

**DEMHS Region 3**  
**R-ESF 8**  
**Public Health Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 3, 2017**  
**NCDHD- Vernon Office**

**Attendees:** Jeff Catlett, Patrick Getler, Len Nelson, Marge Seiferheld, Bill Kramer, Michael Pepe, Heather Oatis, Judy Torpey, Ann Hartman, Sharon Enot, Wesley Bell, Wendy Mis, Janine Simms Colon, Patrice Sulik, Allyson Schulz, Charles Brown, Janet Leonardi, Francine Truglio, Rob Miller and Melissa Marquis

- **Welcome:** Melissa Marquis welcomed the group to the North Central District Health Dept office and thanked them for hosting.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve by Wendy Mis, second by Patrick Getler, all in favor.
- **Regional Status Updates**
  - **Training, Drills or Exercises**
    - Ebola FSE March 2017- Melissa provided an overview on the upcoming Region 3 Ebola full-scale exercise (FSE) to be held March 21, 2017. The preceding week, regional participants will receive electronic notifications regarding background and play leading up to the exercise on the 21<sup>st</sup>. This information will be pushed out via Everbridge, VEOCI or other platforms used during the exercise.
      - Active and Direct Active Monitoring Protocols- Leading up to the exercise, Melissa provided a walk in history back to the real world event Ebola outbreak in 2014-2015. She discussed the protocols that were in place, what the local and regional roles were at the time, and how information was shared regionally. The DPH website still has the statewide procedures and protocols posted: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3115&q=554740>. Documents were shared both electronically and in print referring to the regional incident action plans and situation reports from 2014. Melissa reminded the group that they should read through the documents to refresh their memories about roles/responsibilities and actions taken both locally and regionally. Melissa indicated that this FSE will be set back in time, as if the past 2.5 years have not occurred. She also shared the active and direct

active monitoring toolkit and protocols that were used during the real world event.

- It was determined at the meeting, that approximately half of the participants actually had real world experience conducting AM/DAM. At least 2 of the health departments playing in the exercise have not had experience using these protocols. Melissa reiterated to read through the documents already shared, to use the toolkit that was shared regionally during the Ebola outbreak, and to “play” as if the exercise were another real event.
  - There were several questions about level of play and expectation for the other LHDs in the region who are not conducting any monitoring requirements. Melissa indicated that all LHDs will be requested to provide information on available resources and inventory updates at the least. Participants should monitor their email and keep phones at the ready.
  - Allyson Schulz asked if there would be any interference in Manchester Health Dept using VSEE- a virtual monitoring tool that is HIPAA compliant. It was suggested that they reach out to Carmine Centrella to verify, but it didn’t seem to be an issue.
  - VEOCI, another web-based tool similar to WEBEOC will also be used. The region has been shown this platform in the past, so participants should expect some interface with this platform during the exercise.
- **CREPC Update-** no update aside from Ebola exercise
- **State Updates-** no representatives present
    - DPH- Greg Chiara will be retiring at the end of this month.
    - DEMHS
  - **Local Public Health Preparedness Contract-** reminders made to review the local contract deliverables to identify any that need to be submitted to DPH.
    - DPH is working on the CDC PHEP cooperative agreement application- Directors are requested to provide letters of concurrence to DPH by 3/24.
  - **Other Business:** Regional contact list updates: Updates to the regional 24/7 LHD emergency contact list have been made. If any additional changes are necessary,

please let Melissa know as soon as possible so the changes can be uploaded to Everbridge.

- Resource typing ad hoc workgroup schedule: There was some conversation about using resource typing to help in the development of regional or statewide mass dispensing strike teams. Melissa indicated there has been work done on this nationally, and that the Region should also consider it.
  - Melissa asked for volunteers to sit on an ad hoc resource typing workgroup to continue working on updating our existing lists and consider strike team or task force team development. Judy Torpey, Patrick Getler and Bill Kramer volunteered. More information will be shared regarding scheduling dates to meet.
  
- Medical Countermeasure Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR): Melissa reported that CDC has been working to revise and refresh the MCM ORR, and as such as requested reviews from previous development team and subject matter experts nationally on the changes to the tool. Meetings are currently being scheduled in May to begin reviewing the tool. As of now, not much information to share regarding the possible changes- but it does look like the schedule for conducting ORR reviews with CDC/DPH will be on an every other year basis... although DPH may choose to split up the reviews so that they conduct the ORR annually. More information to follow once the contract is finalized.
  - Melissa reminded the group about the federal change back to the Doxy/Cipro split to 80/20 from the current 50/50 split. No word as to when this will occur.
  - The DPH MCM workgroup is also examining the statewide use of Dispense Assist to aid in dispensing throughput providing an online screening tool that allows users to generate vouchers for medication. More info on Dispense Assist can be found here: <http://www.dispenseassist.net/>
  
- Project Public Health Ready- Melissa reviewed the current status of the Regional framework that is being developed by NACCHO and reviewed some of the questions that are unanswered regarding the possibility of CT Regional applications for 2018. With Greg's upcoming retirement (he served as the state lead) plans for moving forward are uncertain. Conversations are being held at the Regional ESF-8 Chairs' meetings.

*Next meeting April 7, 2017 Host TBD- please indicate availability to host*