

# Meeting Minutes

## Utah Healthcare Infection Prevention Governance Committee

Date: 6/20/2023

### Attendees:

Ailene Bascom, Alessandro Rossi, Allison Spangler, Andrew Pavia, Angela Weil, April Clements, Ashley Miller, Ashley Young, Bea Jensen, Becky Ess, Bert Lopansri, Brian Harris, Cherie Frame, Courtney Brigance, Devin Beard, Elena Snelton, Giulia De Vettori, Hailey Schuckel, Hannah Imlay, Jeanmarie Mayer, Jeffery Rogers, Katie Smith, Leisha Nolen, Linda Rider, Lisa Evans, Mark Fisher, Matt Hansen, Michelle Vowles, Payal Patel, Sara Phillips, Sarah Rigby, Tara Ford, Tariq Mosleh, Trina Keane

### Agenda Topics:

#### Technical Information

3:00–3:05 Welcome

3:05–3:10 Introductions and updates (Giulia De Vettori)

#### Subcommittee Updates

3:10–4:15 Subcommittees (Subcommittee Leads)

#### Meeting Content

4:15–4:20 Bylaws (Giulia De Vettori)

#### Situational Awareness

4:20–4:30 C. auris, VIM/CRPA, SOPs and processes (Ashley Young/Giulia De Vettori)

#### Convene

### Discussion:

#### Technical Information

- Introductions
  - Giulia has taken over the position of HAI outbreak epidemiologist, following Becky Ess's departure
  - Ashley Young has taken over the role of deputy epidemiologist, following the departure of Joshua Mongillo
- Updates
  - Dr. Mayer asked the group if we should be approving the minutes of the previous meeting before minutes are posted.
    - Discussion about the best process to share minutes internally, as well as discussion about approval of minutes from the previous .
    - Going forward, we will delay the posting of minutes until approval has been provided by the committee.

#### Subcommittee Updates

- Antimicrobial Stewardship: Tariq Mosleh
  - The AS subcommittee has been working on a collaboration with the University of Utah's Project Echo, to have a webinar series.

- This will be starting in August, running for several months. There are some fantastic speakers signed up to present.
  - Register and/or volunteer as a presenter [here](#).
    - Dr. Mayer asked if a schedule of topics will be available? Tariq will send that out.
  - They have asked the CDC to provide updates on NHSN reporting
    - If you have any questions, you can reach out to tmosleh@utah.gov
- MDRO Control and Education: Elena Snelten
  - After a few months of working together as a group, they have been able to create an action plan, which includes:
    - They were able to update the interfacility transfer form, reducing it down to just one page. They focused heavily on the information that benefits healthcare facilities.
  - They were able to build a survey to assess admission, transfer, and discharge processes.
  - They have worked closely with the Project Firstline team and their resources.
  - They will be promoting Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) in healthcare settings.
    - Giulia gave a shout out to the HAI/AR ICAR team, who have been working on outreach to schedule ICARs and promote the new interfacility transfer form.
  - Regarding education, they are working on creating
    - A needs assessment from UHIP subcommittee to identify MDRO education priorities
    - Train-the-trainer in-services, a MDRO guide
    - Certificates for Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)
  - They aim to increase participation and engagement in UHIP-MDRO meetings (Outpatient groups - dialysis, SDS, dental practices).
    - Part of this recruitment effort includes promoting the new interfacility transfer form and other resources that might benefit them.
      - Bea explained that the HAI/AR team has a group of IPs who are tasked with reaching out to influential facilities in the state on a one-to-one basis
- Laboratory and Surveillance: Alessandro Rossi
  - The first formal subcommittee meeting was on 6/8/23
  - The main discussion was an assessment of C. auris testing capacity and screening practices in labs throughout Utah.
    - Though mostly focused on UPHL, ARUP, and Intermountain labs.
    - Discussion about culture methods (direct plating vs. broth enrichment, etc.) and the ability to conduct sequencing.
  - UPHL Upcoming test menu
    - AST for gonorrhea for clinical use
    - A new antifungal that will be added to their panel
  - Increasing participation

