

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee
RESF-8 Health and Medical
October 2, 2013
Regional Coordination Center
Manchester, Connecticut

Members Present: *See attached attendance list (p. 4, below)*

The meeting was opened at 9:05 a.m. by chairman David Kosciuk.

Local Health Departments:: There is no new regional funding for projects. Funds from previous budget years has been extended through June 30 this year, supporting a review of local plans, identifying gaps, identifying best practices. *Ad hoc* work groups are being formed for each of the five regions to develop improvements.

The hospital section report was given by Mr. Falaguerra: A planning group has met reviewing the status of programs and coordination with DPH. Among the solutions identified was the new Everbridge platform developed for hospitals as part of the Hospital Mutual Aid Program (HMAP). This is being introduced for 75 days, followed by meetings with each hospital in the following 30 days, then a 45 day transition during which both platforms can be used. After this, the old platform will be terminated. Ms. Keating stated that DPH holds the contract for Everbridge which run through May 2014. This contract will be renewed. All hospitals in Connecticut are now using this program.

The Mental Health report was given by Ms. Dean: A plan is being implemented to develop *mobile* psychological support teams to respond to school emergencies. Following the CT Disaster Behavioral Health Response Network (CT-DBHRN) framework - (www.ct.gov/demhs/lib/demhs/ct_srf_v2_aug_2011_for_web.pdf) - such mobile teams are continuing to be developed and training is now offered to develop effective team members. An analysis of the responses to Sandy Hook Elementary School December 14 lead to this approach as a corrective action. Bridgeport last week ran the first of these training programs, and others will be held around the state. Annual update training is being planned. Looking ahead, there are plans to repeat a November 2011 crisis management effort focusing on mortgage assistance programs for people about to lose their homes.

Ms. Keating reported on the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC): After 9/11, all state DMAT teams were federalized. The development of MRCs bring back to Connecticut state level resources to respond to local incidents. Application has been made for funding disaster incident assistance. Two new groups have been formed in Connecticut.

The Long-Term Care report was given by Mr. Kosciuk: The group is looking to create a CERT team at Duncaster where their coordinating center is located. The members of this team will be drawn from assisted living residents, and would be responsible for setting up the center during an emergency, assisting during its operations, and cleaning up afterward.

Ms. Keating reported on DPH activities:

- All hospital contacts listed in the Everbridge system are being updated.
- Charles Mullen has been brought on board to update plans for the mobile hospital, including logistics and physical locations for its mobilization when requested.
- All regional ESF-8 leaders are now meeting as a state-wide ESF-8. At the last meeting, documents were distributed defining the reorganization and staffing of DPH. Ms. Keating will give copies of these documents to Mr. Kosciuk who agreed to distribute them to members of this regional group.
- Work is underway to create closer coordination with community health centers within each of the regional ESF-8 groups.

Mr. Bailey reported on EMS activities:

- An after action report is being created following an MCI exercise in Vernon.
- Work has been initiated to bring Tolland County Emergency communications and planning into coordination with the rest of the CREPC region.
- Planning is underway for the Hartford Marathon in light of the MCI experiences last April in Boston; over 16,000 people are expected to be present in Hartford.
- The development of uniform medical guidelines is advancing. This is in conjunction with the state and New England wide efforts to standardize ALS field care.
- A statewide EMS conference is being planned for May 28, 29 and 30 to be held at the Foxwoods Casino. This will replace the annual conference held over the past several years in March in Cromwell.

The DEMHS report was given by Mr. Gavaghan:

- The program is developing an intelligence unit to identify and gain information about local and regional events.
- A duty officer is now available 24/7 to react swiftly in any emergency.
- The special needs program (ESF-19) in Region 3 were presented to state-level leaders. Funding is being sought to support expanding this training state-wide.
- The commissioner is meeting with local emergency managers. A day session will be held at the Hartford EOC, and a night session will be at the RCC.
- The current state-wide focus for emergency planning is now turning to cyber security.
- The \$5m grant program for developing school safety plans resulted in 21 requests. The Governor has decided to fund them all, and new funding is being requested to continue the program in other school districts.
- A working group is now reviewing all school emergency plans updating those that are in need.
- A child emergency preparedness group has become active working with day care facilities and 211 centers. Day care licensing staff at DPH is participating to enhance resources and offer guidelines as needed.
- A review of lessons learned from past events and situations has shown the need to spend more time planning for recoveries. Once an emergency is over, EOCs are too often closed making the coordination of activities more difficult to restore the communities and agencies to normal. A working group is setting strategic guidelines to facilitate this planning.

Mr. Koscuk followed up with a brief discussion over the effects of the federal government shut-down on October 1. The CDC staff will not be tracking diseases until funds are restored. Key federal emergency response staff have been kept on duty to respond to any emergency, but most of the support staff has been furloughed. Region 3 programs that are funded with prior year carry-over funding will not be affected; however the 9,000 state employees in Connecticut that are funded with current year monies have been furloughed.

Mr. Koscuk followed up on the DPH report about the state ESF-8 meeting:

- DPH has committed to send representatives to each regional ESF-8 meeting and to closely coordinate state efforts with regional planning and programs.
- Support will continue to coordinate planning between the regional efforts and to strengthen the state level ESF-8 group.
- Support will continue to strengthened WebEOC capabilities.
- A commitment is been made to designate an ESF-8 seat at the state EOC.
- Planning is underway to create oversight and enhancement of the CMED system. Part of this may result in legislation, and draft language is being prepared. This may address funding issues, as well as consolidate and reduce the number of centers. It was noted that when the CMED centers were first created as a result of federal funding over 30 years ago, it was found functionally and technically feasible for the entire state to be served by one center. But in New England, local autonomy created political pressure resulting in the 13 CMED centers we now have.
- Mr. Koscuk noted that many of the other regional ESF-8 groups have membership more narrowly focused on just public health programs. There is a beginning effort to broaden the scope of activities to replicate what Region 3 has already accomplished with multi-disciplinary, broad representation.

Mark Petrone announced that this would be his last meeting with the group. He will be leaving John Dempsey Hospital. The group thanked him for his continuous support and service.

Mr. Falaguerra announced there would be no Hospital Section meeting to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 5, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,



Cressy Goodwin
Recorder

ATTENDANCE:
CREPC ESF-8 Meeting
 October 2, 2013

Initial if Present	Name	Affiliation	E-mail Address
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