



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 January 14, 2015
9:00 A.M.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

ATTENDEES:

Convener:

Henry Montes, Chief, Data Management Unit

Committee Members:

Absent: Jonathan Teague, MCRP, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Erlinda Valdez, Board Member, California Funeral Directors Association

Phone: Sun Lee, MPH, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, David Grant, PhD., UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD, University of Southern California

Present: No Committee Members were present at the meeting.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff:

Present: Henry Montes, Chief, Data Management Unit, Colin Chew, Research Analyst I, DMU, Laura Lund, MA, Science Advisor, Public Health Policy and Research Branch

Public Attendees: No Public Attendees were present at the meeting.

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

A/B. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

Staff and Committee present attending the meeting included Henry Montes, Chief, Data Management Unit, Colin Chew, Research Analyst I, Public Health Policy and Research Branch, and Laura Lund, MA, Science Advisor, Public Health Policy and Research Branch

Committee members on the phone included Sun Lee, Department of Public Health, County of Los Angeles, David Grant, PhD., Director, California Health Interview Survey, UCLA Center for Health

Policy Research, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Southern California.

Henry informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded to assist with note taking purposes. We have reserved a portion of the meeting for public comment.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Emily Putnam-Hornstein motioned to approve the December 10, 2014 meeting minutes. Sun Lee seconded the motion. All Committee members voted to approve the minutes. There were no oppositions. Motion carried. The minutes have been approved as distributed.

D. VSAC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The State Registrar's Responses to VSAC Recommendations are included in your agenda package as Attachment 1.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Five projects were reviewed.

The first project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Did California Paid Family Leave Improve Children's Health?"

Principal Investigator(s): Ariel Marek, PhD student, University of California, Davis

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 13-10-1399

Expiration: June 5, 2015

File(s) Requested: 2000-2007 PDD /linked Birth Cohort Files (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: Yes

History: New Data Request

VSAC Discussion: No Discussion

VSAC Motion: Sun Lee motioned to recommend approval of the data release. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted aye. There were no oppositions. Motion carried. The Committee has voted to recommend that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

The second project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Enhancement of Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases Using California Hospital Discharge"

Principal Investigator(s): Cynthia Yen, CDPH/Preventable Diseases Epidemiology

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-12-0959

Expiration: February 6, 2015

File(s) Requested: 2013 Non-Public Patient Discharge Data (select variables), 2013 Non-Public Emergency Department Data (select variables), 2013 Non-Public Ambulatory Surgery Center Data (select variables), 2005-2010 linked PDD/ASCD/Birth Cohort Files (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers only

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Requests

VSAC Discussion: Several pages within the protocol, pages 7 and 9 mention Social Security Numbers (SSN). The Committee wanted to make sure we are not releasing something that we are not supposed to be releasing, or approving a project releasing confidential information.

The Science Advisor told the Committee that they can't have SSN for birth data; they can have it for death data. Jonathan was not available to discuss OSHPD rules on the release of SSN.

The Science Advisor stated as long as we are not releasing SSN from the birth file, there is no statutory injunction against our release. Jonathan would have to weigh in on if they can release SSN on their end and if it is a linked file, that the SSN came from OSHPD and not from CDPH, she did not believe there is statutory injunction against that.

The Committee can recommend that the State Registrar release the data for this request with the stipulation that CDPH confirms that the specific variable in questions, SSN is able to be released. The data would not be released by the State Registrar until this is confirmed. If this is okay be released, it would be released.

VSAC Motion: David made motion to recommend to the State Registrar to release the data to the researcher contingent upon confirmation by OSHPD or CDPH that release of SSN of the OSHPD data is permissible. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee has voted to recommend that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol contingent upon the confirmation by CDPH or OSHPD on the use of SSN for the data. There were no oppositions. Motion carried. The Committee has voted to recommend that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

The third project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Childhood Autism Risks from Genetics and the Environment (CHARGE) Study"

Principal Investigator(s): Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD, University of California, Davis

Project Type: Continuing Project with Changes to the Protocol

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No: 12-11-0900

Expiration: February 6, 2015

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

Requested Identifiers: BSMF (Name, Certificate Number, Address), DSMF (Name, Certificate Number, Mother's Maiden Name)

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: The Committee brought up that the requestor will need to provide an updated CPHS approval letter if they do not receive the data by February 6, 2015.