- In the last meeting, they did not have representation for every lab. The goal is to have at least one representative participate in each meeting.
  - This may be due to the timing of the meeting (early summer, time of day, etc.) Consideration is being given to moving the subcommittee meeting to a new day or time.
    - Bert said the standard day/time works, unless he is on a call. But he will ensure that a representative is present if he is unavailable.
      - Review of the alternating schedule of healthcare facility calls and UHIP subcommittees.
- Giulia said that every subcommittee is focusing on recruitment at the moment and seeking individuals who will best fit each committee's goals.

#### Meeting Content

- We briefly discussed the preparation of bylaws in the previous meeting.
  - Bylaws are being developed from scratch, so more time is needed to develop these fully.
- We unfortunately do not have updates at this time, especially since Dr. Dascomb was unavailable to attend this call. We plan to have them ready for our next meeting.

#### Situational Awareness

- C. auris
  - There have been some C. auris cases in northern and southern Utah.
  - We have completed screening as appropriate, and found no evidence of community transmission.
    - All of the cases have been transferred from Nevada (Las Vegas area)
      - Two of these cases have passed away.
  - The LHDs and facilities are both involved when we are notified of a case.
  - A notification came through today of another colonized case. We don't have much information currently but we will share more information as it is available.
- VIM/CRPA
  - Several confirmed cases of VIM/CRPA are related to the outbreak linked to the artificial tears.
    - A few additional cases are under investigation and have yet to be linked.
  - Dr. Mayer asked how these cases were detected? These were identified due to AST reports with resistance patterns, and as such were sent to UPHL for further testing.
- HAI team is assisting facilities with testing, outbreak response and infection control assessments and screenings
  - Screenings will continue until two rounds with no additional cases are identified.
  - Reactive ICARs are also being conducted to identify gaps in infection prevention and control practices.
    - We have also confirmed the need for a WICRA, to evaluate their water management.
      - Facilities are not confident in addressing water management, so the ability to provide resources is important.

- The [WICRA tool](#) can be utilized by facilities independently of the HAI/AR team.

- Dr. Mayer asked how we choose which activities the HAI/AR team conducts. They base our activities on the CDC's tiered response activities.

- Dr. Mayer asked if there have been any recent concerns for CRE? Linda Rider said there was concern for KPC producing citrobacter about 18 months ago
- Dr. Mayer also asked if the reportable disease rule be expanded to include Enterobacterales? Angela Weil said that there are discussions around expanding the rule, especially in connection with the EIP grant. If we don't receive the grant, we will eventually address the rule, but it wouldn't be in such a quick turnaround.

- Dr. Rossi asked if Dr. Mayer had a specific organism in mind? She doesn't but knows that large labs know which organisms should be sent — smaller labs likely don't have that understanding. Some of the organisms that we are most worried about are not mentioned in the rule.

- Dr. Mayer suggested working with the MDRO workgroup to identify organisms that should be mentioned in the rule. April approved that suggestion and also recommended thinking through barriers or challenges that may arise.

- Mark Fisher mentioned a few unintended consequences of impacts to lab staffing and the cost of isolate submission, which should both be accounted for.

- Dr. Pavia asked if Mark and Bert could discuss a standardized protocol that could be used as a guide for other labs.

- Reviewing SOPs and processes

- Due to Ashely stepping into the new role of deputy epidemiologist, we are reviewing all of our SOPs and processes.

- We are seeking feedback from this group to see if there are any suggestions to improve our processes or resolve barriers that arise.

- If you have feedback, please email [amyong@utah.gov](mailto:amyong@utah.gov).

#### Convene

- Shoutout from Dr. Mayer to DHHS, for all of their work putting together the EIP grant. It was a herculean effort by a fantastic team.

#### Next Meeting Discussion/Questions

Next Meeting: September 19, 2023

## In-meeting messages