



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, November 14, 2012
9:00 AM to 9:46 AM



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

ATTENDEES:

Convener: Krista Christian, MBA, Chief, Vital Statistics Unit

Committee Members:

Present: Jonathan Teague, MCRP, Deborah Williams, Chief,
Malaika Singleton Duran, PhD, Matthew Sundquist

Phone: Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD, Sue Holtby, MPH

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff:

Present: Terri Mack, Chief, Laura Lund, Science Advisor, Julie Turner, Cindy Tanaka-Fong

Additional Attendees:

Present: Cynthia Garcia and Poh-Sin Yap, Air Resource Board

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. Members of the public are allowed to attend and welcome to participate at the end of the meeting.

Krista introduced everyone who was present. Krista introduced the two new VSAC/VRPAC members: Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Associate Professor at the University of Southern California, whose area of expertise includes public child welfare and Matthew Sundquist, Project and Privacy Manager at Inflection, a Redwood City public records company, Matthew stated that he no longer works there but will be working at Facebook next month. He will be working on their product team as a privacy team manager. Krista informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the minute taking.

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Research protocols are available for review on our Department's SharePoint site. Protocols are uploaded up to 3 weeks prior to the VSAC meeting and members were encouraged to download and review them early to avoid a mini traffic jam.

Krista announced that VSAC/VRPAC are accepting new members and prospective members may contact her at krista.christian@cdph.ca.gov or (916) 552-9873.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Deborah Williams motioned to approve the September 12, 2012 meeting minutes. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. All Committee members voted to approve the minutes.

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.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Eight projects were reviewed.

The first project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Maternal Age-Specific Prevalence Rates of Chromosome Abnormalities by Race/Ethnicity in the Kaiser Health plan in Northern and Southern California"

Principal Investigator(s): De-Kun Li, MD, PhD, Kaiser Foundation Research Institute, Division of Research

Project Type: This project was submitted to CPHS as a new project but is actually a continuing project with a new Principal Investigator and changes to the Protocol.

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-06-0407

Expiration: August 2, 2013

File(s) Requested: 2010 Merged Death

Requested Identifiers: 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: Sue Holtby motioned to recommend approval of the data request. Deborah Williams seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval. There were no oppositions. Motion carried.

The second project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Language Development in Infants"

Principal Investigator(s): Toben Mintz, PhD, University of Southern California

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-06-0313

Expiration: August 2, 2013

File(s) Requested: Current live birth data obtained directly from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (selected variables)

Requested Identifiers: Name and Address

Personal Contact: Yes

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. Matthew Sundquist seconded the motion.

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

The third project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Epidemiologic Study of One Million U.S. Radiation Workers"

Principal Investigator(s): Michael Mumma, International Epidemiology Institute

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-06-0325

Expiration: August 2, 2013

File(s) Requested: 2009-2010 Death Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: Name, Certificate Number, SSN, Address

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

VSAC Discussion: A question was raised on whether or not the protocol was for death files dating back to 1970 as well as future events, yet the data request is specified 2 years of data. This is a new request and only 2 years of data will be provided. Laura Lund commented that this appears to be a pilot study.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

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

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

The fourth 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, Cancer Prevention Institute

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No: 10-12-59

Expiration: 12-7-12

File(s) Requested: 1960-1969 Marriage Index (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: No discussion.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

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

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

The fifth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "The Role of Physician Peer Learning in Autism Screening and Diagnosis"

Principal Investigator(s): Ezra Zuckerman, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-06-0459

Expiration: October 4, 2013

File(s) Requested: 1997-2007 Birth Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project.

VSAC Discussion: They will be using birth data previously obtained by Kaiser. We will not be shipping out new data.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

VSAC Motions: Matthew Sunquist motioned to recommend the 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. Motion carried.

The sixth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "RealAge Collaboration – Prediction of Mortality Risk Using Online Health and Health Interest Data"

Principal Investigator(s): James H. Fowler, PhD, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, Division of Social Sciences

Project Type: Continuing Project (additional data and revisions to the protocol)

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-04-0053

Expiration: May 30, 2013

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

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request.

VSAC Discussion: No discussion.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

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

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

The seventh project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Political Engagement Before and After the Death of a Spouse"

Principal Investigator(s): James H. Fowler, PhD, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, Division of Social Sciences

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-04-0125

Expiration: May 30, 2013

File(s) Requested: 2010 Death Statistical Master File (select variables) Dr. Fowler will be using the same data set for this project as well as for the previous project.

Requested Identifiers: Name, Mother's Address

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request.

VSAC Discussion: The principal investigator requesting additional data with revisions to the protocol.

VSAC Recommendation(s): Approve the data request.

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

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

The eighth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Ongoing Surveillance and Research of Air Pollution Effects on Death"

Principal Investigator(s): Cynthia Garcia, Air Resources Board

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-04-0106

Expiration: October 4, 2013

File(s) Requested: 2004-2010 Death Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: Name, Certificate Number, SSN, Address

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request.

VSAC Discussion: This project was originally reviewed in November 2012; however, the protocol was revised to include addresses. Data has not been released for the original review.

Committee members expressed concern about releasing names and SSN for a stand-alone data set that would not be linked to additional information. Data to be released should be the minimum necessary to complete the project. One committee member asked if the Vital Statistics Unit typically waits to release additional identifiers until the time they are needed. A question was asked about the technology to be used to link the data. If Tiger 5 census bureau geocoding is used, the data can be cleaned to improve the geocoding accuracy.

Krista verified name, certificate number, address and SSN was marked on the application.

VSAC Recommendation(s): The committee recommended approval to release the data as requested except for name and social security number.

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

VSAC Vote: Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. 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. 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: Cynthia Garcia and Poh-Sin Yap from the Air Resources Board attended the meeting and offered comment on data requirements for project eight. No members of the public were on the conference line.

H. AGENDA ITEMS: Krista asked the Committee if there were any agenda items for the next meeting. There were no agenda items.

I. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION: Jonathan asked when the 2011 Death Statistical Master File (DSMF) would be available. Staff is currently looking at quality issues of the data which should be released soon. Once revisions for 2011 are received, we will focus on completing 2012. Data is now being registered on a real-time basis HIRS staff discussed the possibility of releasing a preliminary file and a final version later in the year.

Jonathan mentioned that HIRS appeared to be relying on the CPHS protocol as the lead document. Julie stated that the online process of protocol submission has insured we receive needed information. Jonathan requested this topic be discussed further in a meeting between OSHPD and HIRS staffs. Julie will initiate the meeting.

Matthew asked if data could be made available to a 3rd party who wanted to replicate or test results of a published academic paper or book. The interested party would need to contact the author of the published study, who may share the project protocol with the interested party but not the data. The interested party would have to apply directly with the state to access the Vital Statistics data for the study.

J. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Deborah Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion.

Committee members all voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 9:46 A.M.