

Case #1: *The Tummy Twister*

Five separate day care centers around the state have experienced outbreaks of foodborne illnesses within the past six months. The last outbreak affected 13 children, three of whom were hospitalized for dehydration. The media is following the story closely, and parents are flooding the state and local health departments with questions. In light of these events, the health department would like to work with the local health departments to train day care workers statewide in safe food handling procedures. Funds are limited, so efficiency and expense are the two greatest training concerns. Access to computers is limited, and in some cases staff can't leave the premises without closing down the day care center. There are about 500 licensed day care centers in the state.

OUTBREAK SHUTS DOWN BOTTOMS UP DAYCARE

By Chatty Tongitis
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CHAOS, CONFUSION – More than 60 Confusionites, most of them small children, have suffered through five separate foodborne illness outbreaks in the past month. In August, 10 children and three adults who work at the Wee Willie Winkle Day Care in Chaos were rushed to doctor's offices and emergency rooms seeking relief. Three of those children were hospitalized due to severe dehydration.

"My baby almost died because somebody was too lazy to wash her hands," said one concerned mother of a hospitalized child, who asked to remain anonymous. "This has got to end. You can't leave your baby nowhere now without worrying about what's happening."

The outbreak in Chaos wasn't the largest outbreak. That outbreak occurred at the Bottoms Up Daycare in Rumor Mill, where 18 children and four adults were laid low for more than a week. But the Chaos outbreak was the only one in

which children required hospitalization for their symptoms.

"Foodborne illnesses can range from very mild to very severe," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Sal Monella. "We're still in the process of investigating all of these outbreaks, but at this point there appears to be no single causation. However, we know that proper hand washing and food handling procedures can greatly reduce the risk of transmission of foodborne illnesses."

Parents are reacting to the outbreak with concern. Bottoms Up Daycare had to close their doors last week because more than 80% of the parents had pulled their children from the center. The Wee Willie Winkle Day Care was closed for two weeks as staff recovered and the center was given a thorough cleaning. But parents say more is needed to allay their fears.

"We decided to take our child out of Bottoms Up Daycare because they didn't even try to make things right," said Mary Smith, mother of one of the children who became ill there. "They made a very

weak apology, and at first just blamed everything on some virus that was going around. When the Health Department said it was a foodborne thing, they just acted like these things happen, and just kept going. Well, I'm not leaving my child somewhere that the people don't even care what happens to him. No way. They deserve to lose their business."

According to Dr. Monella, the Health Department will continue their investigations and issue a full report to the public once it's completed. For now, he recommends that all child care providers review their food handling procedures with workers to help prevent further outbreaks.

"Time and temperature are critical in food handling," said Dr. Monella. "But equally important, especially in child care facilities, is frequent and thorough hand washing. You simply can't beat it for preventing disease transmission."

For more information on safe food handling procedures, visit the State of Confusion's web site at www.socdoh.state.cf.us.

Case #2: *The Numbers Game*

The State of Confusion's Department of Health has devised a new accounting system that will be implemented next calendar year, which starts January 1, 2005. Unfortunately, no one knows anything about the system except Mucho McGreedy, the CFO, and a few select individuals on his staff. Suddenly, they realize the need to train all the appropriate staff on how to:

- fill out payment and purchase requests,
- read budgets,
- assign appropriate budgets to grant awards,
- track personnel with budget information, and
- write contracts.

They need to do this within a few weeks, and they have 300 employees in about 20 different locations around the state who need to be trained. The most important training need is urgency.

Healthy Confusion *MONTHLY UPDATE...*

FISCAL SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

An exciting new fiscal system is ready to go! According to Chief Financial officer Mucho McGreedy, this new system will make the financial operations within the agency more efficient and easier for employees to follow.

"I designed this system myself," said McGreedy, "and we've gotten nothing but positive feedback from everyone who's seen it. I believe all employees will be very pleased with the changes."

All employees are expected to begin using the new system effective January 1, 2005. Information about training sessions is forthcoming.

