

Minutes
DEMHS Region 3
Public Health Preparedness Planning
ESF-8 Harmonization and Standardization Meeting
February 1, 2013
West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District

Attendees: Carmine Centrella, Nicole Hawley, Jennifer Sawicki, Janet Leonardi, Charles Petrillo, Dave Boone, Jennifer Kertanis, Tom Gavaghan, Mary Rose Duberek, Michael Pepe, Paul Hutcheon, Judy Torpey, Marge Seiferheld, Allyson Schulz, Bill Turley, Bill Kramer, Maryann Lexius, Juanita Estrada, Patrick Turek, Dave Kosciuk, Bruce Lockwood, Aimee Eberly, Rob Miller, Steve Huleatt, Melissa Marquis, Sampada Deshpande

- Welcome - Melissa Marquis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District for hosting. Melissa reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheet and also asked that attendees review and, if necessary, update the local health department and 3-deep contact lists. Steve Huleatt welcomed everyone as well. He also provided a brief background on the meeting site.
- Approval of Minutes - Allyson Schulz motioned to approve, seconded by Bill Turley. All were in favor.

Workgroup Reports:

- No Local reports.
- **Regional-**
 - **CRI- TAR update**
 - Melissa stated that CDC reviews will be done March 11-13 and to note that this is during the public health preparedness summit. Therefore, no regional representatives (Steve, Carmine, or Melissa) will be available to participate. Melissa mentioned to the group that Amy Stewart has received a promotion within CDC and will no longer be the Region 1 Project Officer. Thus, John Peterson (CDC field assignee from Massachusetts) will be conducting two of the reviews, and Amy will complete the third review.
 - Melissa asked that MDAs submit their CRI metrics to her and cc Corrine as they are done. Reminder that the 3 different metrics need to be completed and submitted by April 15th.
 - How many people have done some for this year? Four reported that they have.
 - How many people have completed and/or contacted Corrine about the POD standards worksheet? About 3-5 reported having done so. Melissa reported that most of the

information is based on the demographic sheet. A few people expressed interested in doing this jointly. Steve will follow-up with Corrine and possibly set something up for the March meeting.

- The group was asked how many people have finalized POD agreements?
 - Approximately two reported that they did.
 - Alternate dispensing? Approximately two had drive-thru's, one mobile/home delivery. Hartford HD has 35 closed PODs.
 - BBHD will soon have a closed POD agreement in place with ESPN.
 - Bill Kramer asked whether they were responsible for distribution to Community Health Centers (CHCs) and whether same standing orders apply? Steve replied that they are responsible for distribution but that same standing orders do not apply.
 - Dave Kosciuk asked Melissa if she could set up meeting between CHC and ESF-8. She will look into this.

- **State**
 - **DPH**- Juanita shared that a new secretary (Meghan Bennett) will be starting with the local Health Administration Branch on February 22. Megan currently works with the City of Hartford.
 - **DEMHS**- Tom reported that there is still work being done on disasters that occurred in 2010.
 - Tom spoke to the group about the children is disasters workshops. There have been six workshops done and about 150 people have been trained. He thanked Bruce Lockwood and Mary Rose Duberek.
 - Bruce spoke about The CT Project, one dollar at a time. The first workshop was June 18/19. There are workshops scheduled for March 15/16, May 3/4, May 31/June 1, and in September. The idea is to pay for all volunteers, including background checks and uniforms.
 - Mary Rose shared with the group that CLP donated between \$300000-\$400000 to Foodshare. There are six food pantries that will receive generators/emergency plans. She will link people up to move this forward.

- Melissa asked how many people plan to attend the public health preparedness summit in Atlanta in March. She reminded everyone that Region 3 will receive recognition at the PPHR recognition ceremony during summit. Those attending the summit are welcome to attend; however Melissa needs to provide a head count prior to the meeting. Please let her know if you plan to attend. She also reminded everyone that travel scholarships were still available via NACCHO.

- Steve stated that contracts were sent out to LHDs and that most have been received back. He spoke about the no-contract clause/no cost extension which

extends the contract until August 31. Steve reported that he will be attending a regional advisors meeting next week in which this will be discussed and share information with the group. Carmine questioned what the implications of a lack of a regional contract were. Steve said it was unclear at this point and that the meeting he is planning to attend may provide more information. There was discussion on the new buzz word “Healthcare coalition”, of which Carmine has been involved in nationally. Carmine mentioned that if the regions don’t continue in their current planning state, then it’s possible that the State will have a difficult time managing the healthcare coalitions without Regions. Steve suggests that CADH and DPH leadership need to have discussions regarding the all-hazards approach planning and incorporating this into future contracts. More information to follow as conversation continues.

