



Illinois Department of Public Health
 Lyme Disease Task Force (LDTF)
 Education Subcommittee
 Meeting Minutes
 November 12th, 2019 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Meeting Location(s)

Illinois Department of Public Health 525 West Jefferson Street, 3 rd Floor Springfield, IL 62761

Call-in option via WebEx.

Educational Subcommittee Members in Attendance

Name	Task Force Position	Attended
Dr. Sana Shireen Ahmed	Infectious Disease Physician; Administrator	X
Dr. Roberta Van Zant	Family Medicine Physician	X
Dr. Sandy Martell	Advanced Practice RN; Administrator	X
Ms. Tonya Foster	Member of the Public	
Ms. Holly C. Tuten, Ph.D.	Member of the Public	X
Ms. Jennifer Russell	Member of the Public	X

Illinois Department of Public Health Staff in Attendance

Name	Title
Dr. Jennifer Layden	Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist
Judy Kauerauf	Chief, Communicable Disease Section
Samantha Debosik	Manager, Environmental Health Vector Control Program
Debbie Freeman	Manager, Communicable Disease Vectorborne Surveillance Program
April Holmes	Specialist, Environmental Health Vector Control Program
Jonathan Popovitch	Specialist, Communicable Disease Vectorborne Surveillance Program

Others in attendance

Name	Title
Shanna Shirley	Student
Sherri DeVito	Illinois State Medical Society

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
1. Call to Order	Dr. Martell called the Subcommittee to order at 11:35 am. Dr. Tuten made a motion to accept agenda. All ayes.	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
2. Review of Legislation and Charge of Subcommittee	<p>Dr. Martell reviewed the Lyme Disease Task Force (LDTF) deliverables from 410 ILCS 450/10 including a designated webpage, peer-reviewed scientific research articles, government guidance and recommendations, information for physicians, and education materials.</p> <p>Dr. Martell also read through the extended agenda provided by the Subcommittee.</p>	
3. Education of Medical Professionals and Public	<p>Webpage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tuten inquired about IDPH hosting a tickborne disease portal. • Judy Kauerauf stated that the IDPH website has been used to provide information to health care providers. The IDPH website contains information for both the public and providers with information on tickborne disease prevention, symptoms, and treatment options. IDPH also utilizes the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification System (SIREN) to disseminate Health Alerts to all providers registered to receive alerts. • Dr. Martell asked about IDPH maintaining their webpage and inquired if IDPH has the resources to host a tickborne disease portal. • Judy stated that IDPH does not receive any funding specifically for Lyme Disease, nor is there staff specifically for education of providers. Also, anything placed on the public webpage must be reviewed by the IDPH communication staff. • Dr. Martell asked if the IDPH webpages can include a “last updated” date. <p>Health Alerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy stated that Health Alerts can be sent out via SIREN. Health Alerts are reviewed by the Deputy Director’s Office and Dr. Layden. • Dr. Tuten asked if the public can register to receive alerts. Judy stated that the public can sign up and that most information is also placed on the IDPH public website. • Dr. Van Zant asked if major hospital systems are signed up to receive SIREN alerts. Judy stated that major hospital systems are signed up as well as most Local Health Departments, which then disseminate information to medical professionals in their jurisdiction. 	<p>IDPH to include “Last Updated” Date on webpages.</p> <p>IDPH issues a SIREN regarding tickborne disease during spring and fall.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group discussed utilizing SIREN to disseminate updates and Health Alerts to medical providers. A biannual SIREN alert was decided to increase awareness of tickborne disease during the spring and fall. <p>Newsletters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Martell inquired how much time IDPH would need for review if the Task Force produced a monthly newsletter. • Judy stated that it depended on size and content. If the newsletter maintained a similar format and just updated data, it could be approved quicker than something with text updates monthly. • Judy also stated that physicians generally seek out information at a point of need instead of reading information monthly. Posting information on the IDPH portal is more effective. 	
6. Information Review and Sharing	<p>Maps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Martell suggested creating a map with tick distribution and disease information. • Dr. Tuten stated that maps are only as good as where we survey for ticks. • Samantha Debosik stated that IDPH is developing a tick mapping application that should be live on the IDPH website by the end of November 2019. <p>Factsheets and Tick Manual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tuten suggested the subcommittee create factsheets for various tickborne disease pathogens that have been detected. • Judy stated that IDPH does have factsheets for several tickborne disease pathogens and that IDPH can make more. • Dr. Tuten suggested creating a tickborne disease manual for Illinois. • Debbie Freeman states that we have the CDC’s Tickborne Disease Manual available on the IDPH website. • Judy states that we link to the CDC when possible. That ensures that IDPH is sharing the most up to date information. <p>Dissemination through Local Health Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ahmed stated that information could be disseminated directly through local health 	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
	<p>departments to physicians in the LHDs jurisdiction.</p> <p>Illinois State Medical Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated they engage in regular communications with medical professionals. They release a bimonthly newsletter and utilize social media. They can assist with communication to members. • Dr. Martell asked if tick information could be included with IDNR hunting licenses. • Debbie stated that trail signs and prevention information were sent to Illinois State Parks this year. IDPH can inquire about additional partnerships. 	
11. Next Steps	The Subcommittee discussed working on materials over email and presenting them to the full Lyme Disease Task Force in January 2020.	
14. Additional Business and Comments	<p>Dr. Van Zant suggested that we focus on getting basic information out for the public and physicians to see. She stressed focusing on basic information first and then building on it as the Lyme Disease Task Force moves forward.</p> <p>Ms. Jennifer Russel discussed the Statewide Lyme Disease Symposium held in early November 2019. She is considering making it a yearly event. The symposium had legislator attendance, such as Dan Swanson, Tammy Duckworth, Bill Brady, and Rodney Davis.</p> <p>Discussed a US Senate bill that passed which would create an Office of Oversight and provide grants to State Health Departments for tick-related work.</p> <p>In Illinois, SB1200 would add 8 additional members to the Lyme Disease Task Force. Concern was expressed if the new members would be voting members and if there would be an overrepresentation from legislators.</p>	
15. Adjournment	Dr. Tuten made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Martell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.	

These meeting minutes were compiled in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120 et seq.

Minutes approved by LDTF: 1/23/2020