

Creating a Public Health Ethics Framework

ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Conference
September 9-12, 2008



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Overview of Session

- Neelam D. Ghiya – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Federal perspective
- James Thomas – University of North Carolina – State perspective
- Nancy Baum – Michigan School of Public Health – Local perspective

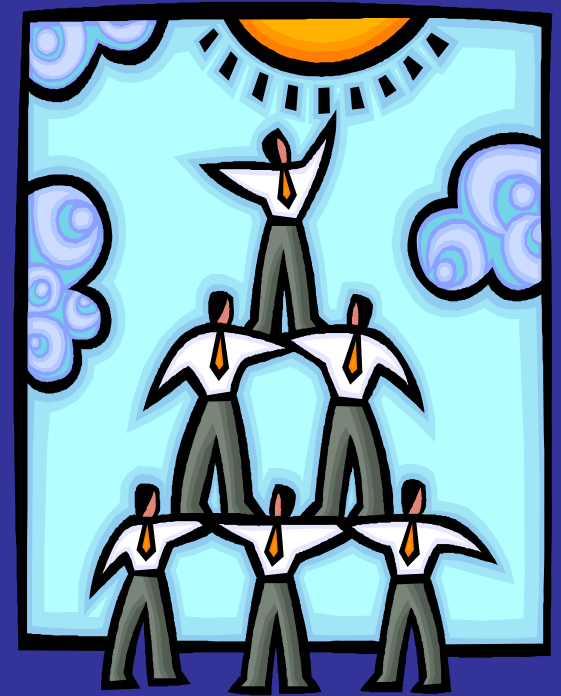


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Public Health Ethics Goals at CDC

- Foster an environment and culture that supports and develops ethical practices throughout the organization.
- Increase awareness, knowledge, skills, and confidence in identifying, analyzing, and addressing public health ethics issues.
- Integrate the tools of ethical analysis into day-to-day operations across CDC.



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CDC PHE Infrastructure

- Ethics Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Director, CDC (Jan 2005)
- CDC Public Health Ethics Committee (PHEC) (May 2005)
- CDC Public Health Ethics Coordinator (June 2006)



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Ethics Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Director, CDC

- 10 member subcommittee
- Academic institutions, non-profit organization, and private consultant
- Broad charge - provide counsel on public health ethics issues



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Ethics Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD)

- **John Arras, PhD**
University of Virginia
- **Ronald Bayer, Ph.D.**
Columbia University
- **Vivian Berryhill
(ACD Representative)**
National Coalition of Pastors'
Spouses
- **Vanessa Gamble, MD, PhD**
George Washington University
- **Robert Hood, PhD**
Florida Department of Health
- **Thomas Hooyman, PhD
(Chair)**
Regis University
- **Bruce Jennings, MA**
Center for Humans and Nature
- **Kathy Kinlaw, MDiv**
Emory University
- **Bernard Lo, MD**
UC, San Francisco
- **Nancy Kass, ScD**
Johns Hopkins University

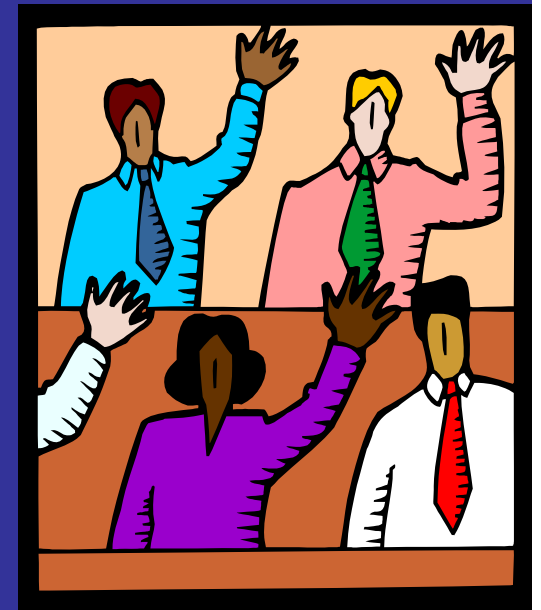


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CDC Public Health Ethics Committee