VSAC Motion: Emily Putnam-Hornstein motioned to recommend approval of the data. David Grant seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. Motion carried. The Committee has voted to recommend that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

The fourth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "The Development of Object Representation in Infancy"

Principal Investigator(s): Lisa Oakes, PhD, University of California, Davis

Project Type: Continuing Project with Changes to the Protocol

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 12-06-0326

Expiration: August 7, 2015

File(s) Requested: Infant Death Records from 01/01/15-12/31/15 (select variables), Real-time Birth Records from 01/01/15-12/31/15 (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: Infant Death Records (Name, Address), Birth Records (Name, Address)

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

VSAC Discussion: Discussion was raised regarding one of the amendments listed as the Committee had a question concerning the removal of the section requesting permission to use recordings of the experimental session in educational settings from their consent forms.

The Science Advisor asked the Committee what their concerns were regarding the use of the vital statistics data. The charge of the Committee would be the concerns about the use of vital records data in research projects in order to make recommendations for the State Registrar about the release of those data. If their concern is related to the other aspects of the study addressed by CPHS, it is possibly beyond the scope of the Committee, the Committee can decide to take this on.

The Committee commented that the change may be due to a change from UC Davis policy but it was not clear what the change of policy was.

VSAC Motion: Sun Lee motioned to recommend approval of the data. Emily Putnam-Hornstein seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. Motion carried. The Committee has voted to recommend that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

The fifth project reviewed by the Committee was:

Project Title: "Maternal and Infant Health HP2020 Objectives"

Principal Investigator(s): Holly Shulman, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Michael Curtis, PhD, CDPH, Epidemiology, Assessment, and Program Development Branch

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Exempt

Project No.: N/A

Expiration: N/A

File(s) Requested: 2011-2012 Birth Statistical Master File (select variables)

Requested Identifiers: BSMF (Name and Certificate Number)

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Data Request

VSAC Discussion: The Committee asked about the information that was sent on Tuesday. The Science Advisor said there were no changes to either the protocol or what they planned to do with the data. The original application came from Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Division within our Department. MCAH wanted the Birth Statistical Master File to create files and sent them to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). After internal discussions, MCAH was told they could not re-release the data to CDC. We worked with them and the compromise was CDC would be the primary applicant for the data. The plan is described in the new material the Committee received yesterday. MCAH would create the files on our behalf for CDC and transmit them securely to CDC. It is not a re-release of the data. CDC is working with MCAH as their contractor in order to handle the data for them.

The Committee asked the Science Advisor how she felt as before there were concerns. The Science Advisor stated that all her concerns were addressed by the changes to the application and it looks fine as it is.

The Committee wanted to know if MIHA is sending these manipulated files to CDC so CDC can generate estimates on HP2020 indicators. Is there a reason that MACH cannot do the analysis themselves and send the aggregate estimates of HP2020 indicators to CDC? The Science Advisor said this was the preferred way for CDC to do this and that was why they became the primary requestor for the data.

VSAC Motion: Emily Putnam-Hornstein motioned to recommend approval of the data. David Grant seconded the motion.

VSAC Vote: The Committee members all voted in favor of recommending approval of the data request. There were no oppositions. Motion carried. The Committee has voted to recommend that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: Henry asked the Committee to refer to Attachment 3, Recap of Data Requests Approved in the Vital Statistics Unit.

G and H. Public Comments and AGENDA ITEMS: There were no public comments.

The Committee asked about the release of the 2012 Fetal Death Statistical Master File. Henry said that there was a problem with the 2012 data as it is incomplete as we do not have the causes of death.

I. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 A.M.