The meeting was called to order by Heather Fukushima at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present via telephone:

- Emily Putnam-Hornstein, University of Southern California
- Ninez Ponce, University of California, Los Angeles
- Linda Remy, University of California, San Francisco
- Anura Ratnasiri, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- Bao Nguyen, California State Senate

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Gregory Franklin, California at Optum

California Department of Public Health staff present at the meeting:

- Michelle Miles, Section Chief
- Jennifer Rico, Science Advisor
- Sandra Bannerman, Unit Chief
- Heather Fukushima, Specialist
- Karla Van Meter, Research Scientist
- Dale Price, Analyst
- Steven Hoang, Analyst

California Department of Public Health staff present via telephone:

- Charles Lano, Department of Public Health, Chief Information Security Officer

Public Attendees present via telephone:

- Jennifer Rienks, University of California, San Francisco

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Public attendees were asked to reserve any comments until the Public Comments portion of the meeting.
ATTACHMENT 1 – STATE REGISTRAR’S RESPONSE TO VSAC RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Registrar adopted thirteen of the fifteen projects listed in Attachment 5 – New Business.

One application listed was not heard due to additional information needed which will be revised and reviewed later by VSAC:

**Project Title:** Trends and Determinants of Poor Birth Outcomes and Infant Mortality in California, 2005-2016: Significance of Smoking and Pre Pregnancy Obesity  
**Principal Investigator:** Anura Ratnasiri, MS, DHCS  
**Project Type:** New Project  
**Data Requested:** 2012-2016 Birth, Death, and Fetal Death Data Files

One application listed is pending State Registrar Determination:

**Project Title:** Place Matters For Racial Inequities In Low Birth Weight: How the Health Landscape of Segregation, Neighborhood Networks, and Prenatal Care Availability Impacts Low Birth Weight Inequities in Los Angeles County  
**Principal Investigator:** Michelle Debbink, MD, University of Michigan  
**Project Type:** New Project  
**Data Requested:** 2009-2014 Birth Files

ATTACHMENT 2 – RECAP OF DATA REQUESTS APPROVED IN THE HEALTH INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SECTION

**Discussion:** None

There was no **MOTION.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A **MOTION** was made by Emily Putnam-Hornstein and **SECONDED** by Anura Ratnasiri to approve the May 8, 2017 meeting minutes.

Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Anura Ratnasiri, Gregory Franklin, and Ninez Ponce voted aye to approve the previous meeting minutes as distributed. Linda Remy and Bao Nguyen abstained from voting.
ATTACHMENT 3 – EXHIBITS A – C - CERTIFICATE REVISION WORKGROUP’S RECOMMENDED PROPOSED CHANGES

Discussion: Over the last two years, the CRW met bimonthly to identify and document California’s similarities to and differences from the national standards. The CRW identified important gaps in current vital event data collection and considered whether fields should be added to or removed from existing certificates. Based on these discussions, the CRW identified several proposed changes that will require regulation development. VSAC/VRPAC is responsible for reviewing and providing recommendations to the State Registrar.

CERTIFICATE REVISION WORKGROUP’S RECOMMENDED PROPOSED CHANGES

PROPOSED NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE FIELDS

1. Planned Place of Birth (New Field) (Drop-Down Box)

   This field would capture information on where the delivery was planned. If a mother plans to give birth at home, but is transferred to a hospital due to pregnancy complications, this field would capture the intended place of birth. Some planned births need emergency care and hospitals need to identify those planned births. The committee recommends following the U.S. Standard (Place Where Birth Occurred). The field would read:

   Planned Place of Birth:
   - Hospital
   - Freestanding Birthing Center
   - Home Birth (planned to deliver at home)
   - Clinic/Doctor’s Office
   - Other (specify)

Discussion: None

A MOTION was made by Linda Remy and SECONDED by Ninez Ponce to recommend approval. Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Anura Ratnasiri, Bao Nguyen, and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the new birth certificate field. Gregory Franklin abstained from voting.
2. **All Infant Feedings Since Birth (New Field) (Drop-Down Box)**

This field would capture all feedings of the newborn since birth. The data would be captured in the confidential section of the certificate. The committee recommends following the U.S. Standard. The field would read:

All Infant Feedings Since Birth:
- Breast Milk Only
- Formula Only
- Both - Breast Milk and Formula
- Other (specify)

**Discussion:** None

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein to recommend approval. Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Anura Ratnasiri, Bao Nguyen, Gregory Franklin, and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the new birth certificate field.