Case #3: *It's In The Genes*

During their last session, state legislators passed a law that greatly expanded the number of genetic conditions for which all children born in the state are tested. In fact, The State of Confusion now tests for 40 various disorders, more than triple the previous amount. The Genetics Director needs to provide training for agency employees, for employees in the 15 local health departments, and for private OB/GYNs and other physicians who will counsel pregnant women or women who are seeking to become pregnant. The goal is to train everyone within a year, then set up a schedule of ongoing training for new people.

GENETIC SCREENING REDUCES RISKS FOR PARENTS AND INFANTS

By Genny Nucleuson
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CHAOS, CONFUSION – New parents have an added sense of security in Confusion. Beginning September 1, 2004, all newborns in the state are tested for 40 separate genetic disorders, including cystic fibrosis, hypothyroidism, and a host of other amino acid, organic acid, and fatty acid oxidation disorders. The program is coordinated by the State Department of Health.

Genetic screening is performed through a blood test that can identify the most common disorders. Parents can be tested before they decide to have children, and babies can be tested before and shortly after birth to discover and treat any problems as soon as possible.

“Early genetic screening is the only way to detect these disorders and prevent permanent damage to children. Genetic disorders cannot be cured,” said Program Director Gene Nome. “However, they can be treated to reduce the effect on children, even before they are born.”

Nome says the first concern people usually exhibit concerns the risk their child faces of having a genetic disorder. That information can only be determined through genetics counseling, which takes into account the family medical history as well as testing of the parents.

In addition to the genetic screening, free genetics counseling is available to all parents and potential parents to determine the best course of action. Parents may schedule a genetics counseling visit beginning with their county health department.

“We have nurses on staff who will take a detailed family history to begin the process,” explain Nome. “After that, we will coordinate with local physicians who will actually provide the genetics counseling. We’ll take care of setting the appointment, and will follow up with the family to assure they have the information they need.”

In some cases, the children will require long-term follow-up and care through the state’s Children’s Medical Program. Begun as the Crippled Children’s Service in the 1930s to meet the needs of children ravaged by polio, the program has grown and expanded to deal with all children who have special medical needs and limited resources.

For more information about the Genetics Screening and Counseling programs, contact your local county health department or the Department of Health’s web site, www.socdoh.state.cf.us.

Case #4: *You Give Me Fever*

Rift Valley Fever has arrived in the State of Confusion, the first state in the nation to see a confirmed case. The Communications Office is busy fielding media questions, and there is information on the web site. But the concerned public still has questions. A special toll-free number has been set up to answer calls from the public and you've been tasked to coordinate training to the staff taking the calls on reports of possible RVF cases, questions about risks, etc. Some of the people taking the calls are nurses, others are MPH students working on their internship, and others are epidemiologists within various programs in the agency. In addition, the case definition is still being formed, and surveillance efforts add to the bank of information available on a daily basis. Training needs to be both immediate and ongoing.

RIFT VALLEY FEVER ADRIFT

By Tag Newsbeat
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CHAOS, CONFUSION – Governor Sandy Beaches announced today through her spokesperson that she has contracted Rift Valley Fever following her recent photography safari in Africa.

“The Governor is expected to recover fully, but is quite ill at present,” said Press Secretary Ina Panic. “She returned a week ago, and began feeling ill within a couple of days. As you know, she’s been hospitalized since Monday, and we just received confirmation of the tests today.”

The Governor’s recent trip to Africa was her first vacation since she took office two years ago. An avid wildlife photographer, Gov. Beaches said before she left for the trip that this had been a lifelong dream of hers.

According to Panic, the Governor, though quite ill, has never lost consciousness and is not relinquishing control of the state at this time. She had done so during her vacation, but resumed her duties immediately.

“Gov. Beaches and her doctors expect her to be back at work within the week, albeit at a reduced schedule,” Panic explained. “Since the Legislature is not in session at this time and there are no pressing

issues, she has asked me to re-arrange her schedule so that she can have time to recover while still attending to the needs of the state.”

