

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

News You Can Use

Conference for Food Protection Executive Board

April 10-14, 2010

Conference for Food Protection and CDC

Thank you to Dave Gifford, John Gurrisi, Jeff Lineberry and Ernie Julian. They virtually joined our March Environmental Health Services Branch staff meeting that also included many of our CDC food and water safety colleagues. The program examined the conference history and operations and the interaction between conference activities and CDC. This meeting is available for viewing via a [recorded web meeting](#).

Model Aquatic Health Code

As reported in previous CDC Updates to the Conference, the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) which is the first scientifically-based, all-stakeholder developed code is underway. The MAHC will cover aquatic venues from interactive water fountains to water-theme parks. It is modeled after the FDA *Food Code* and the CDC Vessel Sanitation Program's *Operations Manual*. It is using technical committees that are patterned after the Conference for Food Protection's balanced, transparent, inclusive and representative processes. Designers, builders, operators, and state, local and federal public health officials have been developing the code sections over the past two years. A draft for public review and comment is starting to be built out of the work of these committees. Dr. Michael Beach, CDC's Associate Director of Water, and a partner with CAPT Charles Otto, Innovation Team Leader, of the Environmental Health Services Branch on the MAHC. He attended the Providence (RI) Biennial Meeting to see first-hand how the conference meeting would be used for regular MAHC maintenance, which is another attribute requested by the stakeholders. More information on the MAHC may found on the [MAHC web pages](#).

Drinking Water Advisory Project

The Drinking Water Advisory Project is developing and evaluating a protocol to address situations that generate either system- or regulatory agency-initiated drinking water advisories. This is a CDC project in collaboration with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the American Water Works Association for use by state, local, tribal, and territorial public health and environmental protection agencies and water utilities. The project is focusing on scaling and targeting an advisory strategy for community water systems when they need to assure public awareness or issue a boil water notice,

do-not-drink advisory, or precautionary advisory (e.g., flushing, recommendations for special populations, etc.).

The project objectives are: improved communication and collaboration within and among relevant organizations; improved targeting and use of communication channels including mass media; improved exercise and assessment of communication and collaboration protocols; and increased capacity to respond to an intentional water contamination or terrorism event. A multidisciplinary advisory committee composed of public health and drinking water agencies and drinking water utility experts will advise and guide the project. A [presentation](#) on the details of the project is accessible online.

Public Health and Drought

When Every Drop Counts: Protecting Public Health During Drought Conditions, A Guide for



Public Health Professionals is in its final steps of clearance and formatting. This publication is intended to assist public health officials, practitioners, and other stakeholders in their efforts to first understand and then prepare for drought in their communities. It provides information about how drought affects public health; recommends steps that can be taken to help mitigate the health effects of drought when preparing for or responding to drought conditions; identifies future needs for research and other drought-related activities; and provides a list of helpful resources and tools. It was developed by the CDC Environmental Health Services Branch in collaboration with a large panel of experts from diverse disciplines, including federal, state, and local public health, environmental engineering and science, coastal ecology, regulatory engineering, water-related research, risk communication, water systems management, and emergency management. A preview of the document and the development process is available in the *JEH* column, [Public health and drought](#) . A [video](#) discussing the unique blended electronic – highly interactive workshop used for the initial collaboration is also offered.

Everything you ever wanted to know about public health and water is now available through a single CDC Healthy Water web page ~ <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater> .

