

Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC)
Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee (VRPAC)
Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 6, 2011
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES

Meeting Convener: Linette Scott, MD, MPH

Committee Members:

Present: Jonathan Teague, MCRP, Deborah Williams

Phone: Krista Hanni, PhD, David Grant, PhD, Sue Holtby MPH,
Michele Baass, MPPA

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff:

Present: Linette Scott, Terri Mack, Krista Christian, Julie Turner,
Cindy Tanaka-Fong

A. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:15 A.M., by
Krista Christian

B. WELCOME

Linette welcomed Terri Mack, MPA, Chief, Health Information and Research Section (HIRS). She previously worked for the California Department of Public Health's Research and Data Management Section, Licensing and Certification Program.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Deborah Williams commented that her name was misspelled in the minutes. Krista Hanni made a motion to approve the minutes from May 11, 2011 with the spelling change noted. Deborah Williams seconded the motion. The Committee members all voted aye to approve the minutes with the correction to Deborah's name.

D. VSAC RECOMMENDATIONS

3 new projects and 8 continuing were recommended for release of data.

The "Death Records Search", (Principal Investigator Billy Chen) was tabled during the May 11th meeting as the Committee wanted additional information.

One of the questions was whether this protocol conformed to Health and Safety Code 102231. After review of Health and Safety Code 102231, the protocol appears to be an inappropriate use of data.

VSAC Discussion: The request would create a resource on individual information through a password-protected subscription service to be used for commercial purposes, but not for fraud prevention purposes.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Deny the data request.

Based upon the provisions of the Health and Safety Code, Section 102231, the Committee decided the request does not meet the criteria of an

organization eligible to receive confidential death data. In addition, they decided the application does not meet the criteria for fraud prevention or scientific research. Therefore, the Committed recommended that this request should be denied.

VSAC Motion: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend that the data request be denied. Deborah Williams seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending the denial of the data request. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

E. NEW BUSINESS

8 new projects were reviewed.

The first project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Early Language and Social Cognition"

Principle Investigator (PI): Rose Scott, PhD, University of California, Merced

Project Type: New Project

Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) Approval:

Approved

Project No.: 11-04-01

Expiration: April 6, 2012

File(s) Requested: 2008 and 2009 Birth Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: Personal identifiers including name, mother's address

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: The committee was concerned that birth files were not being matched with death files and recommended that the researcher acquire death files as well.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

The Committee recommended that the data request be approved and they recommended that the approval letter include recommendations that birth and death data are matched to screen for deceased individuals and that sensitivity be used while following up by telephone.

VSAC Motions: Sue Holtby made a motion to recommend approval of the data request with the recommendation that the death file is purchased to match against the birth file. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending approval of the data request with a recommendation to match death files with birth files to screen for deceased individuals. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

The second project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "National Homicide Data Improvement Project"

Principle Investigator(s): Randolph Roth, Professor of History and Sociology, Ohio State University (OSU), Co-PIs: Michael d. Maltz, PhD, OSU; Douglas L. Eckberg, PhD, Winthrop Univ.; Roland J. Chilton, PhD, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst; Wendy C. Regoeczi, PhD, Cleveland State Univ.; Marc Riedel, PhD, SE Louisiana Univ.

Project Type: New Project

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

Project No.: Pending CPHS review

Expiration: Pending CPHS review

File(s) Requested: 1960-1969 Merged Death Data File (MDDF)

1970-1998 Death Statistical Master File (DSMF)

1999-2009 DSMF

Requested Identifiers: MDDF – Name, Certificate Number
DSMF – Name, Certificate Number, Social Security number (SSN), Mother's Maiden Name (MMN), Address

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: The committee was concerned about data matching and the use of SSNs to match across various data sets to construct the master file.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Deborah Williams motioned to approve the recommendation. Krista Hanni seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye in favor of in favor of recommending the approval of the data request. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

The third project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "The Health Records Electronic Data Set (THREDS)"

Principle Investigator(s): Clay Johnston, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

Project Type: Continuing Project

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

Project No.: Pending CPHS review

Expiration: Pending CPHS review

File(s) Requested: 2007, 2008, and 2009 Death Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: Name, Certificate Number, Social Security number (SSN), Mother's Maiden Name (MMN), Mother's resident address

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: Linette Scott asked the Committee if the entire Death Statistical Master File should be released to be used solely to "filter any individuals from the potential cohort who are deceased." In addition, Linette wanted to know, from a research standpoint, how often the researcher would double check the match. She also commented that CPHS will be looking at this request since it does not follow the previous protocol.