“Rift Valley Fever (RVF) is one of several arthropod-borne viral fevers,” said State Health Officer Dr. Susie Sunshine. “At this point, we’ve only seen it in Africa.”

Dr. Sunshine said RVF is not transmissible by human-to-human contact. Initial symptoms include fever, headache, malaise, arthralgia, or myalgia, and occasionally nausea and vomiting. Persons with RVF may develop retinitis, encephalitis, or hemorrhage that may be fatal.

Dr. Sunshine also said that she has been in close contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, which is assisting with the case investigation and interviewing other people who were on the trip with the Governor, including her brother, sister-in-law, and three nephews. No one else who accompanied the Governor on the trip has become ill to date.

For more information about Rift Valley Fever, visit the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov, and search for Rift Valley Fever.

Case #5: Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof

Teen drug use is on the rise in the State of Confusion. An aggressive media campaign is underway to try and help the situation, but educators and public health officials have agreed that school nurses need to get involved as well. They want targeted health education regarding drug use given every school, not just middle and high schools, since they believe education begun at the elementary school level may prevent drug use in the teen years. Every school in the state has at least a part-time school nurse, but they are not employees of the Department of Health. All the school nurses have Internet access, though with varying bandwidth capabilities. Each school is also connected via a television channel sponsored by the state's Public Television Station. There are approximately 2,300 school nurses in the state that you need to reach with your training.



State of Confusion

MEMO

To: Hero Jones, Director, Workforce Development
From: Dr. Susie Sunshine, State Health Officer
RE: Health Education on Drug Use

During the past year, the State of Confusion has seen an alarming rise in teen drug use. Law enforcement officials are working diligently to investigate and determine the paths through which the teens are receiving the drugs. School officials have increased security checks and random locker searches to aid in the fight. I'm sure you've seen the media campaign that the Dept. of Education has going as well. Now we need to get involved.

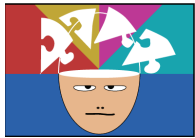
Please be prepared to meet with me next week and give me some ideas about what kind of health education activities you think we could provide school nurses for them to use with their students. We'd like to put together different programs for different levels of students, and our goal is to stop current drug use in those who are already participating and prevent drug use from beginning in the others. We need this quickly; time is of the essence.

We don't have a large budget for this project, but I'm committed to finding the resources you need to do this effectively. You can contact Mora Learning at the Dept of Education (555-1234) to get more information about their needs, what they can contribute to the effort, etc. If you think she should be included in the meeting next week as well, that will be fine with me.

I'll have my secretary call you Monday to arrange a time and date. Thank you, and I look forward to working with you on this project.

Case #6: *New Kid in Town*

The State of Confusion's Department of Health hired a new State Health Officer about six months ago. Dr. Susie Sunshine has completed a study of the Department's organizational structure, and has gotten approval for a major re-organization. Everyone in the Department will need to be trained on the new structure, their role within the structure, and the associated changes in the goals and mission of the Department. She would also like to train at least the upper-level staff at the state's 15 local health departments, so the staff there will know who to call, how things have changed, etc. Dr. Sunshine wants the training to be positive and upbeat, and she wants to deliver the overall message herself to as many employees as possible, with the details of the training left to other staff. She wants the training developed and completed for Department employees within three months, and completed for local health department staffs within six months.



State of Confusion

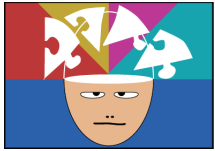
MEMO

To: Hero Jones, Director, Workforce Development
From: Dr. Susie Sunshine, State Health Officer
RE: New Organizational Chart

I need your help with a project. Our new organizational chart has been approved by the State Personnel Board, and we need to train all of our employees on it. We also need to provide training to the upper-level staff at our 15 local health departments as well, so they'll understand what we're trying to do with these changes. You and I have discussed the purpose for the changes while it was in review at the SPB; now that it's approved, we need a training plan.

I'd like the training to be very casual and comfortable for all who participate, with plenty of opportunities for questions. We need this to be very professional to project our new image. As you know, "if you feed them, they will come" always holds true in training sessions, so let me know what resources you need from me and I'll do my best to find them.

