

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee
RESF-8 Health and Medical
February 3, 2016
Regional Coordination Center
Manchester, Connecticut

David Kosciuk opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Those present introduced themselves.

The minutes of January 6, 2016 had been distributed prior to this meeting.

Ms. McCormack reported on Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) activity: A meeting of the Capital Region MRC is scheduled this evening in Hartford. A state-wide MRC meeting is scheduled for February 16th. The focus of this meeting will be to discuss with Jonathan Best of DPH the issues of recruitment and funding. Membership is lagging, and this is causing some concern. Planning continues for the group's participation in the next Region 3 exercise.

The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) report was given by Mr. Centrella: The scope of the initially identified "ebola exercise" has now been expanded to include any of several "high impact communicable diseases." Given the current status of diseases in America, this can now include responses to the Zika virus. Even with this change, there is a lack of interest by participants to be part of the scheduled March 6 functional exercise. Because the functional exercise should be held before a full scale exercise can be held, one option being explored will be to break down the functional exercise into separate operational groups such as hospitals, CMED communications, etc.

Mr. Huleatt reported on local public health: A full scale medical countermeasures dispensing exercise will be held April 11-15. A meeting is scheduled soon to update the communication matrix, identify personnel changes, and otherwise plan for this operation. In advance of the exercise, staff is developing a "Concept of Operations" for high impact communicable diseases including tracks for blood-borne and airborne pathogens. It was noted that many of the responsible staff sections at DPH are being reorganized and new staff is coming on board. This could impede support available in the remaining weeks before this exercise is held. The following elements of the exercise were discussed: local staff in Bristol/Burlington health department will operate a drive-through Point of Distribution (POD) facility. Their staff cannot work on this on a weekday, so this part of the exercise will be during the weekends. This will limit the role of the regional staff. Statewide, there are 14 mass distribution administration (MDA) units to be located within Region 3. The state-wide total is 41.

Ms. Davis gave the Behavioral Health report:

- As part of the April exercise, she plans to participate at the regional level once drug dispensing is underway. She would like to involve mental health staff by pairing up a seasoned responder with a new staff member to go to each of the dispensing sites to observe and assist. She hopes to become part of the state planning for this in the future to assist should any conflicts surface at a dispensing site.
- In statewide readiness planning, she reported that family assistance centers have been planned for and systems being developed to implement these when needed. Regions 1, 2 and 5 have established their planning, while Region 4 has not moved on this at all. It was reported that DPH would take the lead to develop these for Region 3, but

to date there has not been any initiation of effort. It was suggested that this be discussed at a future state meeting of RESF-8.

- Ms. Davis reported that in mid-January, she presented a training session on active shooters at The Institute for Disaster Mental Health in New York.
- Finally, she stated she is beginning an assessment and evaluation of team members with a view to planning for future recruitment and training .

Mr. DeSanti reported on the Long-Term Care Facility Mutual Aid Planning effort:

The Region 3 Long Term Care (LTC) Coordinating Center will soon be relocated from Duncaster in Bloomfield to the Regional Coordinating Center (RCC) in Manchester. A state-wide meeting of regional LTC MAP groups will be held on February 23. All assisted living facilities are now participating in Region 3 planning.

Mr. Baldwin gave the CMED report: Activity is underway to identify alternative communications for the communities served by Colchester (KX Communications) that will be closing soon. A statewide CMED meeting will be held in March to discuss this.

John Quinlavin gave the report for the region's hospitals: Many hospitals have been experiencing difficulties communicating with field units using CMED. This is a continuing problem caused by the aging system first installed forty years ago, using copper wires between the CMED console and each of the hospitals. This provides an opportunity to revitalize or redesign the system and promote funding to support this effort.

Mr. Gavaghan gave the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) report: Several new local emergency managers appointed, including the new fire chief in Hartford. A first responder workshop on responding to an active shooter is being held on March 10, 2016. The school safety template for local emergency plans is about ready to be released. A school safety symposium will be held at the University of Hartford on February 17. The cost is \$25.00. A Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) course will be held on February 24 and 25. Finally, Mr. Gavaghan announced that Mary Rose has left her position in his regional office.

Other Reports: It was announced that the EMS Director position at DPH will be filled in the near future. It was also announced that the sponsors of the Hartford Marathon run 20 or more events each year. CREPC has been named a sponsor-in-kind as a supporter of this group, allowing participation and public education at future events.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cressy Goodwin
Recorder