

**DEMHS Region 3 ESF-8 PH
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2009
Enfield- NCDHD**

Attendees: Jeremy Plossay, Paul Hutcheon, Judy Torpey, John Degnan, Rob Miller, Allyson Schulz, Charles Petrillo, Dave Boone, Steve Huleatt, Mary Laiuppa, Marge Seiferheld, Tom Gavaghan, Juanita Estrada, Jeffrey Lim, Maryann Lexius, Rick Matheny, Jennifer Kertanis, & Melissa Marquis

Welcome and introductions were conducted. Melissa Marquis welcomed everyone to North Central Health District in Enfield.

A motion to approve the minutes from last month was given by Judy Torpey and seconded by Dave Boone. All in favor.

Melissa and Steve Huleatt suggested that the group discuss briefly some key items on the agenda and spend the majority of the remaining time discussing H1N1. All were in favor of doing this.

Drills and Exercises:

- There will be a full scale exercise at Bradley Airport on 9/26 from 8-12pm. The planning team is looking for victims and/or players. If anyone would like to volunteer, Chief Doug Whalen is the contact. Victims need to arrive at 7am to receive makeup and directions.
- The regional tabletop exercises that DPH wanted to do this fall has been postponed in light of the current H1N1 pandemic. No word yet on when this could be rescheduled.

CRI update:

- Another year of funding secured. Steve needs the budget expenditure worksheet sent to him ASAP (time spent on mass dispensing, TAR preparations, ESF-8 meetings, etc all count towards CRI- except H1N1). The new budget was cut substantially by 20-25% reduction.

DEMHS:

- Tom mentioned that DEMHS will also be taking a budget cut by \$500,000.

Action items- Melissa will email the slides that Steve used during his H1N1 presentation today, she will email the ACIP guidance from MMWR, and a letter from the Manchester Superintendent to parents.

We discussed setting up a parking lot of H1N1 issues to address, if not today then at a special H1N1 meeting.

- Planning issues:
 - Paul asked what percentage of the population would want to receive the vaccine, and what percentage of that group would be given by private providers. Paul estimates that 1/3 of his population would be served by

CCHD, 60% are school aged (5-18), none in 0-4 years, and 30% are 18 years and up.

- Marge reported that E. Hartford is responsible for vaccinating fire and emergency responders. Clarification was made that this group needs to be narrowed to include only those with direct patient care, like transport personnel.
- Marge also reported that they are working with private providers, VNA, & school superintendents. They are not planning any school clinics. She asked who the superintendent gets the mandate from. Marge also mentioned that the VNA does not want to vaccinate pregnant women or children, and Walgreens cannot vaccinate anyone under 19 years old.
- Rick is talking with superintendents and private physicians. The private docs are willing to vaccinate normal patients- will not vaccinate any new patients. The pediatricians say that healthy kids should be vaccinated in schools or a mass vaccination clinic. The superintendents are currently polling parents to determine who wants their kids vaccinated.
- Dave reported that their local pediatricians are looking at what the needs are. They are willing to sign on to be providers, but are looking to LHD to organize the clinics and they would be the vaccinators.
- Maryann reported that they are sending a letter out asking providers to pre-register. They are looking to see what percentages of the providers are willing to be vaccinators. Ron Buckman is willing to be the medical advisor for all medical orders. They are engaging local OB/GYNs to sign on. Looking between Manchester/Glastonbury for 1 site for a vaccination clinic before Thanksgiving and the 2nd after Christmas (if two doses needed).
- Steve asked about many people need the vaccine in the region? Does anyone know what this number is? Is it 1.2 million (out of 1.9 million), etc.?
 - The consensus appears to be the percentage of the population who you think wants the vaccine (using Paul's methodology).
- Rob asked what is the consensus for vaccination to the priority groups?
 - Steve suggested the following:
 - Providers- all pregnant women and all patients with pre-existing medical conditions
 - Partnership with public/private for school-aged kids, caregivers, and the bigger challenge is the 16-24 year old group.
 - Suggest opening up a store front office as a central location (satellite office) where medical providers can and are willing to vaccinate people.
 - Steve's target is 15,000. Providers cannot push this vaccine out. They cannot stockpile either. We can subcontract with VNA (can't bill), and we cannot reallocate doses.
- A question was raised that if MDAs do not participate in public clinics, would they lose out on the Phase 2 and 3 funding. Steve answered yes to this.

- Schools/Operational
 - Rick asked about Influenza-like Illness (ILI) surveillance, and what it can provide to Farmington Valley HD. Manchester superintendent is requesting daily information about ILI surveillance. Rob mentioned that the partnership with LHD and schools nurses is important to stay on top of the numbers. Judy reported that their school nurses monitor for outbreaks, and some make recommendations for response activities. ILI is not consistently monitored across schools, districts, and the state. Rob uses ILI when they start exceeding what they normally would be seeing, then the schools report to EHHD.
 - What is the groups' consensus with sharing the first confirmed case in schools? (posing communications issues).
 - Steve and Rick are not planning anything.
 - Maryann will share the letter that the superintendent sent out regarding their first diagnosed case in the school community.
 - Steve suggests that the group share best practice documents so the region can be more cohesive (apples to apples).
- EMS issues
 - LHDs don't have anything to do with this group. Occupation health will vaccinate transport staff, unless the LHD is the occupational health department who oversees' transport staff.
- Hospitals
 - Engage providers who have privileges to sign-up as providers. Hospitals should advertise this.
- General questions
 - Is a vaccinator considered a healthcare provider? This is somewhat a fuzzy area. School nurses can be vaccinated if they are vaccinators; however it is unclear about the other people who will be vaccinating.
 - Homeless populations and transient populations is a bug moving target. Hartford Health Department recently engaged with CADH to help research and locate some shelter guidance for infection control policies relating to pan flu. If anyone knows of any guidance relating to this, please send to Melissa.

Steve provided a presentation to the group on H1N1, current vaccination strategies, and current epidemiologic data. Melissa will email the presentation to the group so they can use if they'd like.

A discussion occurred over whether it would be beneficial to the group to hold a special H1N1 meeting before October to continue working issues, concerns, and questions out at the regional level. The group reached consensus on this, and decided on September 25th at 9:30- 11:30. Location TBD.

This meeting will be separate from the next ESF-8 PH meeting which will still take place on October 2nd, location TBD.

Melissa asked the group if they would agree to using a calendar based system where nearly each LHD would host an ESF-8 meeting; all in favor. Melissa will send the calendar out prior to the next meeting.

Next Meeting October 2, 2009 from 9:30-11:30, location TBD.