I'll have my secretary call you later this week to make an appointment to discuss some time next week. If you could have an outline of a plan with a couple of options by then, that would be great. Thanks so much for your help!



STATE OF CONFUSION

Public Health FACT SHEET

Department of Health (CDH) State Health Plan

Confusion State Code of 1960 established the Confusion Department of Health (CDH) as the sole and official agency to administer and supervise all health planning responsibilities for the state, including development and publication of the *Confusion State Health Plan*. The *State Health Plan* (1) identifies priority health care needs in Confusion; (2) recommends ways in which those needs may be met; and (3) establishes criteria and standards for health-related activities which require Certificate of Need review.

The CDH considered the health needs of the state, consulted with health provider associations and other health-related agencies of state government, and determined through public meetings and public comments the priority health needs of Confusion for FY 2005. These needs are as follows:

- Disease prevention, health protection, and health promotion
- Health care for specific populations, such as mothers, babies, the elderly, the indigent, the uninsured, and minorities

- Development of a statewide trauma system
- Health needs of persons with mental illness, alcohol/drug abuse problems, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, and/or handicap
- Availability of adequate health manpower throughout the state.

The Confusion Department of Health is a statewide organization with more than 800 employees. In addition, there are 15 independent health departments within the state, organized on a regional and municipal level. These local health departments work closely with the state health department to ensure a smooth transition between service areas. The State level has jurisdiction over vital statistics, environmental health, all licensure functions, health planning, and assumes a strong coordination role in epidemiology, surveillance, and health promotion activities. More than 2,000 employees at the local health departments augment the public health workforce in the state.

Demographics

Census Bureau 2002

- Population 2,768,619
- 75 counties
- 295 incorporated cities, towns and villages

Population Distribution

- 75% population live in one of the incorporated municipalities
- 53% population reside in areas established as rural
- < 25% live in a city of < 25,000 or more
- 33% live in a city of > 10,000

Population Areas

1. Chaos (the state capitol county and surrounding counties)
2. Coastal area (three counties)
3. Rumor Mill (home of the largest state university and surrounding counties)

Gender Composition

47.9% male

52.1% female

Racial Composition

62.4% white

36.5% black

1.1% other

Age

Persons age 65 or > = 12.1% of the population

FACTOIDS

UNIVERSITIES

- Confused University
- Insideout State University
School of Public Health
- Pandamonium College

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Philanthropist, Bill Doors, established a Foundation for Teens Against Drugs after his daughter was tragically killed in a late night traffic accident.

MANUFACTURING

Notell Corporation has committed to build a plant to manufacture satellite dishes in Murky Water Township.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS - *Ditch Effort Army Base has an extensive telecommunications network. General Dove recently announced interest in partnerships with the state government.*

The top ten leading causes of death in Confusion are:

Cause of Death	Number	Death Rate (per 100,000 population)
Heart Diseases	9,309	336.2
Malignant Neoplasms	6,131	221.4
Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,849	66.8
Accidents	1,639	59.2
Emphysema and other Chronic Pulmonary Disease	1,262	45.6
Pneumonia and In uenza	796	28.8
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis	620	22.4
Diabetes Mellitus	589	21.3
Septicemia	426	15.4
Alzheimer's Disease	351	12.7



State of Confusion

MEMO

Training Grant Award

To: Hero Jones, Director, Workforce Development
From: Dr. Susie Sunshine, State Health Officer Development
RE: Grant Award #UWISH2005-1

Good news! I just received word we got that training grant we applied for last spring. We will receive \$10,000 in FY 2005 monies.

Please prepare a prioritized list (along with justifications) of your top workforce development funding needs. The activities will take into account the greatest public health needs in the state as well as the deficiencies in the staff's knowledge or ability to receive/participate in training as needed to appropriately meet the public health needs of the state.

Aren't you glad now that you cancelled your family vacation to Murky Lake State Park to write that grant proposal? There's always next year!