

**DEMHS Region 3
Public Health Preparedness Planning
ESF-8 Harmonization and Standardization Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2012
Farmington Valley Health District**

Attendance – Charles Parillo, Nicole Lugo, Maryann Lexius, Rick Furnier, Kerry Flaherty, Jen Sawicki, Shane Lockwood, Steve Huleatt, Allyson Shulz, Bill Kramer, Mary Laiuppa, Rick Matheny, Bruce Lockwood, Marge Seiferheild, Francine Truglio, Dave Koscuk, Juanita Estrada, Carmine Centrella, Melissa Maquis, Sylvia Dake

Welcome - Rick Matheny and Melissa Marquis

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved without corrections.

Announcements - Rick Matheny retirement; Sylvia's Departure from CADH

Workgroup Reports

Local:

CRI – Hartford's TAR on Monday will be the last for the year. Preliminary scores show progress. The focus is that we are looking toward next year and preparations for FSE 2013. Alternate dispensing to vulnerable populations needs work. In preparation for that, on the 11th of June we have the opportunity to complete our 3rd CRI metric for the contract year. The Decision Making Tool will be used to evaluate alternate dispensing scenarios. This is short notice but it will double as a planning workshop for the FSE. This table top workshop will be held at Central Connecticut State University. Watch for Melissa's email on a CT Train registration for the event. It is suggested that planners, EPC, DOH, and other staff – 2 to 3 per MDA – come to this exercise. Closed POD planning partners and others are welcome. It is understood that there is a Lead Planning meeting on that same date. For some sanitarians and DOHs this is a conflict. The format of the Alternate Dispensing workshop is a presentation by Charlie and Melissa with time to use the Decision Making Tool. The fact that it is a combined regional workshop – (Regions 3 and 4) offers a unique opportunity to work together as a real world event would demand.

The Steering committee will meet before end of the month. Steve adds that a revisioning of the model is underway. We will be moving toward more standardization and making formatting changes. The CDC is driving the changes with the review process. Technical Assistance Reviews could become "regional" and annual. There is a purported trend toward TARs every three years or so. This is not highly desirable. We can't let our guard down with our plans being reviewed so infrequently. There are still a lot of discussions that need to take place, and these are only tentative options being made at this time.

Funding and contracts with state moving forward to three year contracts (2013 to 2017). Funding totals may change in that period. Contract reporting dates are in question. There's an overlap in the dates for the end of this year and the start of next year. It complicates for a short period, the staff pay/time for one month. Contract currently has CRI and PPHR in the language. Steve is not sure, at this point, how it

will look next year. Everyone is encouraged to “keep up with their plan maintenance”. PPHR committee is moving toward more emphasis on GOAL III – exercise outcomes. The question is, “How do we improve our training and plans based on the outcome of our exercises. Mass prophylaxis is not a big emphasis in the current PPHR criteria. This may need to change. TAR reviews will evolve to focus on the top two or three elements – alternate dispensing, trainings/exercises and having signed MOUs. Juanita Estrada notes that contracts will also evolve to different time periods - five year cooperative agreements CDC to the state and 3 year agreements with the locals. Deliverables to state are being checked and corrected. Please send in your deliverables to DPH and the Regional Public Health Preparedness Advisor (Steve and Melissa). The due date of June 15th will be confirmed by Juanita Estrada.

PPHR – The application had a large number of questions for clarification but responses are in and now we wait until July. We should know something before the NACCHO annual meeting. Melissa and Steve give some background on the process. Representative samples of local plans were given. Oddly they asked for more local plans. This indicates that they did not get “CT Public Health” and the regional role. NACCHO’s new staff does not know us as well and probably were not able to communicate our uniqueness. Lessons were learned, however, and it will help the other regions’ applications.

Regional:

CRI – More on regional TARs may be coming.

PHERP – Complete and posted

State:

PHP – No other significant updates. See Below.

PPHR – See above.

Training, Drills and Exercises: The TOPOff replacement – National Level Exercise (NLE) 2012 is the 7th of June. The statewide exercise is at the end of July. There’s a lot of planning going on. Regarding the July exercise, Dave Kosciuk says that the hospitals will play with an 1135 waiver request is a distinct probability. Bruce indicates that there are surveys coming that ask about local hospital plans. Mary Duley and Jonathan Best are working the DPH side but there are questions about what is needed. Regional Coordination Center will be open all 4 days. Maryann asks about what DPH is planning. Hospitals are sending out feelers about how their local HDs will play and what they need from the hospital. DEMHS is also looking for feedback. Carmine reports that the next CREPC meeting will have more information available for all. There will be 4 days of play with a weekend option the first two days – the 28th and 29th. ESF 5 will be engaged in planning and generating IAPs. Questions about exercise stipends for local agencies were raised in March. The topic is unsettled, at this time. LHD’s need to look at the new Mass Care sheltering EOP annex since LHD are generally more involved with sheltering. The next CREPC meeting should shed more light on the plans for this exercise and all are encouraged to attend. DEEP will make a presentation at this meeting with the July exercise discussion the main topic.

Carmine was at the National Security conference that focused on plans and funds. He noted that discussions and presentations revolved around money for 2014, FEMA grants – especially a change of focus for the Capitol Region MMRS. One of Carmine’s goals is to facilitate a statewide LTC plan. It makes sense but there are hurdles. Region 2 has some issues with the statewide efforts on this but things may change. A Mutual Aid Plan portal is being explored. CRCOG will push the effort and offer funding to get the job done. The contract with Everbridge is still evolving. Carmine is exploring the funding of a short term contract with Everbridge to “survey” the implementation of putting all the local health departments on one contract and the best way to configure the call data groups. Everyone should continue to get contact data sets to Carmine. He requests that all this be done by the 1st of July. The spread sheet may need some revision. One of the features that should come with this Everbridge contract is a desk top Icon to activate calls. The notification system should also facilitate reports and status information.

Bruce comments on the hearings he attended in DC. Protection of public health and hospital preparedness is important. Consolidation of funds resulted in a competitive grant structure that may not really work for locals. For Example, structuring of the MMRS grants were changed. There seems to be a lack of emphasis on preparedness. We’ve known for a while that UASI funds have been cut and the state is forced to reroute money. This resulted in fewer dollars for MMRS.

DPH Update: Juanita announced that Meg Hooper retired and realignment within the Department is in process. Meg’s service is greatly appreciated. Under Meg’s leadership, contract support and funding were secured for local public health, focus areas were developed, and all of these things have helped move us forward. Deputy Commissioner Lee announced his departure from DPH due to family and health reasons. Juanita promises a new org chart.

DEMHS Update: None. Carmine provided some information on the July Hurricane exercise but more information should be available by the end of the month.

CREPC Update: Carmine reemphasized the importance of the next CREPC meeting on the 21st of June. At that meeting, there should be more information on the Statewide (July) Hurricane exercise.

Other Business – Timelines for future exercises were briefly discussed.

The next regular meeting is set for 3 August, 2012

Hosted by the North Central District Health Department in Enfield