

**World Trade Center Health Program
Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee**

June 21-22, 2023

Administrator's Opening Remarks

Good morning and welcome to the 15th meeting of the **Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee** for the World Trade Center Health Program. I want to thank each of you for taking time from your busy schedules to participate in the Committee and to offer your advice about the Administrator's charge to the Committee.

Youth Cohort

In December 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 amended sec. 3341 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act to direct the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, to establish a new research cohort to conduct future research studies on the health and educational impacts of *“exposure to airborne toxins, or any other hazard or adverse condition, resulting from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, including on the population of individuals who were 21 years of age or younger at the time of exposure, including such individuals who are screening-eligible WTC survivors or certified-eligible WTC survivors.”*

The cohort may include individuals who were 21 years of age or younger on September 11, 2001, who were located outside the New York City Disaster Area (NYCDA) and in Manhattan not further north than 14th Street; or anywhere within the borough of Brooklyn. Additionally, the cohort may include age-appropriate control populations as needed for research purposes. I propose an approach for establishing the youth cohort consisting of four phases, which will be explained by Dr. Doug Daniels.

I seek advice from the STAC regarding:

1. The proposed four-phase approach for establishing the youth cohort, including the sufficiency of community involvement.
2. Potential partnerships for establishing the youth cohort.
3. Ideas regarding outreach, recruitment, retention, and project oversight; and
4. Anticipated barriers to forming a cohort that can adequately support future research studies, for example, representativeness, insufficient statistical power, information biases, and selection biases, and any potential strategies that address those barriers.

To inform your recommendations, I have invited Dr. Joan Reibman, Professor in the Department of Medicine at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine and Medical Director of the H+H WTC Environmental Health Center, to present an Overview of Young

Survivors. The WTC Health Program Survivors Steering Committee will provide Young Survivors' Views.

Policy and Procedures

The STAC will also receive an update on the revisions made to the *Policy and Procedures for Adding Non-Cancer Health Conditions to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions* following the STAC's recommendations at their meeting on February 9, 2023. The presentation by Dr. Doug Daniels will detail further revisions made to the *Policy and Procedures* in response to recommendations of the STAC, as well as substantive changes that include additional descriptions of the Bradford Hill criteria used in the Science Team's evaluation. I request the STAC's advisory recommendations and concurrence with the revised *Policy and Procedures* so it can be finalized for implementation.

Peer Reviewers

Finally, Dr. Carreón-Valencia and I would appreciate the STAC's suggestions of peer reviewers for proposed additions to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions.

Thank you again for your service on the Committee and have a good meeting.

John Howard, M.D.
Administrator