

SEVERITY OF NEED (SON) EXPERT PANEL MEETING



Washington Hilton

Washington, DC

April 27–28, 2006



Meeting Agenda

Overall Project Objective: To develop a conceptual framework to improve HAB's ability to assess the severity of need (SON) for CARE Act programs and services and distribute the funds according to quantifiable measures.

Specific Meeting Objectives: To bring together the members of the four expert panels to:

- Share the findings and recommendations of each panel
- Provide feedback on panel reports
- Recommend a list of specific variables to be included in the SON index model(s)
- Identify areas of overlap and those requiring further exploration

Thursday, April 27

8:00 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:30 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions, Purpose of the Project, and Overview of Agenda** – *Jamie Hart*

8:45 a.m. **Review of Progress to Date**

- Overview of panel findings – *David Rein*
 - Review of the process and potential SON model
 - Themes and areas of overlap
 - Overview of data analysis to date
- Review of specific panel findings – *Panel Co-chairs*
 - Definition of components
 - Recommended data sources
 - Final variable list and rationale
 - Ranking of variables

10:00 a.m. **BREAK**

10:15 a.m. **Mixed Group Discussions Concerning Specific Panel Reports** – *Each pre-assigned group will contain members from the various panels. Discussion will focus on one of the panel reports, but the participants will enhance the discussion by offering insights from their own panel discussions. After the facilitator provides a brief summary of the panel's findings as well as directions for the mixed groups' work, the discussion will focus on the following topics:*

- Panel report
 - Are there clear arguments for how each variable influences SON as well as an explanation for the inclusion or exclusion in the SON index of each considered variable?
 - Are the proposed methods for measuring the variables appropriate and feasible?
 - Are there additional methods to consider?
 - Which of these variables are most critical to measuring SON?
 - Are there any gaps/missing variables?
- Key issues
 - What are the scientific and policy issues related to measuring the variables?
 - Is inclusion of these variables feasible?
 - What impact might emerging evidence have on the potential SON model(s)?
 - Are there any remaining issues or questions?
- Potential use of variables in the SON model(s)

12:15 p.m. **WORKING LUNCH – Preliminary Data Findings, Development of the Analysis, and Framing of the Variables** – *David Rein*

1:30 p.m. **Large Group Discussion Regarding Variables: Importance, Ranking, and Interrelationships to Other Panels** – *The large group will focus on the following:*

- Discussion by the Contractor regarding the challenges and recommendations for how the work of the various panels fit together in the SON model(s) – *David Rein (refer to the variable summary table)*
 - Variables whose weights can be empirically derived
 - Variables whose weights must be assigned in part by consensus decisions
 - Variables that may be contentious and the challenges in measuring them (e.g., Medicaid adequacy, HIV cases, race/ethnicity)
- Feedback from Panelists on Contractor challenges and recommendations

2:30 p.m. **Mixed Group Discussions Concerning Variables** – *The mixed groups will continue to focus on big-picture issues related to creation of the SON index by considering the following questions:*

- How well do the variables recommended by the various panels capture HIV resource needs?
- What cross-cutting issues should be considered when creating the SON model(s)?
- How might contentious variables be addressed?
- What issues are likely to emerge as we develop the SON model(s) and disseminate it to the public?

3:45 p.m. **BREAK**

4:00 p.m. **Mixed Group Report Outs and Discussion** – *Mixed group report outs, followed by facilitated discussion, concerning the following issues:*

- Are there recommended modifications to the panel reports regarding included or excluded variables, data sources, and weights?
- How well do the variables recommended by the various panels capture SON?
- What issues are likely to emerge as we develop the SON model(s) and disseminate it to the public?

5:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

Friday, April 28

8:30 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:45 a.m. **Policy Issues Related to the Future of CARE Act Allocations** – *Deborah Parham Hopson*

- What is the anticipated role of the Severity of Need Index in allocating future Federal CARE Act Resources?
 - What's happening with reauthorization?
 - What is the stated goal for the SON index?
 - What are the (potential) consequences of the SON index?
 - How will changes in Federal healthcare policy impact the SON index? Do the panel reports need to be modified to account for these changes?
 - What will be the role of the panelists as the SON project moves forward?

9:15 a.m. **Large Group Discussion** – *Thinking broadly, we want the group to look at the findings in a contextual way. The group will address the following issues in light of the discussions during day one:*

- What feedback do you have for HRSA regarding the sum total of what will be included (or at least considered) in the final SON model(s) and the prediction of the model(s) to SON?
- Moving away from your panel role, how do you think the SON model(s) will be received within the larger health care environment?
- Are there other things in the health care environment and financing of health care that HRSA needs to be attentive to as they move forward with the SON model(s)?
- Has any component been overlooked in the proposed SON model(s)?

10:45 a.m. **BREAK**

11:00 a.m. **Discussion of Next Steps: Where Do We Go from Here?** – *Jamie Hart*

- What should panelists expect over the next several months?
- What will the panelists' roles be as the SON project moves forward?
- Proposed process for the panelists to inform HSR of any external inquiries that they receive?
- Description of SON products, additional followup, and SON project timeline

12:30 p.m. **Adjourn**