The Committee discussed providing only the data fields identified in the protocol as needed for linkage and considered the release of additional data fields as long as the use of the data can be justified.

Linette Scott stated that the Committee could recommend providing only the fields necessary for data linkage.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request with the stipulation to release only the data specified as needed for matching.

VSAC Motions: Jonathan Teague motioned to approve the recommendation with the stipulation to release only the data specified as needed for matching. Deborah Williams seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending the approval of the data request with the stipulation to release only the data specified as needed for matching. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

The fourth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Los Angeles Mommy and Baby (LAMB) Survey Project"

Principle Investigator(s): Shin Margaret Chao, PhD., MPH, Chief, Research, Evaluation, and Planning Unit, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 10-12-02

Expiration: February 2, 2012

File(s) Requested: Provisional year-to-date live birth data from Los Angeles (LA) County Department of Public Health (DPH)

Requested Identifiers: Personal identifiers

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: One Committee member commented on the familiarity of the project and that the research project is well-designed.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Sue Holtby motioned to recommend approval of the data request. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending the approval of the data request. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

The fifth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Obstetric Inequality in CA: Differential Rates of Cesarean Sections"

Principle Investigator(s): Claire C. Hines, UCSF Joint Medical Program/University of Berkeley

Project Type: New Project
CPHS Approval: Approved
Project No.: Exemption
Expiration: N/A
File(s) Requested: 2007, 2008, and 2009 Birth Statistical Master File
Requested Identifiers: No Personal Identifiers
Personal Contact: No
Identifiers Released: No
History: New Research Project
VSAC Discussion: No discussion.
VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.
VSAC Motions: Krista Hanni motioned to recommend the approval of the data request. Sue Holtby seconded the motion.
VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending the approval of the data request. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

The sixth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Names, Churches, and Cradles: Investigating the Sweet Chains of Ethnic Identity" "
Principle Investigator(s): Giovanni Osea Giuntella, Boston University
Project Type: New Project
CPHS Approval: Approved
Project No.: 11-04-28
Expiration: April 6, 2011
File(s) Requested: 1975-1980 and 1989-2009 Birth Statistical Master File
Requested Identifiers: Name, Mother's Address
Personal Contact: No
Identifiers Released: No
History: New Research Project
VSAC Discussion: The Committee was concerned that the requestor was asking for more data than needed. However, after a discussion about

limiting the amount of data given to the minimum data required to do the analysis, the Committee decided to approve the data request without stipulation.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Sue Holtby motioned to recommend the approval of the data request. Krista Hanni seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending the approval of the data request. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

The seventh project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Language Acquisition in Infants and Children"

Principle Investigator(s): Toben Mintz, PhD, University of Southern California, Department of Psychology

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 09-08-06

Expiration: August 5, 2011

File(s) Requested: Ad Hoc Birth Data File

Requested Identifiers: Parents' last name, DOB of child, street address, city, and zip code for LA County births

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: Discussion among the Committee members included clarification that they would screen out death files and respond to those individuals who returned the card.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Sue Holtby motioned to recommend the approval of the data request. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending the approval of the data request. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

The eighth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Impacts of Climate Change and Meteorological Conditions on Deaths, Hospitalizations, and Emergency Room Visits in California"

Principle Investigator(s): Helene Margolis, University of California, Davis, Center for Healthcare Policy & Research, **CO-PIs:** Paul B. English, PhD, MPH, CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch; Alexander Gershunov, PhD, MS Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Climate Research Division; Roger Trent, PhD, CDPH Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control Branch

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 08-08-55

Expiration: August 5, 2011

File(s) Requested: 1990-2009 Multiple Cause of Death (MCD), 1989-1998 Death Statistical Master File, 1999-2004 Death Statistical Master File, 2009 Death Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: MCD (Certificate number), DSMF (Name, Certificate Number, and Address)

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: There was no discussion required.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend the approval of the data request. Krista Hanni seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye in favor of recommending the approval of the data request. There were no oppositions or no abstentions. Motion carried.

F. OLD BUSINESS

The Health Information and Research Section asked the Committee if there were any questions on the data requests that were approved internally and released since the last meeting. There were no questions from the Committee.

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Krista Christian asked if there were any participants from the public. There were no public participants.

H. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Krista Hanni motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye in favor of adjourning the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.