

RESF 8-Public Health
Meeting Notes
December 6, 2013

Present: Marge Seiferheld, Melissa Marquis, Bill Turley, Tom Gavaghan, Mary Rose Duberek, Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Scott Szalkiewicz, Francine Truglio, John Degnan, Rob Miller, Charles Motes, Jennifer Kertanis, Betty Morris, Nicole Hawley, Carmine Centrella, Steve Huleatt, Judy Torpey

Welcome and Introductions: Jennifer Kertanis welcomed everyone to the Farmington Valley Health District. Steve Huleatt asked for host sites for the next few meetings, schedule is as follows:

- January 10th-Central CT Health District
- February 7th- CRCOG (to include demo of back-up RCC)
- March 7th-New Britain
- April 11th -North Central District Health Department (date changed to second Friday due to the Preparedness Summit being the first week of April)

Steve apologized for not having the meeting minutes from the November meeting available but referenced three specific items that emerged from that meeting including: clarification regarding meeting attendance requirements to satisfy DPH contract; state planning status; and, state exercise. Since that meeting we have received the year three contract deliverables, state exercise plan.

Project Updates:

Melissa Marquis reported that CADH is working on the plan alignment work under their subcontract with DPH. This work involves identifying where the plans speak to each other, through each other and where there are gaps. This review is being done against the PPHR criteria. First matrix was shared with DPH in early December, may result in formation of workgroups. Policies and procedures for requesting assistance across regions was identified as a gap and was evidenced during the last storms.

Steve reported that Hartford Hospital (Center of Excellence) was subcontracted by DPH to do an ESF 8 assessment. Conference Call will be held December 16th to assist with the assessment. Steve shared an electronic version of the questions. There was considerable discussion regarding the assessment and the questions and the general lack of understanding/appreciation for all that has been accomplished in the region.

Scott Szalkiewicz indicated that this was a new initiative at DPH. He indicated that the make-up of the Regions/ESF8 around the state is different and local health directors

don't understand their role. DPH wants to find out what everyone is doing and re-engage. There were additional questions regarding the methodology for conducting the assessment across regions. There is a different process in every region.

There was general discussion regarding organizational development and the fact that there may be different organizational frameworks depending on the maturity of the organization. Specifically, CREPC structure to have ESF8 Subcommittees (by specialty) is supported by growing number of engaged members and ongoing cross-discipline dialogue at the RESF8 meeting with discipline chairs. Carmine Centrella cautioned against the potential for drilling down to the lowest common denominator.

Steve asked everyone to review the Year 3 deliverables and be prepared to discuss at the January meeting. He cautioned that we can't jam everything into the end of the fiscal year. Scott reported that local health participation in the statewide "full-scale" exercise is up to us. He indicated that DPH has significant planning issues to address in preparation for the exercise.

Regional Framework Planning is beginning. Scott indicated that first task is the Job Action Sheets. Most considered this very low hanging fruit and were not sure why the investment in this given that they were developed as part of the mass dispensing tool kit. Another priority is an updated Q and A regarding quarantine and isolation.

Steve asked Scott to clarify which regional meetings give credit under the local health contract. In the Capitol Region structure, RESF8-public health is the meeting local public health fully engages in, RESF8 is the meeting where the ESF8 disciplines Chairs meet and CREPC is all ESFs. Scott indicated that the RESF8-public health meeting will meet the contract deliverables.

Steve mentioned the National Public Health Security Index and reflected on the fact that CT came out above the national average. This is a composite index and it is unclear who from CT provided input. There is some concern about the use of this Index for funding decisions. The Index does not include a community level perspective.

CREPC UPDATE:

Carmine reported that the revised CREPC by-laws have been approved by DEMHS and will be voted on in January. They will be shared with membership shortly.

Efforts are currently underway to achieve EMAP standards. This is comparable to Project Public Health Ready but for the broader ESF 8.

Everbridge efforts are continuing, FVHD is up and running and Carmine is available to work with the other departments on getting their lists up and running.

There will be three presentations at the National Healthcare Coalition Conference out of CR-MMRS including Ed Kramer on Innovative Uses with Limited Resources, a panel discussion on using MMRS to help build local healthcare coalitions including a presentation by Melissa, and Patrick Turek's work on use of Coalitions to address special needs populations. Carmine will be playing a role in developing the medical track for the National Homeland Security Conference.

CADH has been contracted by MMRS to further develop the first responder prophylaxis plan using Hartford as a test case. Reaching commercial EMS providers is tricky and working through larger ESF8 to work through this issue. Tabletops and training will be developed as a resource for all of us.

DEMHS Updates:

- Tom Gavaghan reported that they are developing an all-hazard school plan template for release in early January. They are emphasizing a police/fire/health collaboration. This is part of a mandate that came out the gun control bill last session. Non-public schools are exempt but the hope is they will follow suit.
- DEMHS continues their briefings for new local officials on emergency preparedness and the role of emergency managers.
- West Farms mall is advancing a "Storm Ready" alert notification regarding openings and closings.
- Active shooter exercise in one of the malls is coming up. DEMHS has been providing trainings. Judy Torpey encouraged local health departments to connect with schools regarding their plans.
- DEMHS met with Harford Schools regarding the "Step Forward" program which is a program for family emergency preparedness, Avon was a pilot and they hope to roll it out across the State.
- Goodwin Dam review took place.
- Central CT Regional Planning Agency received \$100,000 grant for continuity of operation planning for businesses.

Rob Miller asked if DEMHS is contemplating any boundary changes to the 5 regions in light of the regional planning organization consolidation plans. Tom indicated that was unlikely. He also mentioned that Tony Scalora, regional planner in Reg. 4 retired.

EMS Report:

Betty Morris reported out on activity regarding the current "primary provider" designations. She explained that in the early 1990's this system was established to

streamline the EMS response recognizing that EMS is provided in many ways both within and across towns. The approach is being revisited and she encouraged local health departments/directors to be at the table and know what the EMS system is in our towns. This is likely to be raised during the legislative session. Chuck Motes commented that under Annex G, DEMHS template places EMS under direction of local health. All agreed that this presents a workforce development opportunity.

Steve reported that ESF 21 has expanded from its original focus, independent colleges, to K-12.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD:

Eastern Highlands has established an MRC.
PPHR plaque will be taken to Washington DC next week
Bristol-Burlington signed MOA with ESP for closed POD
Paul Hutcheon retiring end of January, Nancy Brault will serve as interim director
Central CT RDS drill will take place December 11th.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Next Meeting January 10, 2014. Hosted by CCHD. Location TBD