3. **Newborn Screening Blood Collection Serial Number (New Field)**

This field would capture the newborn’s blood collection serial number in the confidential section of the certificate. Collecting this information will help in the diagnosis of conditions that could develop later in the child’s life. The field would read:

Newborn Screening Blood Collection Serial Number

**Discussion:** None

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Anura Ratnasiri to recommend approval. Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Anura Ratnasiri, Bao Nguyen, Gregory Franklin, and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the new birth certificate field.
4. **Newborn Screening Blood Collection Serial Number-Reason Not Collected (New Field) (Drop-Down Box)**

This field would capture why a parent would not provide permission to collect the Newborn Screening Blood Collection Serial Number. The committee recommends adopting this field to capture why the newborn screening serial number was not collected. The field would read:

Newborn Screening Blood Collection Serial Number-Reason Not Collected:

- Parents Refused
- Newborn Expired
- Urgent Transfer
- Other (specify)

**Discussion:** Linda Remy had concerns regarding the screening serial number collection. The refusal by parents is not a clinical reason to not collect the data. What is the CRW’s recommendation regarding the collection if the newborn expired? The committee recommended that this proposed change be taken back to CRW for further discussion.

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Gregory Franklin to recommend taking the Newborn Screening Blood Collection Serial Number-Reason Not Collected proposed item back to CRW for further discussion. Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Anura Ratnasiri, Ninez Ponce, Gregory Franklin, Bao Nguyen, and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend that CRW review this field again.

5. **Is Infant Living at Time of Report? (New Field) (Drop-Down Box)**

This field would capture the newborn’s health status at the time the birth certificate is completed. The committee recommends following the U.S. Standard for data collection. The field would read:

Is Infant Living at Time of Report?

- Yes
- No
- Infant Transferred
- Status Unknown

**Discussion:** None
A MOTION was made by Linda Remy and SECONDED by Gregory Franklin to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen, and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the new birth certificate field.

PROPOSED DELETED BIRTH CERTIFICATE FIELDS

1. Hearing Screening (Field 26B)

The committee recommends following the U.S. Standard by deleting this field from the face of the certificate. Often times the screening results are not available as the birth certificate is being prepared. However, the information will be captured electronically in the birth registration system.

Discussion: None

A MOTION was made by Linda Remy and SECONDED by Anura Ratnasiri to recommend approval of this item. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen, and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve deleting birth certificate field.

1. Date of Last Prenatal Care Visit (Field 25BA)

U.S. Standard field 29b captures the Date of Last Prenatal Care Visit. The committee recommends deleting this field due to poor data quality and lack of potential for improvement.

Discussion: Gregory Franklin and Ninez Ponce requested clarification from the CRW regarding the poor data quality issues and the rationale for deleting this field. Linda Remy suggested that the poor data quality issues might be due to a delay in the data transfer between the physician’s office and hospital prior to the mother and newborn being discharged. The committee discussed the lack of definition for this field, and noted that the date of the last prenatal visit captured from the physician’s office may not necessarily be the last time the mother was seen by a physician prior to delivery.

The committee also discussed that the data quality issues may be due to poor data collection methods, administrative issues, or a lack of due diligence. The committee recommended that this proposed change be taken back to CRW for further discussion and clarification.
A **MOTION** was made by Gregory Franklin and **SECONDED** by Linda Remy to recommend that CRW further discuss the questions concerning Field 25BA. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen, and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend that CRW further discuss the item and provide clarification to the committee’s questions regarding this field.

2. **Principal Source of Payment for Prenatal Care (Field 25D)**

The committee recommends deleting this field from the confidential section of the certificate and combining it with the Expected Principal Source of Payment for Delivery field. These are based on bundled reimbursement through the health care system. These sources cannot be separated.

**Discussion:** Linda Remy stated that Principal Source of Payment for Prenatal Care field can be deleted since it is virtually the same field as the Expected Principal Source of Payment for Delivery field. It would be redundant to collect data from both fields since payments are bundled.

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Anura Ratnasiri to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the deletion of Principal Source of Payment for Prenatal Care field. Ninez Ponce abstained from voting.

**Additional CRW Discussion Items:**

Emily Putnam-Hornstein asked about the possibility of tracking prenatal substance exposure and adding this as a field to the birth certificate. The committee requested that this topic be brought up at the next CRW meeting for discussion and consideration.

**ATTACHMENT 4 – CONSENT CALENDAR: OSHPD DATA REQUESTS**

The following OSHPD projects are those being placed in the block in the Consent Agenda.

