

**MM for Infection Preventionists Assessment Subcommittee**

April 1, 2015

**Attendance:** M. Barnden, K. Anderson, D. Wiechman, L. LaBar  
**CDPH staff:** L. Janssen J. Palacios

**Member(s) Absent:** E. Eck, C. Richardson, S. Tweeten, Suzanne Anders

Meeting was called to order @ 1106 by M Barnden, Subcommittee Chair

Public Meetings (Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act)

There are three changes for 2015:

1. For all action items at board meetings and meetings of committees of three or more, the law now requires boards to record the vote or abstention of each member present for that action item. This means the board's minutes must include each board member's name under the appropriate vote category (i.e., yes, no, abstention).
2. An agency is authorized to provide notice of board/committee meetings by regular mail, email or both. However, a person requesting notice has the option of choosing by which of the three methods above the person wishes to receive notice and the agency must comply with the option selected by the requester.
3. If an agency plans to web cast a meeting, then the notice of meeting must include a statement of the intent to web cast the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes: March 4, 2015 meeting

**Motion (K. Anderson)**

Second (D. Wiechman)

Yes	No	Abstention
D. Wiechman		
K. Anderson		
L. Labar		
M. Barnden		

Motion approved per above.

M Barnden presented a summary of her phone conversation with Dr. Witt, HAI-Advisory Committee Chair and L Janssen, Chief of the HAI Program. The charge to the Subcommittee was to recommend a method by which the number of infection prevention professionals would be assessed in each hospital. Information gained by evaluating the scope and level of IP responsibilities and resources would be brought back to the full Committee for discussion and inform the Subcommittee so they could provide input on the impact of legislation, regulations and guidelines on IP programs. It was noted (and per the February 2015 HAI-AC meeting summary) that the survey tool was never intended to be a final-end tool. The second reason for the phone conversation was to obtain CDPH input on next steps for the Subcommittee. The impression was given that while the Department could not distribute the survey (it was felt not appropriate for the Department to survey for IP resources,) the Subcommittee could

distribute the survey through some other mechanism. It was noted there was Department support for distribution of the survey.

L Janssen joined the meeting at this point to remind the Subcommittee that per statute, the HAI-AC exists to advise the Health Department. Further, NHSN has added questions about IP staffing into the most recent annual survey that hospitals can benchmark from. L Janssen noted that New York State has published IP staffing numbers for many years without any increase in IP resources and that there is currently no correlation in the literature that more IPs resulted in fewer HAIs.

Members of the Subcommittee were reminded that the HAI-AC cannot distribute or pilot a survey as it is up to the Department to distribute the tool. While L Janssen appreciates Subcommittee member work, she doesn't think the survey tool is the proper way to proceed. L Janssen also apologized for any confusion.

### **Discussion**

The work of the Subcommittee on the survey tool is complete. CDPH has received the tool from the Subcommittee and will be developing it as something that can be promoted to hospitals as a self-assessment tool and as the basis for a conversation with their IP Department.

M Barnden acknowledged the commitment and work efforts of all Subcommittee members.

### **Impact of Regulations on IP programs: Deferred**

### **Financial Outcomes of HAI (D Wiechman)**

During the first meetings of this Subcommittee, the group wanted to study the financial cost to hospital for not having enough IPs, and the relationship to an increase of HAIs. She found no information in the current literature that can help answer this question.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 1100.

The meeting was adjourned at 1148am