EPHOC: Environmental Public Health Online Courses

The Jefferson County (AL) Department of Health's Environmental Services, the schools of public health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Tulane University (SCCPHP), the National Environmental Health Association and CDC / NCEH's

The image is a screenshot of a webpage titled 'Potable Water Content'. It features a vertical navigation menu on the left with buttons for 'Introduction', 'Course Info', 'Instructor', 'Content', 'Quiz', and 'Survey'. The main content area lists ten modules with their respective durations: Module 1: Drinking Water Standards (27 minutes), Module 2: Drinking Water Quality and Regulatory Processes (27 minutes), Module 3: Microbial Risks in Drinking Water (25 minutes), Module 4: Drinking Water Treatment (25 minutes), Module 5: Conventional and Other Drinking Water Treatment (25 minutes), Module 6: Coliform Monitoring (18 minutes), Module 7: Water Distribution Systems (25 minutes), Module 8: Source Water Issues and Protection (27 minutes), Module 9: Sanitary Surveys and Other Water System Assessment Tools (25 minutes), and Module 10: Drinking Water Wells (22 minutes). At the bottom, it states 'TOTAL COURSE LECTURE/VIDEO TIME: 331 minutes'. Logos for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, EPHOC-04, and the University of Alabama are visible.

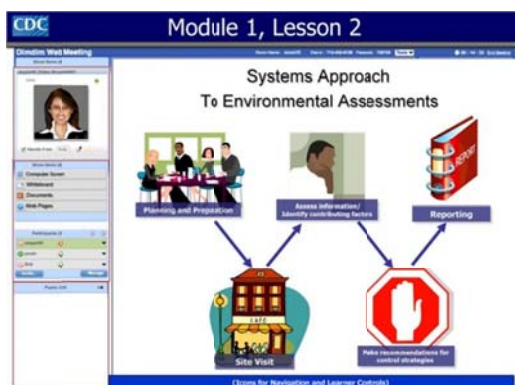
Environmental Health Services Branch partnered to develop a comprehensive online/on-demand package of courses for environmental public health practitioners. The goal of this partnership is to provide access to comprehensive, worthwhile, and *free* workforce development resources for new practitioners, students, those needing continuing education credit and those preparing for professional registration exams in environmental public health. This 15 course series totaling over 45 hours will be launched in June with a rolling release. More information is available in the NEHA *Journal of Environmental Health* March column, [EPHOC: A New Training Resource for the Environmental Public Health Workforce](#) and the EHSB [website](#).

Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response

Over 13,000 students have completed *free* classroom or online training in CDC EHSB's Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER). The classroom course that includes transportation and lodging is available to state and local personnel in a partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. This is a 3-day course that provides an overview of environmental health topics, issues, and challenges faced during an emergency response. The purpose of the course is to increase the level of cross-discipline emergency preparedness of environmental health practitioners and other emergency response personnel by providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to address the environmental health impacts of emergencies and disasters. The online version is provided on demand via the web. More information on both options is available on the [EHTER](#) web page.

EHS-Net: Revitalizing Core Environmental Health Programs

The CDC EHSB Environmental Health Specialist Network is in the process of soliciting five-year [cooperative agreement proposals](#) for up to 10 project proposals totaling \$1.2 million. The purpose of the cooperative agreement program is to solicit projects to support revitalizing core environmental health programs through non-research, practice projects that implement or demonstrate effective, innovative, evidenced-based approaches or interventions to deliver environmental health services.



EHS-Net: Foodborne Outbreak Environmental Assessment Virtual Reality Training Program

EHS-Net has identified a need to train environmental health staff to investigate foodborne outbreaks modeled after the successful CDC Environmental Health Services Branch's

Environmental Health Specialist Network ([EHS-Net](#)) use of the Environmental Health Systems Approach to outbreak investigation. The goal of this training program is to enhance global food safety by using cutting-edge training technologies to develop a highly engaging and interactive free e-learning program. The training course currently under development will include: 1. Introduction; 2. Local Environmental Assessments; 3. Multi-jurisdictional Environmental Assessments; 4. Nationwide Environmental Assessments; and 5. Concluding Actions. Find out more about the state of this state of the art training program and improving outbreak environmental assessments in Carol Selman's *JEH* [column](#).

