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Director & State Health Officer

Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC)
Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee (VRPAC)
Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 16, 2015
9:00 AM



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

ATTENDEES:

Convener:

Heather Fukushima, HPS I, Health Information and Research Section

Committee Members:

Phone: Jonathan Teague, Manager, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Karen Henderson, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Erlinda Valdez, Board Member, California Funeral Directors Association, David Grant, PhD, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Dharia McGrew, Assembly Committee of Health

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff:

Present: Colin Chew, Research Analyst I, Health Information and Research Section, Laura Lund, MA, Science Advisor, Public Health Policy and Research Branch, Cindy Tanaka-Fong, Research Analyst II, Data Management Unit, Heather Fukushima, HPS I, Health Information and Research Section

Public Attendees: None

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

A/B. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

Staff present attending the meeting included: Colin Chew, Research Analyst I, Health Information and Research Section, Laura Lund, MA, Science Advisor, Public Health Policy and Research Branch, Cindy Tanaka-Fong, Research Analyst II, Data Management Unit Heather Fukushima, HPS I, Health Information and Research Section

Committee members on the phone included: Jonathan Teague, Manager, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, David Grant, PhD, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Erlinda Valdez, Board Member, California Funeral Directors Association

Ms. Fukushima welcomed Dharia McGrew, as a new member of the committee representing the Chair of the Assembly Health Committee.

Ms. Mc Grew introduced herself and provided a brief background. Ms. Mc Grew currently serves as a senior policy consultant for the Assembly Health Committee and holds a Ph.D. in molecular & cell biology from Brandeis University.

Ms. Fukushima informed those present that the meeting was being recorded to assist with note taking purposes. This meeting complies with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Erlinda Valdez moved to approve the November 4, 2015 meeting minutes. Jonathan Teague seconded the motion. Jonathan Teague, Erlinda Valdez, David Grant, and Dharia McGrew voted aye to unanimously approve the minutes. There were no opposed and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as distributed.

D. VSAC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The State Registrar's (SR) Responses to VSAC Recommendations are included in the agenda package as Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT 2 – CONSENT CALENDAR: OSHPD DATA REQUESTS

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

Principal Investigator: Lee Sanders, MD, MPH, Stanford University

Project Type: New Data Request

Data Requested: 2010-2011 Linked PDD/Death Files

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

VSAC Vote: Jonathan Teague, Erlinda Valdez, David Grant, and Sun Lee voted aye unanimously in recommending approval of the data requests. Motion carried. The Committee has voted to recommend that the SR approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Project Title: "Return on Investment?: The Cost Offsets Associated with Supported Housing in Los Angeles"

Principal Investigator(s): Dennis Culhane, MD, University of Pennsylvania

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 13-07-1302

Expiration: August 5, 2016

File(s) Requested: 2006-2011 Linked PDD/Death Files

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Data Request

VSAC Discussion: Staff explained that the researcher is requesting number of different data files. This Committee only has purview in regard to vital records data. This request includes other data files in order to conduct the contact portion of their study.

Jonathan Teague commented that when the data is in motion being provided to consultant, going back and forth, it has to be encrypted to a certain standard. CHSI stated that CDPH also requires that requesters of vital records data meet the Information Privacy and Security Requirements regarding encryption.

VSAC Motion: Jonathan Teague motioned to recommend approval of the data release. Dharia McGrew seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: Jonathan Teague, Erlinda Valdez, David Grant, and Dharia McGrew voted aye unanimously in recommending approval of the data request. Motion carried. The Committee has voted to recommend that the State Registrar (SR) approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

G and H. PUBLIC COMMENTS and DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Ms. Valdez requested information regarding the data request submitted by Karen McLaughlin.

Ms. Lund reviewed information from an earlier presentation to the committee regarding the statutory authority governing release of vital records data. Those statutes are Health and Safety Codes 102230 and 102231. In Section 102230, members of the public can receive a

Public Use Death File. The elements for that data file are defined in statute and include: first middle and last name, date of death, place of death. CDPH is not authorized to release an electronic data file beyond the elements defined in Statute. Although, Ms. McLaughlin may have released such data in the past, CDPH cannot continue to provide a data file that is not compliant with current statute.

Jonathan Teague brought up requests from the local health departments for the linked OSHPD vital statistics data. Mr. Teague stated that it is his understanding that the local health departments are entitled to receive OSHPD data for their own county under statute. Local health departments are also able to receive under separate statute vital statistics data. OSHPD has not made a practice to provide the linked data file. His question for the Committee is "how should we approach this?" If county health departments can request components of the file, OSHPD does not want them to create the linkage on their own if a data file has been already prepared.

Ms. Lund stated that if the county health department is only requesting vital records data that they would otherwise be entitled to receive, provision of linked would not present a problem to CDPH. CDPH has a specific application for local health departments. This discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

I. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Jonathan Teague moved to adjourn the meeting and David Grant seconded the motion. Jonathan Teague, Erlinda Valdez, David Grant, and Dharia McGrew voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the meeting. Motion carried.