- PH ethics leads, alternates, liaisons, other interested CDC staff
- Steering Group; Education, Policy and Framework, and Consultation Subcommittees;
- Charge – provide leadership on PH ethics and integrate ethical analysis into day to day activities at CDC



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CDC's Public Health Ethics Activities

- **Development of Guidance Documents**
 - Pandemic influenza
 - Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - Ventilator Distribution
 - Traveler Restrictions
- **Education about public health ethics**
- **Development of capacity to conduct public health ethics consultations**



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Pandemic Influenza Ethical Guidance

Guidance developed by Ethics Subcommittee
of the Advisory Committee to the Director,
CDC

Primary Authors:

Robert Levine – Yale University

Kathy Kinlaw – Emory University



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Consultation Request

Ethical Considerations for:

- Vaccine and antiviral drug distribution prioritization
- Development of interventions that would limit individual freedom and create social distancing

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/phec/guidelinesPanFlu.htm>



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Ethical Issues in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Bruce Jennings, Center for
Humans and Nature and Yale
University

and

John Arras, University of Virginia

White Paper - Ethical Guidance
for Public Health Emergency
Preparedness and Response



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Focus Papers

- **Research during public health emergencies** – Alex Jon London, Carnegie Mellon University
- **Vulnerable populations** – Madison Powers, Georgetown University
- **Justice, resource allocation, and stockpiling** - Norman Daniels, Harvard School of Public Health
- **Professional, civic, and personal obligations** – Angus Dawson, Keele University
- **Community engagement** - Ruth Gaare Bernheim, University of Virginia



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Guidance for Ventilator Distribution

- Example of how to implement the general ethical framework described in the original pandemic influenza document.
- Address the tension between obligation to provide care and to be a good steward of resources while protecting the common good in scarce resource situations.

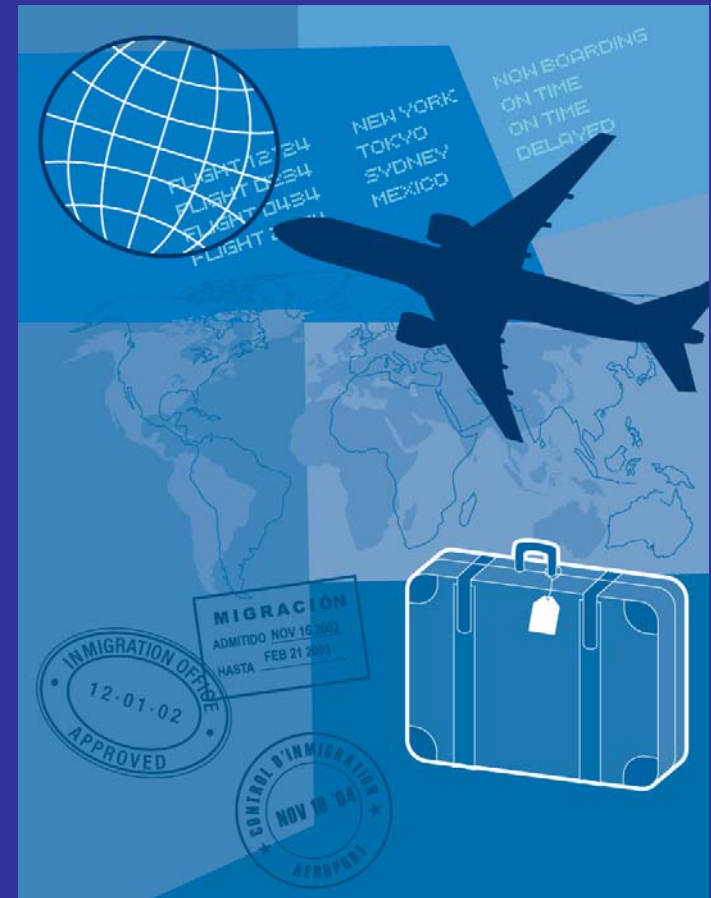


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Traveler Restrictions Workgroup

- Forum for review of cases
- Review of standard operating procedures for issuing travel restrictions



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Identifying African Perspectives on Pandemic Influenza Ethics: Building Consensus on Ethical Challenges

