

Meeting Minutes
DEMHS Region 3
Public Health Preparedness Planning
ESF-8 Harmonization and Standardization Meeting
June 7, 2013
Plainville / Southington Regional Health District- Southington Fire
Headquarters- 310 N. Main St.

Attendees: John Degnan, Bill Turley, Rob Miller, Jennifer Kertanis, Marge Seiferheld, Corinne Rueb, Judy Torpey, Nicole Hawley, Jonathan Best, Juanita Estrada, Patrick Turek, Francine Truglio, Dave Boone, Maryann Lexius, Allyson Schulz, Gregory Chiara, Bill Kramer, Eileen Baulay, Chuck Motes, Shane Lockwood, Janet Leonardi, Steve Huleatt, Melissa Marquis, Sampada Deshpande

Welcome - Melissa Marquis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Plainville / Southington Regional Health District for hosting.

Approval of Minutes – Nicole Hawley motioned to approved, seconded by Bill Turley. All were in favor.

Regional Status Updates

- Project Updates
 - CRI - Melissa stated that TARs have been completed for the year. Future direction of TARs/CRI is being determined. DPH may be able to provide an update.
 - PPHR – Region 3 has been re-recognized. There will be a press release done once all regions have heard back about their application/recognition status.
- CREPC – Carmine Centrella and Bruce Lockwood are in Los Angeles for a meeting; Some items discussed at Wednesday’s Region 3 ESF-8 Meeting include:
 - Dave Kosciuk mentioned the hospital drill which took place
 - Current challenges in funding
 - How to continue ESF-8
 - Patient tracking software in jeopardy

There was discussion about the items above. Funding is being cut on federal level as well. There are two patient tracking software systems. The one being referred to is used by hospitals/LTCs. DPH stated that this system was built by Intermedix and that DPH may be able to help preserve it. Conversations are soon to take place. Communication about the other tracking system should be with Carmine Centrella. There was also discussion about the future of ESF-8. ESF-8 may align more with path that CREPC takes.

- Other changes include:

CADH will no longer be a contractor. Their role will be that of a community partner. Carmine will no longer be involved with exercises/drills on a contractual basis.

After June 30, 2013, all CRI questions should be directed to Corinne Rueb at DPH and all SNS questions should be directed to Alan Boudreau at DPH.

- MMRS – Carmine Centrella is in Los Angeles for a meeting; there is no report available at this time.

State Updates

- DPH

Greg Chiara, state lead for PPHR, congratulated Region 3 on their PPHR re-recognition. He commended everyone for all their hard work in making this happen. Steve Huleatt thanked Greg and said that although he was not involved directly with any Connecticut applications, he knew that the PPHR committee working on Connecticut's applications was very grateful for the input that Greg provided.

Jon Best spoke about the following:

- The mass fatality exercise that took place in New Jersey. This was a full scale exercise.
- ASPR/CDC site visit next week to DPH.
- The CDC Field Preparedness Assignee position that will soon be filled.
- The Statewide exercise that will take place from June 19-22. The state will also exercise COOPs across agencies during this exercise.
- There is planning actively being done for H7N9 and MERS-CoV (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus). DPH is planning to have an educational session for agency heads on how their responsibilities change in the event that a public health emergency is declared. Steve Huleatt added that the coronavirus is in other countries and has spread person to person. There is a high surveillance watch in the United States. We should think back to SARS, voluntary quarantining, community mitigation, etc. Jon mentioned that DPH is working on developing a crisis communications plan through HAN as well as distribution of possible donated masks and gloves. Steve mentioned that he believes this has already been declared a global public health emergency at the World Health Organization.
- Jon spoke about the transition year we are heading in to. He stated that the idea is to move from the planning side to the operational side. Some things that were previously outsourced will now be handled internally by DPH. DPH will work to develop partnerships with people. There will be assessments to determine whether contracts go out regionally. DPH will develop a plan and distribute for feedback soon.
- White powder protocol for LHDs – There was a meeting to discuss this between DPH and DEMHS. There is no regulation yet, hopefully soon. Jon stated that LHDs should be notified of the process and then determine their involvement. Steve Huleatt mentioned that LHDs should speak with FBI. What role should public health play? Activate RICS and the Regional HAZMAT team will come to assist. Jon stated that anyone with questions should call DPH; as a strategic partner, they are there to help.
- There will also be changes to communications system for DPH. Radio communications will be moved onto the backbone of the state police. There

will be a 24 hour line. This will allow for coordination between state agencies and improved awareness across the state. This will hopefully be completed by September.