1. **Project Title:** The Impact of Resource Availability on Provider and Health Outcomes in Childbirth  
   **Principal Investigator:** Neel Shah, MD, Harvard University  
   **Project Type:** New Project
Data Requested: 2010-2012 Linked PDD/ED/AS/Birth Cohort Data

2. Project Title: Disseminated Cancer Patients Presenting with Bowel Obstruction: A Population-Based Comparison of Medical versus Surgical Management
   Principal Investigator: Sarah Bateni, MD, University of California, Davis
   Project Type: New Project

3. Project Title: Outcomes of Nurse Practice Environments
   Principal Investigator: Linda Aiken, RN, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
   Project Type: New Project

Discussion: None

A MOTION was made by Linda Remy and SECONDED by Emily Putnam-Hornstein to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described.

ATTACHMENT 5 – DISCUSSION ITEMS – NEW BUSINESS

1. Project Title: Analyzing the Correlation between California Per Capita Funding Allocation for Smoking Prevention Interventions and Infant Mortality
   Principal Investigator: Sunday Oyewole, MPH, RNP, University of Phoenix
   Project Type: New Project
   Data Requested: 2009-2012 Birth Cohort Files

Discussion: The committee had concerns regarding the lack of institutional protections in place for the data being stored and accessed. Emily Putnam-Hornstein mentioned that applicant is a student, and not a faculty member or researcher. The roles of names listed in the Data Access of the research application are not clearly defined. Even though the applicant responded to each point of the Information Privacy and Security Requirements (IPSR), the committee and CDPH staff recommended that the data not be released as
the requestor was not able to demonstrate that adequate protections were in place.

A MOTION was made by Emily Putnam-Hornstein and SECONDED by Ninez Ponce to recommend denial. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to deny the release of data as described in the protocol as the requestor was not able to demonstrate that adequate protections were in place.

2. Project Title: Trends and Determinants of Poor Birth Outcomes and Infant Mortality in California, 2005-2016: Significance of Smoking and Prepregnancy Obesity  
   Principal Investigator: Anura Ratnasiri, MS, Department of Health Care Services  
   Project Type: New Project  
   Data Requested: 2012-2016 Birth Files, 2012-2016 Death Files, and 2012-2016 Fetal Death Files

Discussion: The Science Advisor had concerns with this project. The Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects’ (CPHS) protocol and research application did not match, including data years and variables requested (i.e., father’s age). Clarification is needed regarding the use of outside contractors. Census tract information also needs to be added to the research application and CPHS protocol. Gregory Franklin advised the other members that giving a conditional approval should not be permissible.

A MOTION to vote was deferred.

3. Project Title: Tracking the Well-Being of Children in California  
   Principal Investigator: Mark Mather, PhD, Population Reference Bureau  
   Project Type: Continuing  

Discussion: None

A MOTION was made by Linda Remy and SECONDED by Ninez Ponce to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval.
4. **Project Title:** The Impact of Physician Supply, SES, and Insurance on Preventable Hospitalization and ED Visits  
**Principal Investigator:** David Zingmond, MD, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles  
**Project Type:** Continuing  
**Data Requested:** 2009-2015 Death Files  

**Discussion:** None

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Bao Nguyen to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval. Ninez Ponce abstained from voting.

5. **Project Title:** Perchlorate and Thyroid Hormones in Pregnancy and Infants in Southern California  
**Principal Investigator:** Craig Steinmaus, MD, MPH, University of California, Berkeley  
**Project Type:** Continuing  
**Data Requested:** 2000-2002 Birth Files  

**Discussion:** None

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Gregory Franklin to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval.

6. **Project Title:** San Francisco Mammography Registry: A Research Resource  
**Principal Investigator:** Karla Kerlikowske, MD, University of California, San Francisco  
**Project Type:** New Project  
**Data Requested:** 2014-2022 Death Files  

**Discussion:** Linda Remy mentioned that this data request should be approved to receive data through 2017.

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Ninez Ponce to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri,
Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol with the following stipulations: 1) Approve to release data through 2017, and 2) submit a copy of the CPHS approval letter to CDPH.

7. **Project Title:** A Database To Evaluate Trends In HIV Care Within The UCSF Positive Health Program (WEST)
   - **Principal Investigator:** Saurabh Chavan, MBBS, MPH, University of California, San Francisco
   - **Project Type:** New Project
   - **Data Requested:** 2015-2021 Death Files, and 2015-2021 Multiple Cause of Death Files

   **Discussion:** The committee had concerns regarding the sharing of data. The Science Advisor let them know that no data will be transferred. Linda Remy added that data will be released through 2017.

