

NIHHIS Northeast Decision Calendar Workshop

18 October 2018 | [Westborough, MA](#)

Meeting Summary

The intent of this meeting is to convene a **local** set of **decision-makers** who collectively seek to reduce the **health risks** of **extreme heat** by implementing **interventions** at a variety of **timescales** in response to **present and future climate and social conditions**. This meeting will build upon decision-maker **interviews and questionnaires** which were conducted in advance to support the development of **prototype decision calendars** for discussion. Decision calendars document discipline specific and timescale explicit decisions made to reduce risk – and the information needs to support those decisions. This one-day session will feature presentations and conversation which further enhances our understanding of how practitioners protect populations of concern from extreme heat.

Key Outcomes

- Build and strengthen the **network** between a multidisciplinary set of heat-health decision-makers through relationship and awareness building.
- Identify and document locally-contextualized **interventions** at the planning and preparedness timescales, with important constraints and considerations noted.
- Discipline-specific decision makers will use **planning scenarios** to explore decision contexts behind the identified interventions, and specific **information needs** will be documented to support decisions in the form of **decision calendars**.

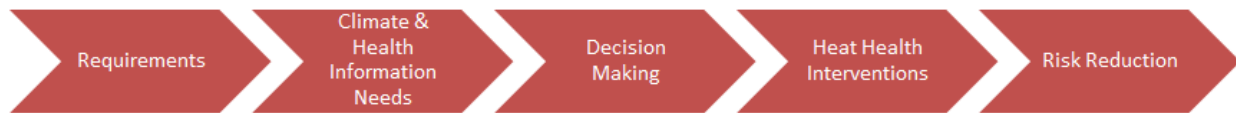
Meeting Background

The National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) helps decision makers prepare for and manage heat health risk days, months, and years in the future with integrated information. Initiated in 2015, NIHHIS integrates the capabilities and information of many agencies – NOAA, CDC, FEMA, OSHA, NIOSH, ASPR, EPA, SAMHSA, USDA – to support informed multi-disciplinary decision making in cities and counties across the U.S. to protect populations from extreme heat. NIHHIS employs a decision calendar approach to understand local context and information needs. This workshop is focused on Interventions, the decision-makers who implement or influence them, and timescales for implementing them.

The Decision Calendar Approach

Decision calendars build understanding of user decision-making context to support development of climate information and services that are useful and usable. Users in this case are classes of

users (represented by sampling individuals of the class) who share similar responsibilities and decision-making needs [chief resilience officers, emergency managers, public health, urban planners, tourism ministries, athletics officials, chief resilience officers, energy utility managers, etc...].



Decision Calendars support **Decision Making** about **Heat Health Interventions** by documenting essential **Climate and Health Information Needs** in a temporally and spatially explicit way that facilitates the elicitation and elaboration of **Requirements**

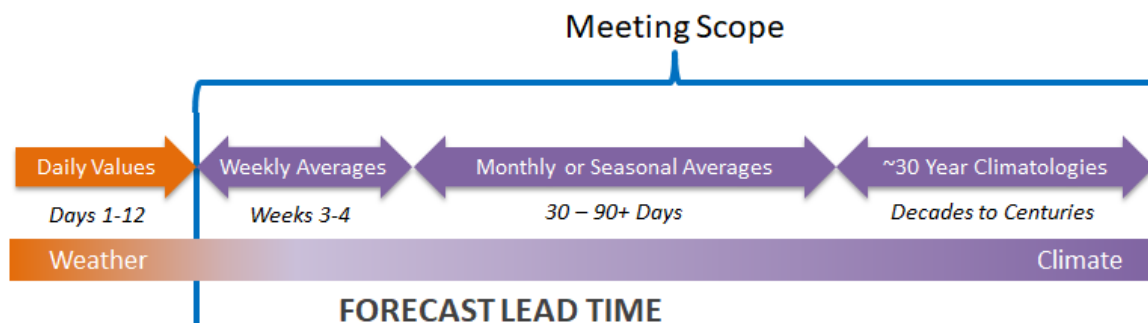
Developing Decision Calendars

Decision calendars will be developed and refined in this one-day workshop by first allowing participants to share their perspectives in morning presentations, followed by an afternoon of break-out sessions where they will work on interdisciplinary teams to consider how to protect different populations from heat risk. Decision calendars are living documents which document information needs in support of decision making – such as urban scale air temperature predictions or social vulnerability information by city block. These documents will be used to inform the provision of information from and research priorities of government programs.

Meeting Scope

Timescale

This meeting will be focused on the timescales served by probabilistic predictions. This timescale extends from 3-4 weeks of lead time to decades of lead time. The meeting will not focus on short timescale responses to extreme heat.



Tentative Agenda (Meeting Process)

The morning opens with brief context and explanation of the process for the day. Most of the morning is structured to allow local practitioners and other experts to share what they do and what they need. Pre-meeting interview questions will guide the presentations by decision-makers. The afternoon is much more hands-on, and includes sessions where we apply what we've learned in small group discussions based on decision-making under possible climate scenarios.

0830-0900	Registration and Refreshments
0900-0915	NIHHIS Opening and Context Setting
	Decision Calendars - what are they and how do they work?
0915-1000	Keynote on Heat Health Decision Making in Climate Context
	This session outlines the growing hazard for the city and the local vulnerability profile, including. Also give overview with what we've already learned from interviews.
1000-1030	Ice Breaker & Informal Break
1030-1130	Heat Health Decision Maker Perspectives, Successes, and Challenges (Urban)
1130-1215	Available Information for Decision-Making
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Climate Services Presentation • Climate and Health Presentation • Climate Prediction and Services • RISA Decision Making Process
1215-0115	Lunch Provided, Networking
0115-0200	Heat Health Decision Maker Perspectives, Successes, and Challenges (Rural)
0200-0330	Break-out Tabletop Scenarios 1: Populations of Concern
	Older Adults, Outdoor Workers, Athletes, Homeless Population
0330-0400	Report out and synthesis
0400-0500	Break-out Tabletop Scenarios 2: Special Scenarios, Question Assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power outage, transit failure, extreme highs • Long-duration heat wave • Early season / late season
0500-0530	Report out, Wrap up