

**NPRSB Public Meeting Summary**  
**Friday, July 29, 2016**  
**4:00 - 5:00 pm EST**

**Conference Line: 1-888-456-0284, International: 1-517-308-9208, Passcode: 9201784**  
**NPRSB URL:** [www.phe.gov/nprsb](http://www.phe.gov/nprsb)

**NPRSB Voting Members Present**

Steven Krug, Chair  
David Ecker  
Christina Egan  
Gray Heppner  
Eva Lee  
Catherine Slemper  
Tammy Spain  
David Weinstock

**NPRSB Ex Officio Members Present**

Bruce Gellin, OASH  
Sam Groseclose (CDC Alternate)  
Carmen Maher (FDA Alternate)  
Bruce Roscio (DoS Alternate)

**ASPR Staff Present**

CAPT Charlotte Spires  
Maxine Kellman  
CDR Lynn Seel  
CDR Jyl Woolfolk  
Belinda Green  
Justin Willard

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

Charlotte Spires, MPH, DACVPM, Executive Director, NPRSB  
Designated Federal Official  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

CAPT Charlotte Spires called the meeting to order, and welcomed the National Preparedness and Response Science Board (NPRSB) members, ex-officio members, and the public in attendance. She provided a brief overview of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and Conflict of Interest rules. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the Public Health Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Medical Countermeasures (MCM)

Preparedness Assessment report. CAPT Spires asked Mr. Justin Willard to take roll call for NPRSB members and ex-officio members present. Then she introduced Dr. Steven Krug, the Chair of the NPRSB.

**Welcoming and Agenda Overview:**

Steven Krug, M.D.

Chair, NPRSB

Dr. Steve Krug provided a brief overview of the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. He highlighted the agenda which included a presentation of the report and the Board's consideration of the work group's recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Krug thanked Drs. David Ecker and David Weinstock for their tremendous leadership, the work group members and federal colleagues for their support in completing the report.

**PHEMCE MCM Preparedness Assessment Work Group Presentation and Discussion:**

David Ecker, MD PHEMCE MCM PA WG, Co-Chair

David Weinstock, MD PHEMCE MCM PA WG, Co-Chair

Dr. Weinstock began the presentation by summarizing the task given to the NPRSB in early April by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The NPRSB was tasked to review the implementation of the MCM Preparedness Assessment approach that was established in response to the Board's previous recommendations as well as the four pilots that were performed on individual medical countermeasures.

The following questions were posed in the tasking letter to the NPRSB:

1. Have we effectively implemented the preparedness assessment process in our pilot studies, particularly with regard to utilization of appropriate assumptions and data sources surrounding the operational capacity to use MCMs?
2. Did the preparedness assessment pilots appropriately evaluate current MCM capabilities, and remaining gaps, across the principal components of MCM preparedness?
3. How can we most effectively utilize the results of the preparedness assessments to inform decisions on future investments in MCM preparedness?

Dr. Weinstock described the work group's methodology which included briefings and discussions among members of the Board and federal subject matter experts (SMEs). He provided insight on how each recommendation was developed. Dr. Ecker voiced gratitude to the work group members for completing the task in a short period of time. He expressed the need to prioritize medical countermeasures with acceleration and urgency, and continue to have more comprehensive evaluations.

Questions posed to the NRPSB and the work group's recommendations to the ASPR:

1. Have we effectively implemented the preparedness assessment process in our pilot studies, particularly with regard to utilization of appropriate assumptions and data sources surrounding the operational capacity to use MCMs?
  - Incorporate modeling that more appropriately captures the range of uncertainties

- Perform hands-on exercises to test the validity and shortcomings of model predictions
  - Vet the updated assessment approach through a more extensive panel of non-governmental subject matter experts (SMEs), including experts in modeling and sensitivity analysis
2. Did the preparedness assessment pilots appropriately evaluate current MCM capabilities, and remaining gaps, across the principal components of MCM preparedness?
- Perform assessments that incorporate the use of all recommended MCMs when applicable for the same event
  - Model permutations to determine how targeted interventions could improve PHEMCE effectiveness
  - Engage additional stakeholders, including states and localities, the private sector, and non-profit organizations, to design and perform meaningful exercises that inform the current gaps in operational capacity and inform the design of accurate models
  - Submit assessments for review to panels of governmental and non-governmental SMEs
3. How can we most effectively utilize the results of the preparedness assessments to inform decisions on future investments in MCM preparedness?
- Utilize the assessment results to establish an optimal MCM portfolio that considers the tradeoffs from each resource allocation
  - Incorporate cost-effectiveness analyses into decision making
  - Engage the PHEMCE Enterprise Executive Committee (EEC) to refine the strategy for allocation of funds across agencies to address critical gaps

**Public Comment Check via Email:**

Charlotte Spires, MPH, DACVPM, Executive Director, NPRSB  
Designated Federal Official

CAPT Spires stated that no public comments were received by email prior to the meeting.

**NPRSB Vote on the PHEMCE MCM Preparedness Assessment Task Letter:**

Charlotte Spires, MPH, DACVPM, Executive Director, NPRSB  
Designated Federal Official

CAPT Spires asked Mr. Willard to poll the NPRSB members for approval or disapproval of the report. The Board unanimously approved the report and recommendations. The report will be transmitted to the HHS Secretary with a cover letter.

**Wrap-Up and Remarks:**

Steven Krug, M.D.

Chair, NPRSB

Dr. Krug thanked the co-chairs and the work group for a great product. He noted the continued work to improve the PHEMCE offered by the Board. The effort to provide feedback in a very short period of time was achieved. Dr. Krug thanked the ASPR staff, PHEMCE staff, and members of the public for joining the meeting.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

CAPT Spires adjourned the meeting at 4:38 P.M.