

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee
RESF-8 Health and Medical
July 2, 2008
East Hartford Public Safety Complex
East Hartford, Connecticut

Present

See attached attendance list

Mr. Gavaghan reported on DEMHS Region III activities. A local distribution exercise was recently held. The focus was on essential communications, and 60% of the state's local communities participated. The next step will be an actual operations test with trucks rolling out of Rentschler Field from a simulated state distribution center. He also announced a recent hurricane workshop was held by the state with 130 local emergency managers participating. There will be a FEMA exercise on July 29 with a rehearsal planned for July 9. Finally, Mr. Gavaghan reported that representatives from the regional ESF-1 participated at a recent meeting at the State EOC.

Mr. Guercia gave the report from the Department of Public Health. He announced early planning has begun for a major Brainard Air Show to be held on September 26-28. Planning will include elements of the Region III program including the Medical Reserve Corps. As many as 20,000 to 25,000 people are expected to attend each day. It was also reported that local health departments are completing revisions of their emergency response plans under contract with DPH. Ninety-five percent of these local plans have been completed to date.

Dr. Shaw reported that CTDPH sponsored a two-day meeting to evaluate the status of CT's public health preparedness using a set of proposed national standards. CDC sponsored the sessions to evaluate public health preparedness in Connecticut. Details of the process used by the National Public Health Performance Standards Program can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/ocphp/nphpsp/> This meeting generated a great deal of objective data, and a report is due by October 2008.

Sean Keating of SAFELife presented a discussion on this company's new Triosyn respirator. Modeled on the well known N95 masks, this new product adds an antimicrobial agent (iodine) lining to the filter. This not only filters out 99.99% of the microorganisms in the air, but renders the bacteria and viruses as non-viable when they contact the outer surface of the filter. A charcoal filter also eliminates odors and fumes. This makes the Triosyn mask more effective over longer periods of time. Bound Tree Corporation in New Hampshire is the authorized vendor of this product.

Brenda Shaw reported on behalf of North Central CT CMED. The North Central Connecticut Field Manual is being updated and will include MCI protocols for the region. Part of this is improving communications with the hospitals. Planning for events and EMS standby at large events is also being included. Documentation is available at their Web site.

Ms. Nagle gave the report on the hospitals subcommittee. The group is continuing to develop a regional plan for mass fatalities. After a lengthy discussion about the many levels of work needed for a regional mass fatalities system, a consensus was reached that the hospitals subcommittee should limit its scope to acute care facilities. Planning could address two broad scenarios: events such as widespread flooding when transportation of the deceased from hospitals will not be possible for a period of time, and other situations where removal of bodies can more easily be accomplished. It will be the work of the CREPC as a whole to expand and integrate the hospital component into a regional plan for nursing homes, shelters, the removal of bodies from homes and other locations. Mr. Kramer from the BT Center of Excellence is continuing staff support of this project.

A joint exercise is planned for July 18-19. The focus will be on alternate care sites and mass dispensing.

Ms. McCormack and Dr. Buckman reported on the Medical Reserve Corps. A drill was held a week earlier, and was used to train participants in the MRC. Standard operating procedures are now being developed. No meetings are planned for July and August but work continues with planning and program development. Recruitment and membership remain a continuing need. Plans are being made to participate in the September 25-26 exercise which will involve actual deployment of resources.

Mr. Centrella reviewed a strategic planning tool now being developed to provide objective data over the summer. The results will be summarized and used at the September meeting leading to the development of a series of strategic plans for ESF-8 and for CREPC. Dr. Shaw identified the problem from the work over the past several years leading to small groups developing separate constituent plans (EMS, public health, hospitals, etc.) that are not connected or integrated. This new approach will focus on the relevant identified parts of the target capabilities list (triage and mass casualty care, medical surge, and mass prophylaxis). An Excel spread sheet is being developed at CREPC and this was reviewed in some detail. When the form is completed, each person on ESF-8 mailing list and the chairs of all the other ESFs will receive a copy and be asked to complete and return the survey form. Two weeks will be allowed for these to be returned. The goal will be to develop a series of strategic plans covering one year, three years, seven years and ten years each with measurable goals and objectives.

Dr. Shaw reported that work is coming to a conclusion creating a database to identify by employer or organization the pharmaceutical needs for all affiliated first responders and their families. This data base is at the CT DCP and will soon be beta tested. A one-page form will need to be completed electronically by each first responder and the data entered will be securely stored until it is needed. Once activated, the MMRS stockpiles can then be repackaged into units for each first responder group for pick up and local distribution to their employees. It is hoped this can be made operational by September.

Dr. Shaw asked who was creating a calendar of all the exercises and drills that are being planned. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that this be a topic for discussion at the next meeting.

Michael McMullen announced that on July 19 he will be leaving the North Central Connecticut Health District. He was recognized by the group for his continuous support and involvement with ESF-8 since it first began.

There will be no meeting in August.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03

The next meeting of ESF-8 will be on September 3, 2008 at the East Hartford Public Safety Complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Cressy Goodwin, Recorder

ATTENDANCE:
CREPC ESF-8 Meeting

July 2, 2008

Name	Affiliation	e-mail Address
Mary Lauppa	WHD	meryl@weahartford.org
Kris Pagano	HCC	Kpagano@thocc.org
Jocelyn Plossay	NCDHD	JPlossay@NCDHD.ORG
Michael Plossay	NCDHD	_____
Charles Petrillo	Windsor Health Dept	petrillo@taunton.windsorvt.com
James Suzzi	Ems Fellow - Hartford H.S.P / UConn	JSuzzi@hartford.hartford.edu
John Shaul	ESF 8	jsmms@qnl.com
William Kramer	New Britain PHed	wkr@nbc.com
Jennifer Martin	CT Children	jmartin@ccmr.kids.org
Greg Chiara	CT DPH	gregory.chiara@ct.gov
MARGE KETITIA	ECHA	MKETITIA@ECHA.ORG

ATTENDANCE:
CREPC ESF-8 Meeting

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Name	Affiliation	e-mail Address
Joseph Nagle	Bristol Hospital	
Barbara McCannack	Hartford	
Carl J. Stiles	HFD	cstiles@hartford.gov
Brenda Murphy	EHFD	bmurphy@ci.east-hartford.ct.us
Edward Kramer	Hartford Hospital	
Beverly WARGA	GLASTONBURY P.D.	on file
Mark Petrone	UCONN Health Center	
Ken Looch	ESF-1 CREPC	on file
Tom Muzzochi	DEMHS	tm9222004@sbcglobal.net
Ken Guariglia	DPH	
TOM GAVAGHAN	DEMHS	on file
Carmine Costabile	CRCOG	
Dan Javala	CRPC - ESF-5	on file
WAYNE J. Rieux	MANCHESTER HEALTH	- ON FILE -
DAN SCOGG	CRCOG	"
Brenka Shew	North Central CT EMS	Shewb@northcentralctems.org