



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH
Director & State Health Officer

Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC)
Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee (VRPAC)
Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 11, 2013
9:00 AM



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

ATTENDEES:

Convener: Krista Christian, MBA, Chief, Vital Statistics Unit (VSU)

Committee Members:

Present: Malaika Singleton, PhD, Senate Office of Research;
Jonathan Teague, MCRP, Office of Statewide Planning and
Development

Absent: Deborah Williams, California Department of Social Services
Matthew Sundquist, Facebook

Phone: Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD. University of Southern
California, Erlinda Valdez, California Funeral Directors Association,
David Grant, PhD, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff:

Present: Este Geraghty, MD, MS, MPH, FACP, GISP; Deputy
Director, Center for Health Statistics and Informatics, Laura Lund
M. A., Science Advisor, Terri Mack, MPA, Chief, Health Information
and Research Section; Cindy Tanaka-Fong, Research Analyst II,
VSU

Public Attendees: Melanie Rivera, Committee for the Protection of
Human Subjects (CPHS), Lucila Martinez, CPHS

Present:

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

A/B. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

Krista announced that this was a public meeting conforming to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, 2004. Members of the public are allowed to attend and welcome to participate at the end of the meeting.

Attendees present at the meeting and on the phone introduced themselves. Krista acknowledged our new Deputy Director for the Center for Health Statistics and Informatics, Dr. Este Geraghty. Krista informed everyone that Deborah Williams, who was not able to participate in the meeting had reviewed all the protocols with the exception of project #4 and had no concerns with the materials she approved.

Project #4 was posted on the Sharepoint site last night.

Krista informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the minute taking.

Krista announced that our division had a recent name change. Our name has changed from the Health Information and Strategic Planning Division to the Center for Vital Statistics and Informatics. The change was made to align our name with our responsibilities and was chosen as it is consistent with National Standards for state vital records organizations and inclusive of our diverse programs.

The 2012 Death Statistical Master File has been released. We anticipate that the 2012 Birth Statistical Master File will be released in the next few weeks. There is no definite date as to when the release of the 2011 Fetal Death Statistical Master File would be.

The agenda item, brought up during the July meeting, which related to procedures involving media inquiries will be tabled until the November meeting.

We are still looking for new members for the VSAC/VRPAC. If any members have recommendations, please contact Krista Christian at (916) 552-9873 or e-mail her at krista.christian@cdph.ca.gov.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Jonathan Teague motioned to approve the July 10, 2013 meeting minutes. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion. All Committee members voted to approve the minutes. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

D. VSAC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Attachment 1, the State Registrar's Response to VSAC Recommendations, is a recap of recommendations from the last meeting.

There were 16 projects reviewed during the July 10 meeting. Eleven projects received the recommendation of approval. Four projects received approval with stipulation that death data be used to prevent grieving parents of deceased infants from being contacted. One project was approved with stipulation that family members or informantants associated with decedents were not contacted. All recommendations were adopted by the State Registrar.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Thirteen projects were reviewed.

The first project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Reproductive Health and the Environment Mapping Assessment Project"

Principal Investigator(s): Angela Chen, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-11-0913

Expiration: June 6, 2014

File(s) Requested: 2006-2010 Birth Statistical Master File (select variables), 2006-2010 Fetal Death Statistical Master Files (select variables), 2006-2010 Death Statistical Master File (select variables), 2006-2010 Merged Death Files (select variables), 2010 Non-Public Patient Discharge Data/linked birth data, 2006-2010 Non-Public Patient Discharge Data/linked death data, 2006-2009 Non-Public Patient Discharge Data/linked Birth Cohort file

Requested Identifiers: Birth Statistical Master File (Name, Address), Fetal Death Statistical Master File (Name), Death Statistical Master File (Name, Address, Mother's Maiden Name), Merged Death (Name), Non-Public Patient Discharge Data/linked birth/death/birth cohort (California identifiers)

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: There was concern about the data destruction plan. Clarification was made they would destroy all vital statistics data obtained as stated in the data access agreement included in the application. On the OSHPD application, there is a notice to return or destroy data for linked files upon project completion. One member inquired about the linking process. Jonathan commented that outcomes cannot be determined for these statistical projects, until

tasks are undertaken.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

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

VSAC Vote: Committee members voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The second project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "California Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Report"

