non-confidential datasets, maps, spreadsheets, and other products at the individual, zip code, and county level. All dates and identifying information are removed from these files. These materials are shared with local health departments and the general public via the FHOP and MCH websites.

**VSAC Discussion:** No comments.

**VSAC Recommendation:** Deborah Williams made a motion to approve recommendation to the state registrar to release data. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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The ninth project reviewed by the committee was:

Project Title: "Development of a Research-Ready Pregnancy and Newborn BioBank in California"

**Principal Investigator(s):** Marty Kharrazi, PhD, Chief, CDPH/Genetic Disease Screening Program (GDSP)/Program Research and Demonstration Section

**Project Type:** Continuing Request

**CPHS:** Required

**Project No.:** 09-08-60

**Expiration:** August 6, 2010

**File(s) Requested:** 2009 Birth Statistical Master File (BSMF), 2008 and 2009 Death Statistical Master File (DSMF) and the 2007 Birth Cohort File (BCF)

**Requested Identifiers:** All personal identifiers

**Personal Contact:** No

**Identifiers Released:** No

**History:** Previous Data Request

**Summary:** The goal of this infrastructure development project is to create an efficient, high throughput, low cost newborn screening and prenatal/maternal screening specimen BioBank and linked database that could be used by researchers internationally for a wide range of studies. The project addresses the following aims:

1. Establish highly efficient protocols and procurement and integration of automated systems for pulling and processing specimens;
2. Develop an integrated specimen tracking system into the Department's existing web-based Screening Information System (SIS);
3. Develop a computerized system to track application requests for specimens and data;
4. Develop a linked screening program-vital records database that is organized into a life course, client based system.

These aims will be accomplished through expansion of the Department's Screening Integration System to include web-based tracking of specimens and research requests, and use of a machine-learning record matching application for high-performance linkages. After the two-year grant period is completed, the California Research Ready Biospecimen Bank (CRRBB) will be able to provide researchers with biological specimens in a timely, cost-effective manner, thereby enabling an expansion of epidemiological research nationwide.

Screening data will be linked to live births, fetal deaths, and deaths, using combinations of personal identifiers. The resulting CRRBB database will

reside within SIS at GDSP. Data will be incorporated into CRRBB on an ongoing annual basis as they become available.

Information stored in GDSP's databases includes personal identifiers such as names, birth dates, social security numbers, and residential addresses, which will be used for linkage purposes. Given that minimal identifiers are available for matching prenatal and delivery data, SSNs are necessary to improve accuracy and match rates.

The project in itself is not a research study. The resulting BioBank and associated database will enable future studies related to detection and prevention of diseases and disorders of pregnancy, childhood, and potentially adult diseases.

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**VSAC Discussion:** Dr. Marty Kharrazi presented an overview of the Genetic Disease Screening Program via a PowerPoint presentation. The Genetic Disease Screening Program (GDSP) manages the newborn and prenatal screening programs for the State of California. GDSP utilizes a web-based Screening Information System (SIS) to maintain screening testing results, patient referrals, diagnoses, and other follow-up data. GDSP has banked over 15 million newborn specimens since 1982 and over 2 million prenatal specimens since 2000.

The objective of the Biobank is to enhance the existing Screening Information System (SIS) to enable it to track and manage specimen locations at all times, support storage, retrieval and processing of specimens including research, and create, track, and manage different types of requests. Requests include internal GDSP Specimen Requests and California Birth Defects Monitoring Program (DBDMP) Data Requests.

The committee discussed external research requests originating through the BioBank. Typical requests include GDSP program data and specimens, California Birth Defects Monitoring Program (CBDMP) registry data linked to GDSP specimens, and any linked requests to vital records.

