

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee  
RESF-8 Health and Medical  
*September 7, 2016*  
Regional Coordination Center  
Manchester, Connecticut

Carmine Centrella opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Those present introduced themselves. (See list of attendees, Page 3.)

**Ms. Ferreira gave the report for the Department of Public Health:** It has been a very busy summer at DPH. The epidemiology section has been focusing on the Zika virus outbreak. The well established planning guidelines for ebola are being used to manage this new threat. Visits with local hospitals are ongoing, and evaluation of disease recognition and appropriate responses will soon start by introduction of a "mystery patient."

**The long-term care report:** A functional exercise is planned between September 26 and 30. Region 3 and Region 2 will be participating. Also the decision was reached to move the long-term care emergency coordination center (ECC) from Duncaster to the regional coordination center (RCC).

**Mr. Baldwin reported on CMED operations:** Work is underway to develop a cross-board function with other regions. This will enhance the communications capabilities for patient transfers between regions. A drill is planned for October 7, 2016. An after action plan (AAP) is being created after a house fire in Vernon - communications were coordinated by Tolland dispatch and other responders in the North Central CMED region. The joint operations affected dispatching and handing off to different hospitals. Problems that were identified included the state-wide PL used in the past to integrate multiple CMED roles is no longer available. Satellite phones could have been effective, but they had been placed with hospitals and CMED centers many years ago. These are rarely used today, and few phones are answered when activated.

**Mr. Peturas reported** that on September 28, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will be discussing a standard nomenclature for alert codes in hospitals in the state. Many professionals who work at two or more hospitals find it difficult to respond properly to an emergency when hospitals use different codes or words in their announcements.

**Ms. Dean gave the Behavioral Health reported** various training programs in mental health are being planned.

**Ms. Marquis reported on local public health:** A discussion is underway on the role of local public health working with family assistance centers in the region. Traditionally, food, sanitation and safety have been the focus. New roles are now being explored. In other areas, the Project Public Health Ready was developed 5 years ago. There is now an assessment underway of the region's local public health plans. The National Association of Counties and City Health Officials (NACHO) has been asked to develop a process for revised plans to be submitted for approval. That group is developing this process, and submissions will probably be due in 2018. She noted that regional criteria are no longer part of Public Health Ready. Connecticut has no county government, and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) five regions are not governmental entities.

**Ms. McCormack reported on the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC):** The group will be responding in the October Mass Fatalities Exercise. The roles assigned include both training and operations. A formal orientation is being developed and the initial presentation will be held by the end of the year. Finally, the agreement between the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) and the MRC subunits is being updated to promote improved coordination.

**Mr. Centrella reported on the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS):** Emergency planning activities have just been completed for the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board. Work is being finished on a protocol for community response to a violent situation which will move fire, police and EMS personnel to a forward position at the scene. A full scale exercise is planned for October 7 in Vernon; A full scale exercise of response to ebola is also being planned for the spring of 2017. This is a contract requirement, so consultants will be brought in to manage this activity. The fifth annual National Health Coalition Preparedness Conference will take place in Washington, DC December 13-14.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cressy Goodwin  
Recorder

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RESF-8 ATTENDANCE

9/2/16

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