



Hawaii Climate Change & Health Working Group
Hawaii State Capitol Room 329
November 19, 2015

Attending

Nancy Partika (Co-Chair), Dr. Seiji Yamada, Barry Choy, Victoria Keener, Scott Glenn, Judy Kern, Emi Chutaro, Erin Imada (alternate for Dr. Tai Ho Chen)

Guests

Ethan Allen, Tom Eisnen, Krista Jaspers, Kay Baker, Shelby Wardle, Holly Kessler-HPHA, Sharon Lum-HPHA Intern

Welcome

Nancy Partika welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Meeting notes from October 15 were distributed.

Presentation #1:

Kathleen Baker, PhD - Research Statistician, Hawaii Health Survey, Office of Health Status Monitoring, Hawaii State Department of Health, **“Surveillance and Data relating to Cardiovascular Disease with potential markers for climate change-related health impacts”**

Discussion and Recommendations:

- Need data on Hawaii Green Growth and Aloha + Challenge
- We are able to adapt to gradual heat, but extreme heat will be a problem and has strong health implications, especially on vulnerable populations regarding cardiovascular conditions.
- Morbidity and poverty are directly related
- Mental health and heart disease have a correlation as well
- Need to explore vulnerable populations
- How does poverty impact climate change? And vice versa.
- Need to think about how environment has been harmful to your own health

Presentation #2

Dr. Seiji Yamada - Associate Professor, Family Medicine & Community Health, JABSOM, **“Climate change, Pacific epidemics, and the human right to health”**

Discussion and Recommendations:

- Presentation provided a good correlation between TB, diabetes, and climate change
- Need Hawaii to advocate access to care and insurance
- Bring back Medicaid because people work and pay taxes and they can't still make living wage
- Social justice issue – implications of economics on populations
- TB issue is chronic – health status comes with immigrants and what is the role of the State in this process to deal with these chronic diseases?
- What would improve the situation for Micronesians in Hawaii? Access to care; having insurance, Medicaid.

Presentation #3:

“Public Health Efforts to prepare for and adapt to the health effects of climate change” CDC Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Program.



- Conference call with Paul Schramm, Health Scientist, Climate and Health Program, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Discussion and Recommendations:

- Climate Change Health Assessment
- Adaptation in Action – worked within BRACE framework with APHA
- Increasing allergens, water quality impacts, extreme health issues
- Funding comes from Congress
- BRACE has partnerships with other federal programs
- 5 STEPS TO BRACE
- Education? What would work best in your state?
- Hawaii has no resources for CCH only funded position is through DLNR for sea level rise.
- Will there be funding for Hawaii in another round of BRACE funding? Priority is given to continuing to expand, but mostly to support existing areas.
- Some states are working without funding
- First step is to get the right stakeholders in the room – so our WG is ahead of the game. Some other states CC is not even on their radar.
- Suggestions for starting up – Kresge Foundation, have State University take the lead.

Follow-up:

- Discussion relating to draft report on the Climate Change & Health Work Group findings to the 2016 Legislature to be submitted by the Dept. of Health
- Final draft and recommendations will be ready to present to DOH by December 16.
- Distributed outline proposal
- Key points and findings will be based on presentations up to today's meeting
- Nancy welcomes the group's input and edits on the paper

Discussion on January 2016 thru June 2016 CCHWG meeting schedule. Next year's meeting schedule will be drafted.

Next meeting: December 17 at 9:30am, State Capitol room 329