

DEMHS Region 3
June 5, 2009
ESF-8 Meeting

Attendees: Allyson Schulz, Charles Petrillo, John Degnan, Bill Kramer, Jeffrey Lim, Tom Gavaghan, Judy Torpey, Paul Hutcheon, Rick Matheny, Steve Huleatt, Marge Seiferheld, Jeremy Plossay, Mary Laiauppa, Kate Novick, Juanita Estrada, Jennifer Kertanis, and Melissa Marquis

Welcome and introductions done. John Degnan made a motion to approve minutes from last months' meeting. Bill Kramer seconded. All in favor. John asked if we could not include abbreviations in the minutes- or at least explain what they are first.

Regional and Planning Updates:

Melissa Marquis informed the group that the minutes of the ESF-8 public health committee are up on the Capital Region Council of Government (CRCOG) website. As are all ESF-8 minutes and agendas.

Workgroups:

- **Resource typing** group has not met. Marge Seiferheld indicated that she was confused by Mary Pettigrew's email regarding the resource typing materials. Allyson Schulz asked if we are supposed to update the resource inventory. Jennifer Kertanis indicated that we will discuss with Mary our reporting requirements. We also need to explore a more seamless way to update and keep this info current.

Allyson reported on the **Training and Exercise workgroup** and the impact of focusing on current training needs regarding H1N1. ICS remains a critical training need as is communications aspects.

- Sept Autumn storm exercise will focus more on sheltering and ice storm piece. Pan flu is going to be a component part. Jeremy Plossay is on the planning committee.
- At question came up during the last workgroup meeting regarding fit testing for N95 masks. Are there needs regarding fit testing? This is a gap that the committee identified. Is this something we could develop regionally? Rick Matheny commented that they have the kits but it would be beneficial to have a regional resource to do the fit testing. Kate Novick said you did not have to be certified to do it but you need to follow OSHA. Protocols or plans are needed. It is easy to have the capability in your department especially for just-in-time needs. You do have to do the fit testing annually. Rick said getting the medical clearance is another hurdle. Most LHDs in the region have some capacity to do this. Judy Torpey suggested that if the region were to develop a few fit testing opportunities each year, it would share the resource. The medical clearance would have to be demonstrated prior to coming to this type of program. Steve Huleatt reminded the group that everyone was going to try to avoid using the masks. We need to define **WHO** at a POD might require the N95? Vaccinators are probably are priority. We need to look at the guidance that is in the toolkit. How can the training group best support the LHDs. Steve indicated that the planning group needs to define **HOW** we use them and then the training

group helps determine how best to train to plan. UConn does provide assistance regarding medical clearance. Group will develop a suggested plan for use of respirators.

- Incident management training email went out from Dan Scace. Paul Hutcheon thought it looked interesting for LHDs but was inquiring about whether it was geared for public health. Tom Gavaghan indicated that it is position specific training. This is advanced level training for those already very well versed in incident management. The role of the incident management team is to provide regional resources to support the incident manager. They are activated like a CERT team. Title 28 coverage is provided. The six day training course is intensive and very position specific. These teams are deployable.

Communication Systems Workgroup:

- Trying to meet with Keith Victor to coordinate this effort. Steve has shared the ESF-8 public health communication (RCC- resource coordination center) plan with Carmine Centrella and John Shaw to see about its integration with other components. Steve said we can define how we activate ESF-8 public health resources but we need to see how it fits with other ESFs within RED plan (ESF 5 and 7) and larger infrastructure.

ESF-8 Workgroup Updates:

Volunteer recruitment and retention group has focused on data base system development. John Shaw has been looking into web based systems to help with volunteer management and tracking for the region. This workgroup has been involved in identifying the most pressing needs for the development of such program.

The **2009 exercise committee** has been busy working on the Autumn Storm exercises. The functional exercise is in the planning stages now. The date for the functional drill is July 15. The full scale date is September 23rd.

No report for alternate care, patient tracking.

Drill and Exercise update:

Southington presented on their School Dismissal exercise. There was a video inject that worked very well. Kate also wanted to share some of their lessons learned to spur some ongoing discussions with the group on issues that we have all identified during these exercises. Kate shared a PowerPoint presentation with some of the evaluator findings from the drill. Sharing messages with parents about school dismissal prior to pan flu situation/scenario is important. Allyson mentioned that September is national preparedness month, and this might be a great opportunity for schools to communicate. Kate will share the presentation with Melissa who will then disseminate information out to the group.

West Hartford/Bloomfield and Windsor did rabies drill on May 9th – this is an annual event. They also did a call down drill, and included volunteers and CERT team, vets, and the 4H group.

Central CT held their school dismissal exercise. CADH facilitated, it went very well according to both Judy and Paul Good representation but Superintendents did not show. They learned a lot and have had a request to present at a School Board.

There was some discussion regarding the relationships between local health and schools, the media etc.

