

MAPPP Conference Call
January 27, 2010
8:00 – 9:00 AM

MEETING NOTES

Attending: G Holzman; R Johansen; E Wells; R Nowak; D Torres-Burgos; R Bush; A Mercatante; R Schirmer; J Meyerson; T Danish; J Phillips; R Graham; G Johnson; T Frankovich;

Guest: Martha Stanbury, MDCH

MSU Support: M Polverento; S Conley

Announcements – R Johansen (led the meeting on behalf of Julie Vaishampayan-absent)

As part of National Heart Health Week/Month (Feb), Rick is making presentations to local hospitals and encouraging them to track cardiac health-related data during this time. He will be tying his presentations to Michigan's new Smoke-free law. Some of the slides came off the American Heart Association website. He also spoke of a tool available to everyone – *Simple 7 Survey*, from the AHA website – which allows you to determine your current heart health status and to set goals to encourage improving your health.

Julie is unable to be part of the call today; out of town at meetings. She will be leaving Michigan later this year as her husband has accepted a new job in California. With this comes the vacant position of MAPPP President on July 1st. Please contact Rick or Molly if you are interested in serving as President starting July 1 or if you would like to nominate someone for this position. A new President will be elected at the Epidemiology Conference in March.

MAPPP Dues notices were sent out by Carol back in December.

A. Proposed Injury Reporting Rules – Martha Stanbury, MDCH

Handouts of the proposed rule and a summary of the rule were provided to MAPPP members prior to the call.

The purpose of the proposed rule is to give MDCH and local health departments the authority to request reports on injuries from providers which would include identifying information. This proposed rule will help in order to improve surveillance re PH emergencies, etc. The rule is similar to that for communicable disease reporting and would allow local health departments and MDCH to gather data necessary for identifying risk factors beyond what can be ascertained through discharge codes or other such data sources. Reports would only be issued upon request from a LHD or MDCH. They are meeting with other impacted groups, including MSMS, MHA, and MALPH. So far, everyone has been supportive of the proposal. There was some concern among those working with violence against women services, but these have been addressed.

There were questions about requirements of local health departments and what tools might be made available from MDCH for the locals in implementing this new rule. Martha stated that this rule is not a mandate for local health departments and that they will be able to decide to what extent they want to use this new rule. There are no plans at this time to create a state-level database for reporting such investigations and it will be up to each local health department in how they will maintain data collected through their investigations. In cases where MDCH will be undertaking an investigation, the local health department will be notified and it will be up to them to determine how they want to be involved, if at all. There were questions about whether or not this may become a mandate in the future; Martha responded that she doesn't think that will happen. There was also a question about whether or not any

guidance on such investigations will be provided by MDCH or if these new rules could be included in the brochure that explains communicable disease reporting rules. Greg and Martha will look into these and report back to the group.

Others asked how this rule is different from what health departments already can do now in an incident investigation and if this is fixing a problem that exists or is being done in anticipation of a problem. This rule will allow for LHDs and MDCH to request identifiable information in a manner that exempts it from HIPAA. It is being done to improve the current surveillance system and to address current challenges in getting some of this data because of misunderstanding of HIPAA. Eden suggested presenting a copy of the reporting requirements. There was concern that there could be negative press coverage or community reaction if a LHD determined to not undertake an investigation under this rule; will this lead to a perception that the LHD is not doing something it should. Martha does not foresee such a case but acknowledged the concern. A final question was about whether or not Medical Directors are concerned about the new rule; MDCH does not anticipate any concerns as Medical Directors already collaborate on the local and state level on other surveillance projects.

MDCH is moving forward with the rule but don't forget there will be a public comment period if anyone wants to express any concerns. Martha will make sure LHDs are notified when the rule is posted for public comment.