   A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Bao Nguyen to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol with the following stipulations: 1) Approve to release data through 2017, and 2) submit a copy of the CPHS approval letter to CDPH.

8. **Project Title:** Longitudinal Study of Handgun Ownership and Transfer (LongShot)
   - **Principal Investigator:** David Studdert, LLB, ScD, MPH, Stanford University
   - **Project Type:** New Project
   - **Data Requested:** 2000-2016 Death Files, 2000-2016 Multiple Cause of Death Files

   **Discussion:** None

   A **MOTION** was made by Emily Putnam-Hornstein and **SECONDED** by Bao Nguyen to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval.
9. **Project Title:** Assisted Reproductive Technology and Risk of Childhood Cancer  
**Principal Investigator:** Barbara Luke, ScD, Michigan State University  
**Project Type:** Continuing  
**Data Requested:** 2010-2013 Birth Files, 2010-2014 Death Files  

**Discussion:** None

A **MOTION** was made by Gregory Franklin and **SECONDED** by Anura Ratnasiri to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval.

10. **Project Title:** Proposal To Continue Research On The Developmentally Disabled  
**Principal Investigator:** Robert Shavelle, PhD, FAACPDM, Life Expectancy Project  
**Project Type:** Continuing  
**Data Requested:** 2011-2020 Death Files

**Discussion:** The Science Advisor had concerns regarding the lack of a discreet research question in the CPHS protocol. VSAC members thought the CPHS protocol had specific and sufficient research questions. It was confirmed that a second IPSR must be submitted to CDPH prior to the data release. Linda Remy recommended approval the data release through 2017.

A **MOTION** was made by Linda Remy and **SECONDED** by Gregory Franklin to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol with the following stipulations: 1) Data approval release through 2017, 2) the second Co-PI must submit a signed IPSR to CDPH prior to the data release; and 3) CPHS approval letter must be submitted to CDPH needed prior to data release Ninez Ponce abstained from voting.

11. **Project Title:** Complications of Hematological and Oncologic Diseases in California  
**Principal Investigator:** Ted Wun, MD, FACP, University of California, Davis  
**Project Type:** New Project  
**Data Requested:** 1988-2014 Death Files
Discussion: None

A MOTION was made by Gregory Franklin and SECONDED by Linda Remy to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ninez Ponce, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval.

12. Project Title: Longitudinal Study of Hospital Outcomes for California’s Children
   Principal Investigator: Geraldine Oliva, MD, MPH, University of California, San Francisco
   Project Type: Continuing

Discussion: None

A MOTION was made by Gregory Franklin and SECONDED by Bao Nguyen to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein and Bao Nguyen voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval. Linda Remy abstained from voting.

13. Project Title: Accounting For The Impacts of Physical Environment On Births And Deaths By Demographics Characteristics In The San Diego Region
   Principal Investigator: Rachel Cortes, PhD, San Diego Association of Governments
   Project Type: New Project
   Data Requested: 1990-2014 Birth Files, 1990-2014 Death Files

Discussion: None

A MOTION was made by Gregory Franklin and SECONDED by Anura Ratnasiri to recommend approval. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol subject to receiving CPHS approval.

14. Project Title: STD Control Branch - Surveillance
   Principal Investigator: Lauren Nelson, MPH, California Department of Public Health – STD Control Branch
   Project Type: Continuing
**Data Requested:** 2014-2015 Birth Files

**Discussion:** Since this project is not a research project, the Principal Investigator must submit a CPHS Determination for Exempt Research/Not Research letter to CDPH prior to the data release.

A **MOTION** was made by Gregory Franklin and **SECONDED** by Bao Nguyen to recommend approval. Linda Remy, Anura Ratnasiri, Gregory Franklin, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, and Bao Nguyen voted aye to unanimously recommend to the State Registrar to approve the use of the data as described in the protocol with the following stipulation: A CPHS Determination for Exempt Research/Not Research letter needs to be submitted to CDPH prior to data release.

**ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

There were no additional discussion topics.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:**

A **MOTION** was made by Bao Nguyen and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein to adjourn the meeting. Gregory Franklin, Anura Ratnasiri, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Bao Nguyen and Linda Remy voted aye to unanimously recommend adjourning the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.