- There was discussion about requirements for mass gatherings. Clarification will be provided by DPH on the definition of mass gatherings. Regulation states mass gatherings are defined by a gathering of more than 2000 people in one place over 12 hours. EMS plans needs to be presented prior to receiving permits for events- DPH reviews these plans. The importance of pre-planning/pre-staging of equipment was discussed. Emergency plans need to be provided prior to gathering. The mass gathering general statutes 1913b81 provides additional information.
- Jon Best is working with various groups to develop a statewide guidance on EMS mobilization and oversight.
- Other items discussed include:
 - Satellite Radio distribution
 - Management system at state level
 - Funding cuts specifically to Emergency Preparedness - \$493,000 at the state level. Federally funded grant positions within DPH that are open and will be filled to address some of the activities as defined by DPH.
- DEMHS – DEMHS representatives were unable to attend the meeting. Tom Gavaghan emailed Melissa Marquis notes from Wednesday’s Region 3 ESF-8 Meeting. Melissa will send these out. Notes are also below:

“DEMHS Report

Region 3 ESF 8 Meeting - June 5, 2013

1. Statewide Exercise -Scenario – Ice Storm affecting Region 5 – Other Regions to Assist. Schedule is as follows:
 - a. Thursday, June 20 – 8:00AM - 10:00AM Response
 - i. 10:00-1400 Recovery - 1400 – 1430 Hot Wash.
 - b. Saturday, June 22 – Same Timing
 - c. Convene Unified Command and support for Region 5
2. Regional Shelter MOU between the Red Cross and local towns where the shelter is located is under development.
3. New EMD in Enfield – Capt Charles Grasso, EMS replacing Dan Vindigni.
4. Hartford Fire Chief Retires – No new Chief Appointed as yet.
5. Tunxis Community College – Completion of FEMA TTT Course in Emergency Management Training. Train other Colleges and Families in Emergency Preparation procedures.
6. New Technology from South Windsor called “Dashboard”. Utilizes GIS and GPS to manage events, e.g. plot open roads.
7. Joint CEMA/InfraGard/ACT meeting – June 11.
8. Discontinuance of CT River Gauge at Hartford. Affects East Hartford, Hartford, Wethersfield, Glastonbury, Portland, Middletown.
9. New School Security Grant Program available through July 29.

10. The CTIC Critical Infrastructure group has been doing school security surveys in conjunction with local police departments.

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Local Public Health Preparedness Contract

- The local contract continues and will be going in to the third year. There will be some changes; for example, who to send information to. For now, everything should still be sent to Steve Huleatt. After this year, it should be sent to DPH.
- Final payments were sent out, which included an average of \$6000 per MDA and \$1000 for part-time LHDs.
- One attendee asked whether MDAs can each contribute to help CADH – Steve replied that they could; there would have to be a regional consensus in order to do so.

Notes from the Field (Local Updates)

- Chuck Motes spoke of the various items he is currently involved with. He also spoke of a three military group exercise which was conducted, which involved a loss of communication secondary to sun flares.
- Manchester HD spoke about its experience with this year’s TAR and development of an additional POD. There is more collaboration between the town people. Manchester will be having a ½ day program on June 28th about how PODs would integrate, which will include a facilitated discussion portion conducted by CADH.
- Steve Huleatt mentioned that the national PPHR workgroup will be becoming the Public Preparedness and Outcomes workgroup. He also spoke briefly about the National Healthcare Security Preparedness Index.

CRI Summary Workshop – A TARs summary was provided to the group. The PowerPoint presentation was given by Melissa Marquis. The presentation, along with the CRI summary report provided to the group, is attached.

Other Business- None

*Next Meeting
TBD*