B. Changes to MAPPP Website – Molly Polverento

Molly reported that she has added a “Resources” page to the MAPPP.org web site. This page includes H1N1 resources, presentations shared by MAPPP members, online CME opportunities, and meeting materials. She asked for any other ideas of tools to share on the website. Molly will add the AHA information mentioned by Rick at the beginning of the call to the MAPPP website.

Rick Johansen added emphasis to also adding the “Simple 7 Survey” as a great resource; could encourage those New Year’s resolutions.

C. MDCH Update – Greg Holzman

Michigan will go smoke free beginning May 1, 2010 (excluding casinos). In comparison to other states, Michigan has a strong law on this. MDCH is in the process of looking at both education and enforcement of the law. Some challenges related to how businesses are classified (for purposes of exemption). MDCH will focus on education rather than punishment of workplaces. The Tobacco Section is working with statewide partners (including American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association) on educational presentations, which Greg will send to Molly to post on the MAPPP website as soon as they are available.

Eden: H1N1 has slowed significantly, but still trying to get people vaccinated. Data on who got vaccinated is somewhat concerning, particularly health care workers. There was an improvement in the vaccination rate of pregnant women in comparison to seasonal flu. According to Eden, the CDC is working through local survey data and should have preliminary report out to locals this week.

Eden also reported the Environmental Section has a climate change initiative going to try to engage public health in mitigating the health outcomes of climate change. If anyone knows of people who would like to be part of the strategic planning committee for this initiative, please email Eden and let her know.

There has been an 8th case of VRSA in SE Michigan reported in the past month. CDC is working with MDCH to set up some studies (cohort and case controls) to see why this is so prevalent in MI (only 10 confirmed cases in the world; 8 in MI)

Discussion took place on reviews of local action around H1N1. Eden asked that findings at the local level be shared with MDCH as to better inform the reviews at the state level. There was agreement that there will need to be some education to the community about why, in a year where we anticipated a pandemic, it looks like we will have a lower flu mortality rate than usual. Some discussion about how the timing and nature of the outbreak in the fall affected who got vaccinated, including health professionals.

Greg reported he will be attending a session in Atlanta in February for a national meeting on the H1N1 outbreak and asked for any local stories that he should share at this event. Data on the efficacy of the vaccine, beyond the clinical trial data, will not be available for some time.

There is no evidence of seasonal flu activity, although they are awaiting some samples being sent to the state lab which have initially tested positive for influenza A, but not H1N1. There are sporadic cases of Influenza B in the US. There have also been some cases of mumps in the state, so it is important that we remind our communities about the importance of vaccination and boosters.

New rules for Medical Directors will be shared soon. They have been discussed with the Executive Board of MALPH and there will also be a public comment period. The rule will require a health department to have a full-time Medical Director (32 hours) if they have a population of 250,000 or more. If the Medical Director covers 3 or more jurisdictions, regardless of population, they will need to be full-time. The minimum number of hours for a Medical Director is 16 hours/week. Credentials are staying the same.

There was discussion about the FY 2011 budget and the role of our upcoming elections on the process this year. Leaders in both chambers want to have a budget done early so their members can be out campaigning. They are talking about a 20% cut overall, but there are really three major areas within MDCH where larger amounts of money can be taken to help balance the budget (Medicaid, Children's Special Health Care Services and LPHO). Many of our other programs are largely funded by federal dollars and there is less money there that the Michigan Legislature can claim.

There were questions about the county health rankings, which will be released by the University of Wisconsin in the middle of February. The states should receive the report about a week before it is released, with the purpose of sharing with their local health department officials. Greg has a meeting scheduled next week on this report and will notify this group of anything he learns from this meeting and will do what he can to make sure the local health departments receive the findings of the report before they are released publically.

Note: After today's MAPPP meeting Greg followed up on the County Health Rankings meeting and was told that MALPH will be at that meeting and the LHD should be getting further information from MALPH as these rankings come out.

D. Other Business

No other business reported.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.

Meeting Notes prepared by Molly Polverento and Sharon Conley