- **Training, Drills and Exercises**

- City of Hartford tabletop exercise – Melissa spoke to the group about the tabletop exercise conducted by the City of Hartford. The exercise took place on Wednesday, January 30, 2013, and was facilitated by Carmine. Hartford pulled in various partners, including fire, police, board of education, nutrition, and Health and Human Services. Although the Department of Public Works was unable to participate in the exercise, they attend monthly meetings with the City of Hartford. Melissa stated that the exercise went well and encouraged communication within City of Hartford departments.
- Statewide Exercise – Melissa spoke to the group about the midterm planning conference for the statewide exercise which was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2013. She stated that as of the end of the meeting, it was left that the statewide exercise would primarily be a distribution exercise, with participation from local MDAs being optional. Melissa asked how many people would be interested in exercising dispensing plans. There was general interest among the group. There were concerns that schools will have just gone back in session and discussion about a Saturday option and costs associated with that. Exercising dispensing plans can be done at another time; however, it is important to keep in mind that a full scale exercise will need to be done within this five year PHEP contract period. Carmine stated that he had offered to be on the planning team for the statewide exercise and that this has been approved by CRCOG. It is evident that there are some communications concerns between the State and the locals. This will be addressed soon.

Some additional suggestions from the group about the exercise and participants... One point that was brought up was the importance of having top down response/involvement as was done with the hurricane exercise. Another item that came up was that the DEMHS exercise is planned for June; it is important to have all players involved in both the June and statewide (September) exercise. Allyson asked whether there was a way to have volunteers come practice with dispensing.

Bruce Lockwood suggested turning the exercise in to a RDS workshop once distribution has been completed. People interested in participating can attend the workshop and practice dispensing and returning. Steve reminded everyone that municipality budget needs to be determined quickly.

Jennifer Kertanis asked when we should hear next steps regarding the statewide exercise. Melissa stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April. She also stated that Charlie and she have a meeting with Mary Pettigrew and that information will be shared, when available and they have okay to do so.

- **CREPC Update**

- Carmine noted that Everbridge is moving forward. There has been a training kickoff. The next step is implementation.
- Bruce announced that there is new leadership. He is now the Chair, and Dave Kosciuk is 1st Chair, followed by Don Moore as 2nd chair. They will have quarterly meetings with a speaker at each meeting. Attendance at CREPC meetings was encouraged. They had a meeting with CCROG on January 14, 2013 to discuss where finances stand. The business model will be changing. There are meetings scheduled with ESF chairs to discuss moving forward and how to sustain the program.
- Bruce mentioned two initiatives that CREPC will be working on:
 - 1st - Certification for emergency management/emergency preparedness- cost sharing benefits?
 - 2nd - there are conversations ongoing about looking at baseline national accreditation for emergency managers. If we can get accredited, CT will be the first in the nation for its model.
- There is a new FBI coordinator- Daniel Coleman. He will be speaking at Wednesday's RESF-8 meeting.
- There will be a hospital exercise April 11, 2013.
- There will be a statewide long-Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP) conference May 1, 2013.
- CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) will be holding the annual meeting on May 8, 2013.

- **Other Business-**

- Steve suggested forming a workgroup on antiviral distribution and using pharmacies. Local LHDs are currently not involved. Neal is serving on a committee on a national level. Steve asked Melissa if she could send something out regarding this and suggested getting together during the public health preparedness summit. If an anthrax attack were to occur, how would those exposed be vaccinated? What does policy state? Does it fit in to current plans? Federal government has requested 5% sequestration in budget.

- Bruce stated that on a national level, DHS has approved repositioning for first responders. There will be a pilot program to determine what was they learned from postal service etc.
- Retirement party for Bill Blitz on February 6th.

Melissa and Steve noted that today is Charles Petrillo's last ESF-8 appearance as the Director of Health (DOH) for Windsor. Steve thanked him for his hard and dedicated work over the years. The group wishes him well in retirement!

Melissa also welcomed Michael Pepe who will be taking over for Charles Petrillo as of March 1 as the new DOH.

Next Meeting

March 1, 2013 hosted by Central Connecticut Health District