Principal Investigator(s): Angela Chen, University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-08-0596

Expiration: February 7, 2014

File(s) Requested: 2007-2010 Linked Patient Discharge Data/Birth Cohort File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: (California identifiers)

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: No Discussion

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Emily Putnam-Hornstein motioned to recommend approval of the data release. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The third project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Brief Interventions for Alcohol Use Among Injured Patients: a Prospective Randomized Trial"

Principal Investigator(s): Garth Utter, UC Davis Medical Center

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Requested

Project No: Pending CPHS Approval

Expiration: Pending CPHS Approval

File(s) Requested: 2006-2010 Death Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: Name, Social Security Number

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: There was concern as to how they gain consent from people who are using alcohol and have had traumatic injuries. Clarification was given that the cohort would identify people who came into ER at the UC Med Center and that each individual provided consent at that time.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

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

VSAC Vote: The Committee members voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The fourth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Trends in Regional Specialty Care Hospitalization for Children in California"

Principal Investigator(s): Vandana Sundaram, Stanford University

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-07-0488

Expiration: October 4, 2013

File(s) Requested: 2010 and 2011 DSMF (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: No Personal Identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: No Discussion

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend approval of the data request. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

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

The fifth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Disparity Analysis for Neonatal Surgical Diseases"

Principal Investigator(s): Jeffrey S. Upperman, USC Keck School of Medicine

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-06-0389

Expiration: June 28, 2013

File(s) Requested: 2006-2009 Patient Discharge Data/linked Birth Cohort (select variables), 2010 Patient Discharge Data/linked Birth files (select variables), 2006-2010 Patient Discharge Data/linked Death files (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project.

VSAC Discussion: It was noted that the CPHS approval has expired as of last month.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request contingent upon receiving an updated CPHS approval.

VSAC Motions: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend approval of the data request contingent on receipt of an updated CPHS approval letter is. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request contingent on CDPH receipt of an updated CPHS approval letter. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The sixth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "UC Davis Center for Regional Change/Rabobak Rural Opportunity Index (ROI)"

Principal Investigator(s): Chris Benner, PhD., UC Davis Community and Regional Development

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 13-07-1287

Expiration: June 27, 2014

File(s) Requested: 2009-2011 Birth Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: Address

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: The science advisor has indicated that this is not a research project, as it appears to be using aggregated data to create a geographic database for future analysis. The committee has reviewed similar projects like this in the past.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend the approval of the data. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The seventh project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "First 5 Kern Evaluation"

Principal Investigator(s): JianJun Wang, California State University, Bakersfield

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 13-02-1073

Expiration: May 2, 2014

File(s) Requested: 2009-2010 Patient Discharge Data/Linked Birth file (select variables); 2009-2010 Patient Discharge Data/linked Death file (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: No discussion

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Emily Putnam-Hornstein motioned to recommend approval of the data request. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The eighth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Disparities in Outcomes for Pediatric Disease: Context, Access and Quality of Care"

Principal Investigator(s): N. Ewne Wang, MD & Paul Wise MD,

Stanford University School of Medicine

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-06-0328

Expiration: August 2, 2013

File(s) Requested: 2008-2009 Patient Discharge Data/linked Death data (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: Committee members noted that CPHS approval had expired as of the previous month.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request contingent upon receiving an updated CPHS approval.

VSAC Motions: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend approval of the data request contingent upon receiving an updated CPHS approval. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request contingent on CPHS review and an updated approval letter. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The ninth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Epidemiology and Expenditures of Infant Health in California"

Principal Investigator(s): Paul Wise MD, Stanford University School of Medicine

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 13-02-1125

Expiration: May 2, 2014

File(s) Requested: 1991-1997 and 1999-2009 Patient Discharge Data/linked Birth files (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: No Discussion

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Emily Putnam-Hornstein motioned to recommend approval of the data request. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The tenth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Probabilistic Inference and Categorization Development in Infants"

Principal Investigator(s): Fei Xu, University of California, Berkeley

Project Type: Continuing Project (revisions to the protocol)

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-04-0161

Expiration: July 14, 2014

File(s) Requested: 2013 Birth Statistical Master File (select variables)
2013 Birth Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: Name and Address

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: The revisions revolve around the use of an outsourced mailing house to contact subjects. There may be typographical errors in the protocol as they reference OSHPD and CDPH.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: David Grant motioned to recommend the approval of the data release. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