The creation of the Linked Life Course Data Base would include:

- Prenatal screening program (1985-present)
- Newborn screening program (1982-present)
- Live birth (1982-present)
- Fetal death (1982-present)
- Death (1982-present)

Other objectives of the grant and of the Biobank program is to establish efficient protocols in the laboratory and pulling of specimens and in request processing as they don't have anything as it is a physical process. Finally, GDSP pushing for regulation based on current legislation.

Features of the Management System include an accessible online and web application. Access is controlled via clearly defined user roles and

responsibilities. The goal is to include requestors as SIS users as they will have access to their own requests and no other person's request. Similar visions would include reviewers and approvers would be able to go into the system as SIS users. Users would be able to add, view and search requests and upload and review key documents associated with a request online. These include applications, signed agreements, request details, IRB protocols, and approval letters. There will also be electronic tracking as well as management and approval of requests. One feature includes communication between the requestor and the program staff. Approvals are visible only to individual reviewers and program leads.

Discussions have taken place over the year with HIRS staff to try to build a system that would be flexible to accommodate current VSAC processes, would not require additional modification, and would support future changes. The GDSP plans to eliminate manual tracking of requests.

The Life Course System resides at the Richmond CDPH campus. The application and data are housed on various servers. Access is limited to those who get the data and to conduct the linkages to create the database.

The process of data review and approval will remain the same: data for projects submitted through the SIS BioBank will be released by GDSP using the same security measures (e.g. encryption, CD-ROM). Information relating to vital records will not be disseminated from the BioBank prior to review and recommended approval by VSAC and by the state registrar.

A timeline was provided for completion of the following tasks:

- SIS Biobank Request Management – Completion in mid-June 2011
- External Research Requests – Accepted in FY 2011/12
- Linked Life Course – Available in FY 2011/12

**VSAC Discussion:** Debra Castanon asked if this went through a feasibility study and was reviewed by the Information Security Officer. Dr. Kharrazi said that this sits under the umbrella of SIS. Debra referred to major changes of state systems needing approval from the Information Security Officer and feasibility study reviews. Gina Castro explained that this project was an enhancement of the existing system. Debra asked about the cost to enhance the system and if that was under delegated authority. Gina said the cost is funded through the grant they received. The Information Security Officer Yaso and his team are involved in the deployment and the review of the deliverables. In addition, this project is supported by the Information Technology Services Department (ITSD). The infrastructure resides in Sacramento and they follow CDPH standards and utilize ITSD support resources. Debra asked if they did a privacy impact assessment. Gina was not sure but said she would find out. As there was going to be an exchange of information between Gina and Debra, Laura reminded them that this could not be done but that Debra could ask her question to Krista, who will then ask Gina.

Dr. Abbott was unable to attend the meeting but sent an email with his concerns. His e-mail stated concerns of the statutory requirements for the review and approval of research projects involving confidential birth data. He asked if the responsibilities of the State registrar and the VSAC can be delegated to another entity. If so, what would be needed to implement the change (i.e., an MOU or some other type of agreement or a change in statute)? He felt that a legal opinion might be helpful, but that the proposed Biobank and its data security should be supported. Laura Lund reminded meeting attendees that the BioBank Request Management system could not remove or change authority of the reviewing body to discuss recommendations in a public forum. Jonathan Teague commented that VSAC would continue to have review and recommendation authority, but is not involved in data distribution.

Ms. Castanon asked if there was anything in statute or regulation that gives GDSP authority to disseminate information and whether this needed to be changed. Laura Lund mentioned that the current statute specifies that projects be reviewed in a public forum, but does not mention that HIRS is specifically required to distribute data files. She asked Krista Christian to follow-up on this.

**VSAC Recommendation:** Debra Castanon made a motion to approve recommendation to the state registrar to release data. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.

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Krista Christian informed the committees that we will be in compliance with the Bagley Keene Act as it is required by statute. Details of the act will be disseminated to VSAC members.

The committee was asked to look over Attachment 3, Data Requests which were approved internally and released since the last meeting.

Debra Castanon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 A.M. Krista Hanni seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye.