

**Illinois Department of Public Health
Poison Advisory Committee
Minutes
Monday, May 9, 2011
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ortinau, John, Northwest Community Hospital, Arlington Heights

Hughes, Karen, Consumer

Aks, Steve, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago

Wahl, Michael, Illinois Poison Center

Brennan, John, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield

Fleeharty, Jack, Chief, Highway Safety and Emergency Medical Services (Teleconference)

Short, Mike, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield (Teleconference)

Leikin, Jerry, ENH Omega

INVITED GUESTS

N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT

Graneto, John, Illinois College of Emergency Physicians, Oakbrook

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am

The minutes of February 25, 2011 were reviewed and approved.

POISON CONTROL CENTER REPORT

This was an abbreviated quarterly meeting. The IPDH poison advisory board had historically met every 6 months to review the Illinois Poison Center reports for the previous six months. Because of looming budget threats, it was decided to hold a quarterly meeting in the Spring to discuss budget and service implications of reduced private funding.

Federal Funding Report:

Dr. Wahl informed the IDPH Poison Advisory Board that federal funding was tentatively decreased by 93% with all funding to centers cut in the 2011-12 grant year in February.

At this May meeting, the board was informed that a federal 2010 budget had been approved with a 25% reduction in federal funding for the IPC. Due to the additional incentive grant that the IPC received that was predicted to end, the IPC would probably receive closer to a 33% cut, estimated at \$400,000 total.

State Funding Report:

The board was informed of the uncertainty of the state budget which reportedly had a 10% reduction in funding at the state level for 2011. Efforts were ongoing with the state to have the funding reduction restored back to 2010 levels.

Impact on the IPC:

Expense reduction scenarios with the board were discussed, including:

- Permanent staff reduction
- Salary reductions of 10%
- Furlough or 5 to 6 weeks (25 to 30 days)
- Staff reduction to 90% time (72/80 hours)

A lively discussion ensued regarding the relative merits of each. Dr. Wahl spoke for a preference of the 90% hourly solution in order to keep intellectual capital that had been developed with the poison center. Mr. Fleeharty cautioned that such an approach, while appealing, did not fully capture savings as a staff reduction would due to the retention of full time benefits for the individuals with time reduced to 90%. If expense reduction were the main concern, a staff reduction would achieve greater expense savings than a furlough or 90% staffing solution.

Date and time of new meeting:

It was decided to not decide the date and time due to scheduling constraints at the meeting an electronic event scheduler would be used to schedule the next IDPH Poison Advisory Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm