**International Society for Disease Surveillance**  
**Technical Conventions Committee/Taskforce**

**Date:** January 15, 2013  
**Description:** Roadmap Meeting

**Attendance:** Howard Burkom, Nicholas Generous, Amy Ising, Aaron Kite-Powell, Richard Hopkins, Teresa Hamby, Sylvia Halasz, Wendy Chapman, Atar Baer, David Atrubin, Jeffrey Johnson, Al Ozonoff, Ian Painter, Laura Streichert, Becky Zwickl, Tera Reynolds

**Notes:**

- Review of purpose: Draft Statement
  - **Purpose:** Facilitate and expedite the development, evaluation, and implementation of technical methods for public health surveillance by:
    - Collecting, classifying, posting use cases *(problem descriptions, requests for assistance)* from public health professionals
    - Discussing use cases as needed in open forums to derive well-defined technical problems of practical interest
    - Obtaining or deriving benchmark datasets corresponding to use case problems
    - Documenting problems in template form as with available benchmark datasets
    - Disseminating completed use case templates to the community of solution developers
    - Validating submitted solution methods
    - Disseminating solution methods to user community and assisting with documentation
  - **Discussion:**
    - Define use cases (as well as any other terms that may be either public health-specific or researcher/technical-specific)
    - Categorized by type of problems (what is meant by classifying)
    - Solution Requirements
    - Add measures of effectiveness required to the Problem Template?
    - Solution-developers could be other public health practitioners – anyone is welcome
      - Just want people interested and with the skills to find solutions
    - Outreach
      - Bring to APHA – with so many members, must people people that would be interested in these problems
    - If department submits problem and, department doesn’t have funding, is there a way to acknowledge this
      - Many organizations would be willing to tackle problems without funding from departments
      - What about resources to apply solution?
- Department would put out problem definition and then committee will work with department to flesh out problem before it is widely disseminated

  o Committee Functions:
    - Identifying Public Health Use Cases for Technical Specification
      • Soliciting, collecting, classifying use cases
    - Completion/refinement of use case templates, including benchmark datasets
    - Data conditioning:
      • Modifying authentic data by removing fields, modifying others as needed for sharing
      • Building and validating simulated datasets
        o One option is iDASH which is HIPAA-compliant
        o Standard Data Use Agreement
        o Can create a community with whom you would like to share information/data with
        o Could also have public data
        o Can run computer programs over data (either on iDASH server or by downloading data)
      • Communication with solution developers in academic, government, industrial settings through organizations
    - Posting use case templates
    - Communication with solution developers
      o Validating solutions
      o Posting solutions
      o Facilitating publication

  o ISDS staff would help to disseminate call of solutions
  o Example Problem: Identifying All-cause ED Time-of-Arrival Clusters of Concern
    • Just minimum data elements from NC DETECT? How many fields do you need to make technically worthwhile (minimum)?
    • Would be focused on pulling interesting information out of chief complaints
    • Would be nice to include age-group (but could do without)
  o Scoring solutions (using screen names)
    • Framing it as a challenge and have score board, so that it becomes a game of sorts
    • Kaggle.com (example) – Note that you can create a competition on this site and some do not offer prize
    • Could try to highlight ‘social capital’ rather than financial incentive – respect gained from being leader on score board

  o Introduce feedback loop
    • Problem owners submit form
    • Solution developers could in return submit a form (form might not be best) to owner that talks about incentive needed or allows developers to ask further questions about problem
      • Also, if do not have any takers for a particular problem, would be good to know why?
      • Bulletin Board (solution developers may not complete forms or attend conference calls)
    • Expectations regarding authorship on any resulting papers (usually where DUA comes in)
• Spell out that expect, if use data in a publication, you work with data provider
  o Need to market to multiple groups

Next steps:

• Amy will complete the Problem Template with the example problem
• Initial call regarding refining Amy’s Problem for dissemination
  o Will need Wendy to be on in order to discuss data sharing
• Second call to brainstorm additional use cases
• Discuss how to approach public health via e-mail
• Develop 1-pager (based on purpose statement)
• Create webpage on ISDS website (Tera)