Steve indicated that his department is treating this as a real event and will be holding an after action review soon. He suggested that all LHDs consider doing this and come back and share corrective actions at the August meeting. Was there a regional support component that should have been filled, what might that look like in the future etc?

East Hartford has begun to think about the summer camps and what questions they may ask during the summer months as this plays out. Rick thought there may be a DPH working group to develop guidelines for this.

PHP Contract:

No issues or concerns were raised.

CRI:

Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) need to be submitted to Steve if you want to get paid. Approximately 50% have not yet submitted. The technical assistance reviews (TARs) are taking place with all mass dispensing areas. We have identified two things that seem to be coming up consistently—one is the inventory management system and the second was part of the security assessment. Steve shared a one page paper tracking system form that he suggests the region review and adopt. Consistency will be very important especially as we begin to develop the PUSH models for employers. Guidance for closed PODs in private sector was released for review and Steve has met with Laurie Anne Scotti for review. Steve suggests that private businesses would submit plans, consistent with the guidance and locals would sign off. The region would hold some type of MOU with those private entities regarding receipt of the medications. Steve expects to move on this very quickly. Planning team is working on what the RED plan components should be. Need a training process for the private sector roll-out. We also need to do an awareness regarding licensed skilled nursing facilities. Steve hopes to convene these groups to roll-out thoughts regarding push models.

Drive through PODs and postal service options are still being explored. Steve was asked if there is a MOU with US Postal Service. Region 3 will continue to explore this option. Region 2 is not pursuing this. Locals should not be putting any effort into developing this at this point in time.

The region has conducted the security assessment and we are looking to the State for further planning on this. Corrine Rueb wants to see some documentation regarding the security assessment of PODs. Hartford provided a letter that was submitted to

demonstrate their compliance with the security component of the TAR. Steve shared this letter with the group today to show it as an example of what Corinne is looking for.

DPH Updates:

- Juanita Estrada mentioned that Joe Marino is retiring, and that John Bergeson will be taking over the SNS duties.
- DPH recently started the public health WebEOC trainings. They went fairly well; however they are still working out bugs. DPH has 20 laptop computers available for use during the training, but if there are more than 20 people at a training, then they are encouraging folks to bring laptops if they can. There is a wireless router available so the laptop computers that are brought need to have wireless capability. WebEOC- there will be 8 more trainings and then monthly at DPH.
- DPH is dropping reverse 911, as they are not meeting the state needs. There is a service based vendor 3N, and DPH is reviewing their specs.

DEMHS Updates:

- Tom said that Southington did a great job on their school dismissal TTX.
- Tom also mentioned that DEMHS has a STEP program- (Schools Training in Emergency Preparedness) which was sent to all school superintendents. Up to this point, there is limited interest from superintendents. Avon was a pilot site for this program.
- DEMHS is updating their shelter lists. They are working with Red Cross on this.
- Dave Brown underwent bypass surgery and is going to be convalescing for the next few months.

CREPC Updates:

- Next month CREPC meeting will host NY folks on the two plane incidents on the Hudson River and the crash in Buffalo.
- Autumn storm has been big focus.
- ESF-8 public health needs to keep CREPC in the loop better regarding the ESF-8 public health activities. CADH to help support this.

MMRS:

- Funding is questionable. Apparently there is discussion that the money MMRS was to receive has been pulled. The total amount was \$50 million. John is following up with this issue.

OTHER:

No other business. July meeting is scheduled for 3rd, however due to the July 4th holiday we need to reschedule. July 10th will be the rescheduled date. John Degnan (Eastern Highlands) will host at the Mansfield Town Hall.

RE: Follow-up from today's CREPC meeting 6/5/09

Jennifer Kertanis

Thanks Juanita, we will include as attachment to the minutes.

Have a great weekend!

jennifer

From: Estrada, Juanita [mailto:Juanita.Estrada@ct.gov]

Sent: Friday, June 05, 2009 1:28 PM

To: SteveH@westhartford.org; Richard Matheny; Jennifer Kertanis; Melissa Marquis

Subject: Follow-up from today's CREPC meeting

Hi, just wanted to follow-up to questions that were asked in regards to DPH activities at today's meeting. Please distribute to the committee. Thank you.

Unannounced drill: We (DPH staff) are being keep in the dark about this drill as it is suppose to be an unannounced drill for DPH as well as local health departments. As I mentioned, a consultant has been hired to conduct two drills for DPH to fulfill CDC PHP grant requirements.

Illness and Outbreaks in a School Setting training: Yes, a State of Department of Ed representative is on the planning committee along with DPH staff. The training is regarding school closures, when to do it and when not to do it, during illness and outbreaks.

Guidance for summer camps re: H1N1: Yes, a guidance is currently being developed.

Juanita Estrada, MS
Section Chief, Local Health Administration
Health Alert Network Coordinator
Connecticut Department of Public Health
860/509-7660
860/509-7782 FAX
juanita.estrada@ct.gov