EHS-Net: National Voluntary Environmental Assessment Information System

Food-safety programs need information on contributing factors and environmental antecedents of foodborne illness outbreaks to improve their surveillance activities and engage in other foodborne illness outbreak prevention activities. However, this information is lacking. A National Voluntary Environmental Assessment Information System ([NVEAIS](#)) could provide food-safety program managers with an information resource that could fill this gap. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net), through its experience in conducting environmental assessments in foodborne illness outbreaks and reporting the results to CDC as part of its Foodborne Illness Outbreak Study, provides a model for such an information system.

NVEAIS will be used to identify factors that can be routinely monitored to prevent or reduce the risk for foodborne illness outbreaks. Information collected through NVEAIS will be used to: establish a detailed characterization of food vehicles and monitor food vehicle trends; identify and monitor contributing factors and their environmental antecedents; and provide a basis for hypothesis generation regarding factors that may support foodborne outbreak events. With this information, food safety programs and the food industry will have information to guide the planning, implementation and evaluation of foodborne illness prevention activities.

Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response

The Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response ([CIFOR](#)) is a multidisciplinary working group convened to increase collaboration across the country and across relevant areas of expertise in order to reduce the burden of foodborne illness in the United States. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are co-chairing CIFOR with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Over 10,000 copies of the [CIFOR Guidelines](#) have been distributed thus far. The Guidelines can be downloaded directly from the cifor.us website and printed copies can be ordered from FDA through the CIFOR website. Currently the **CIFOR ToolKit** is being finalized and will be piloted at the first Regional CIFOR training meeting in Madison WI at the end of April and in Boston in May. The ToolKit will assist state and local jurisdictions in determining which recommendations from the CIFOR Guidelines are appropriate and feasible for incorporation in their specific jurisdiction. The **CIFOR Industry Workgroup** is very close to completing the first draft of guidelines which will assist retail and foodservice staff work with regulators and public health agencies during a foodborne disease outbreak. An archived [webinar](#), **Food for Thought and Action: Implementing the Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response**, is also available on senior public health and environmental health officials at the state and local level who are responsible for supervising staff involved in foodborne disease surveillance, investigation, and control in their agencies.