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

The eleventh project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Gun Violence in Alameda: The Five Year Morbidity and Mortality in a County Hospital System"

Principal Investigator(s): Jahin Fahimi, MD, UCSF and Alameda Health System

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Pending

Project No.: 13-07-1279

Expiration: Pending CPHS Approval

File(s) Requested: 2007-2012 Death Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: Name and Social Security Number,

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: No Discussion

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request. The Committee was reminded that this was another project pending CPHS approval. Krista reminded everyone that for death data, the projects first get reviewed by VSAC, and then by CPHS. For birth data, the projects are reviewed by CPHS first, and then reviewed by VSAC.

VSAC Motions: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend the approval of the data contingent upon the submission of a complete and approved CPHS project protocol. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The twelfth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Visual Processing and Later Cognitive Effects in Infants with Fragile X System (FXS)"

Principal Investigator(s): Susan M. Rivera, PhD., UCD Center for Mind and Brain

Project Type: Continuing Project (reviewed 11/13/07)

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-04-0103

Expiration: May 2, 2014

File(s) Requested: Files to be obtained from Dr. Lisa Oakes – Project # 12-10-0802

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: There was concern regarding the use of death data to make sure they would exclude contact of families of deceased infants. On their application, clarification was provided with a statement saying that they would also be accessing death records in order to eliminate any infant who has died from their contact list.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend the approval of the data. David Grant seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

The thirteenth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Using Population-based datasets to generate and test new hypotheses for investigating preterm births in California"

Principal Investigator(s): Gary M. Shaw, Stanford University, Department of Pediatrics - Neonatology

Project Type: CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-11-0906

Expiration: January 3, 2014

File(s) Requested: 1960-2011 Birth Statistical Master File (select variables), 1970-2010 Fetal Death Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: BSMF (Certificate Number and Address – data previously received; request for Certificate Number is in process), FDSMF (Certificate Number – 1970-2010 –data previously received)

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: Krista commented if we may not have all that information on the files for the earlier years. The requestor will be contacted letting him know we can only provide what we have on the data files. It was brought up that in the past, previous projects where data has been requested and does not exist electronically, they were able to pay for key data entry for us to enter into our system.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Emily Putnam-Hornstein motioned to recommend the approval of the. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. There was one abstention. Motion carried.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: Krista asked the Committee to refer to Item F, Recap of Data Requests Approved in the Vital Statistics Unit, Attachment 3. There were twenty-three data requests that did not require VSAC/VRPAC review were reviewed and approved by the Health Information and Research Section.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT: There were two members of the public attending the meeting.

Krista and Terri provided a brief overview of the process which included the following:

- Committee members can access the SharePoint site to review protocols.
- State staff is responsible for facilitating the meeting and discussions are led by committee members, who make recommendations for the State Registrar to approve according to statutes governing the release of vital statistics.
- Recommendations to approve release include the use of the data for these protocols presented.
- The CDPH legal office has designated a quorum as the majority of committee members as the term is not defined in the statutes pertaining to VSAC.
- Este expressed concern about CPHS approval expiring before protocols have been reviewed by VSAC. She suggested holding hourly monthly meetings instead of 2-hour, bimonthly meetings. Researchers would not have to wait for 2 months to receive data if application requirements have been met. One member commented that delays may be caused on the part of the researcher due to funding or other projects, and not necessarily due to the time state agencies take to process requests.
- CPHS staff provided information on their review process. Data only requests are expedited and reviewed within 2 weeks. New projects always go before full committee review, which occurs every 2 months. Laura asked if the expedited review is in compliance to Bagley-Keene mandates. Agendas are posted 10 days in advance. Comments are also made available. Terri wanted to know if they have any policy for expedited review. CPHS staff said they could research this for us. Expedited review is a 2 person review. Bagley-Keene is satisfied as long as comments are made available to the public.
- Krista would send Este the statutes surrounding this meeting. She said that there was a pamphlet available on Bagley-Keene. Terri said that there is an email from Katie, our legal advisor, regarding the comments on quorum. She would or have staff forward this to Este.

H. AGENDA ITEMS: At the next meeting, we will address Media Requests and possibly get Matt Conens to assist with this.

I. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Jonathan Teague motioned to adjourn the meeting. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion. Committee members all voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 10:12 A.M.