

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee
RESF-8 Health and Medical – Leadership Group
July 6, 2011
East Hartford Public Safety Complex
East Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present: See attendance list

The meeting opened at 9:08 a.m.

Opening Remarks/Greetings

Laura Nagle: Get well and best wishes may be sent to Laura at her hospital e-mail:
lnagle@bristolhospital.org

Reports:

DPH: Represented by the EMS Lead: “No news to report.” Dr. Albert Geeter’s position at DPH has been eliminated. He will not be replaced. Otherwise, it is “business as usual at DPH.”

Poison Control Center: Represented by Dr. Chuck McKay: The federal government has cut the Poison Control Center’s budget by 1/7. Locally, this will lead to staffing cuts and at least 3 positions to be left vacant. Dr. McKay also reported that Connecticut’s Carbon Monoxide Bill has passed. This means that all schools in the state will have CO monitors and alarms.

UASI: Represented by Carmine Centrella: UASI funds cut. At a national meeting held in San Francisco, the State of Connecticut was represented by 5 people. They were advised that there is only \$1 billion available in Homeland Security Funds for FY 2011. FY 2012 looks “even more dismal.” Mr. Centrella suggested that we can do one of two things:

- (1) Fold up our tents and go back to the way we did things 10 years ago;
- (2) Put systems in place to ensure the continuance of the progress we’ve made.

Regionalization was the main theme at the UASI conference, e.g., centrally located jails, records, dispatch centers, etc.

Currently CRCOG is closing out FY 07 funds; working on FY 08; spending FY 09 UASI money. There will be funds to operate through 2013/2014. We will leverage funds to the extent that we can.

CREPC: Bill Austin is the new coordinator of CREPC. He will work a 24-hour week.

Operation THREAT: “The June 15th drill versus the 2008 drill was night and day.” DPH’s participation was an integral part of the success of the exercise. DEMHS’ help with WebEOC was great.

There were 65 people at the RCC; 17 were actually doing the work of the RCC. The rest were observers and evaluators. A state representative from Suffield was present and

asked the question, “What would happen if emergency preparedness were to disappear?” Patti Pettis from the USPHS was present during the exercise and commended the efforts of all involved. There were also representatives from the FBI and the CT Judicial Branch (5 marshals).

There will be two after action sessions on July 27th—one in the a.m. and one in the afternoon.

Pastoral Crisis Intervention Training: Dr. John Shaw reported that there will be Pastoral Crisis Intervention Training held on July 23 and 24. Ms. Kathy Dean suggested that Evelyn from ESF-20 be invited to a future ESF-8 meeting to discuss the interface between her group and ESF-8.

MMRS: Represented by Dr. Shaw: FY 2011 monies have been reduced to \$30 million. This will mean that our MMRS will receive between \$274K and \$320K. After the Feds take 3% and the state takes 5%, our MMRS will get about \$240-250K.

Neither the White House nor Homeland Security is supporting the efforts of MMRS. In FY 12 things get worse. Homeland Security funds will be reduced to \$1 billion. How will Congress support the MMRS? Traditionally, the House has been supportive while the Senate has not been.

FY 12 will likely see law enforcement getting 25% of the budgeted MMRS funds.

Dr. Shaw read a statement from Rep. Peter King, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. What are the implications for MMRS in FY 12? There is no specified amount earmarked. One strategy may be to roll monies into UASI; another is to roll them over to the state Homeland Security Grants Program.

DEMHS: Represented by Mr. Thomas Gavaghan: The Region 3 Coordinator reported out on the organizational structure change to what is now the *Division* of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Peter Boynton is now the Deputy Commissioner in charge of DEMHS. Bill Hackett is the Director of Emergency Management and Betsy Hard is the Director of Homeland Security (since removed).

Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee: Functions as an advisory group to DPH. The council is appointed by the Governor. The next meeting of the PHPAC meets on 7/28 from 1-3 p.m. at CHA.

Presentation

Children and Emergencies: Connecticut Initiative for Emergency Preparedness and Child Care (**Handouts Attached**)

Guest Speaker: Jessy Burton, Connecticut Project Director, Save the Children-USA
(jburton@savechildren.org)

Upcoming Meetings

No August meeting. Next meeting will be held on September 14.

During the September meeting we will discuss revision of RESF8 Strategic Planning for 2011-2012.

The October 12 meeting will include training on RESF8 roles and responsibilities if you are asked to respond to the Regional Coordinating Center (RCC).

The November 2 meeting will address the concept of a Medical Advisory Team.