- August 11-15, 2008
- Sponsored by CDC Coordinating Office of Global Health and African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)
- Participating Countries:
 - East – Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya
 - West – Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroun, Mali, Togo, Burkina Faso
 - South – South Africa, Zimbabwe
 - North – Egypt, South Sudan

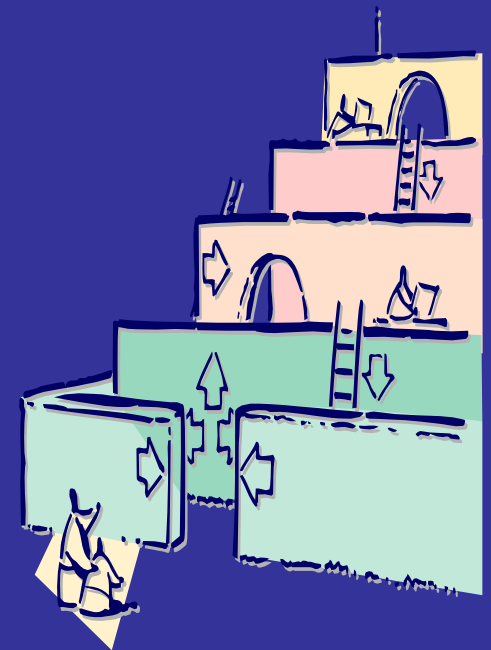


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Infrastructure Development

- Training
 - Seminars
 - Ethical theory
 - Models of ethical analysis
 - Ethics of surveillance
 - Web-based foundational level course
 - Tuskegee University-CDC Ethics Fellowship
- Center level public health ethics teams
- Framework document and consultation procedures



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Roles of Center Public Health Ethics Leads

– Leadership

- Serve as PH Ethics point of contact and resource
- Establish a Center PH Ethics team
- Coordinate Center PH Ethics activities with ADS & Director

– Training

- Organize PH Ethics training and seminars for Center staff

– Consultation

- Identify issues with Center leaders
- Set up systems and guidelines to receive & manage issues
- Establish guidelines and participate in center-led PH Ethics consultations
- Triage issues to PHEC that are cross-cutting



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Other Emergency Preparedness Activities

DEOC Ethics Desk

- Pandemic Influenza Exercises (Feb, Apr, Aug 2007; Mar, Sep 2008)
- TOPOFF-4 (Oct 2007)
- Hurricane Exercise (May 2008)
- Anthrax Exercise (Aug 2008)



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Public Health Ethics Blog

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Public Health Ethics blog. The address bar shows the URL <http://blogs.inside.cdc.gov/publichealthethics/>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The page content is organized into several sections:

- Header:** "CDC Connects" logo and the date "Wednesday, May 14, 2008". A search box labeled "CDC Intranet Search" with a "GO" button is also present.
- Main Title:** "Public Health Ethics".
- Navigation:** A breadcrumb trail reads "CDC Connects > Public Health Ethics".
- Main Content:**
 - Public Health Ethics:** A paragraph stating: "CDC is launching a public health ethics initiative whose purposes are to more deliberately address difficult ethical issues in program decision making and to systematically analyze and help resolve these issues by using a framework of ethical principles and values in a transparent and inclusive process."
 - Recent Posts:** A post titled "Public Health Ethics at CDC" dated "April 18th, 2008" by "Drue Barrett". The text describes the systematic process of public health ethics and mentions the CDC's Public Health Ethics Committee (PHEC) and the Ethics Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Director.
 - Recent Comments:** Two comments are listed, both dated "April 22, 2008". The first comment says, "If we would like this blog to be routinely active, it will be importan...". The second comment says, "I think the role of the public health ethics work should be to help de...".
- Right Sidebar:**
 - Public Health Ethics:** A list of links including "About the Public Health Ethics Blog", "Blog Rules", "Search and Archives", and "Submit a Topic Idea".
 - Categories:** A list of categories: "General (1)", "New Topic Ideas (1)", "Uncategorized (1)", and "Welcome (2)".
 - Employee Tools:** A list of tools: "A-Z List", "Admin e-Systems", "Calendar of Events", "Campus Maps", "CDC Neighborhood", "Construction News", "Creative Services", "Emergency Numbers", and "Employee Organizations".

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Trusted sites" with a green checkmark and "100%" zoom level.



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<http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/phec/>



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