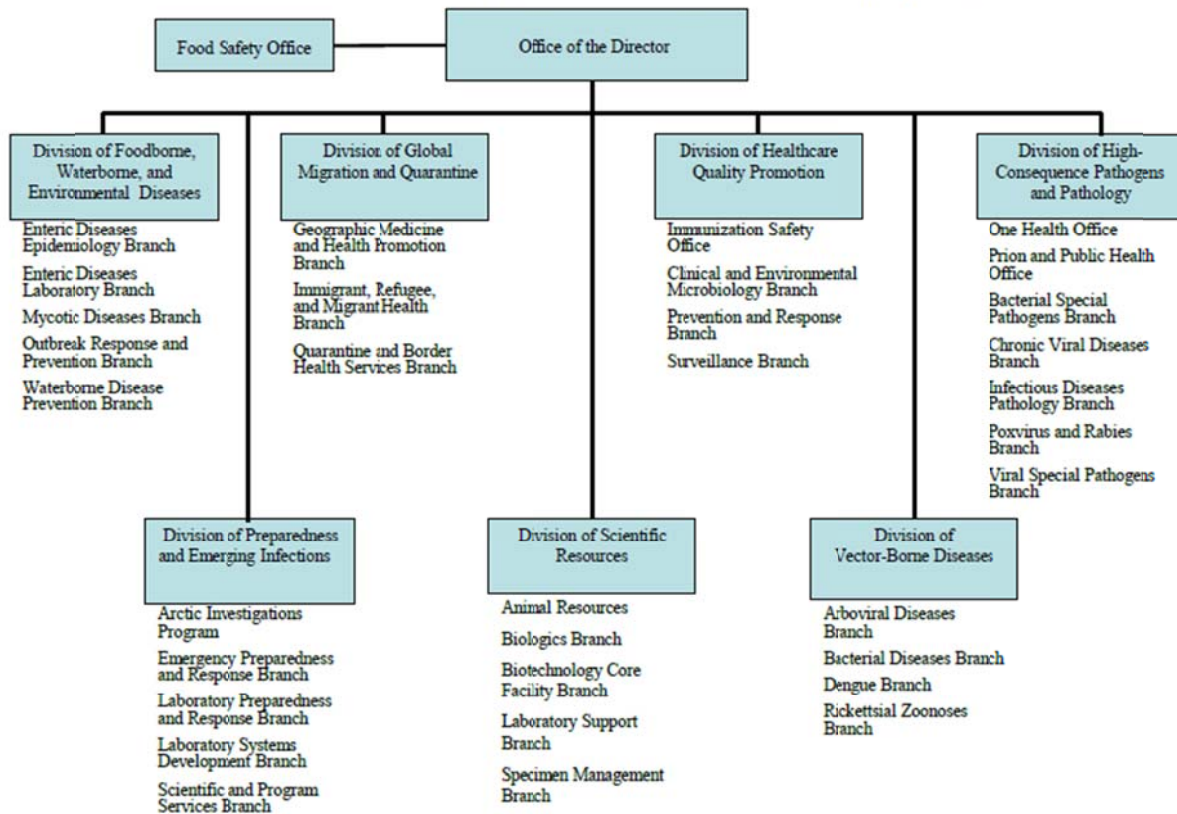
Epi-Ready

Epi-Ready conducted its third live remote site broadcast on March 30-31. The course was broadcast live from Harrisburg, PA to sites in Buffalo NY, Canton and Columbus Ohio, and Piscataway New Jersey. USDA funding supported the broadcast expenses. Over 2000 officials have participated in more than 40 Epi-Ready team training [courses](#). Epi-Ready training courses are being conducted for **FDA Rapid Response Teams**. Rapid Response courses have been conducted in California and Massachusetts so far. Florida and North Carolina are scheduled next. [Janet Williams](#), FDA, can provide a complete schedule over the next year or two.

Other CDC News

The CDC National Center for Infectious Disease (NCID) split into two Centers during *Futures Initiative*. The two pieces have been put back together again as Nation Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID). The CDC Food Safety Office has been pulled out of the Division of Foodborne Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases and placed in the Office of the Director of NCEZID. Viral foodborne diseases such as norovirus and hepatitis A are in different centers. The Environmental Health Services Branch is located in the CDC National Center for Environmental Health.

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (proposed)



April 2010

Morrie Potter has retired as FDA Liaison to CDC. A new liaison will be named in the next couple of months.

FDA & CDC are developing joint budget language for FY2012 budget for food safety capacity building in state/local health departments, especially around developing training resources. This initiative could include developing list of competencies, training/education resources, and certification for public health workers.

The S. montevideo investigation has gone "really well" and the investigators are planning for an After Action Report with CDC, FDA, and FSIS. The team will be open to suggestions and getting feedback from state counterparts.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service held an event March 30 in Washington to discuss the best tools for measuring progress on food safety. The meeting focused on current methods for evaluating food safety progress, the methodologic and data challenges involved and the potential for improved metrics.

The CDC FY 11 budget may take deep hits, but the extent is not yet known.

Food Safety remains a priority for CDC Director Tom Frieden. Art Liang may have an every other month meeting with the Director. Frieden has been the Director for almost a year. His “3 R’s Initiatives” are Rats – Restaurants – Radiation.

CDC will begin a new engagement with USDA FSIS "FSIS-CDC Leadership Collaboration Forum" similar to the monthly meetings with high-level leadership at FDA. The CDC-FDA Food Safety Collaboration Forum was held March 9-10, 2010, in Atlanta. Areas for improved coordination and collaboration were discussed.

The annual FoodNet Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on foodborne disease trends is planned to be published on April 15.

Art Liang will assume CDC liaison duties from Charles Otto for the next conference cycle effective at the conclusion of the Wednesday board meeting.