

Minutes
DEMHS Region 3
R-ESF 8
Public Health Sub-Committee Meeting
March 7, 2014
New Britain
ITBD Building, Main Street

Attendees: Maryann Cherniak-Lexius, Allison Schulz, Tung Nguyen, Aimee Eberly, Robert Miller, John Degan, Greg Chiara, Bill Kramer, Carmine Centrella, Bill Turley, Judy Torpey, Francine Truglio, Dave Koscuk, Charles Motes, Marge Seiferheld, and Melissa Marquis

- Welcome- Melissa Marquis welcomed everyone to New Britain.
- Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2014- Charles Motes motioned to approve and Judy Torpey seconded. Minutes are approved. Melissa will have them uploaded to the CRCOG website.
- **Regional Status Updates-**
 - **Project Updates**
 - CADH/DPH Plan Alignment contract-
 - Melissa gave an update on the status of the Plan alignment contract as she has left CADH. The matrix has been submitted to DPH and the draft report has been submitted to CADH executive director for review. The final report will be submitted to DPH by June 30, 2014. She is unsure if an ad hoc group will be formed to address the findings of the report.
 - Training, Drills or Exercises-
 - BBHD will expand their exercise as part of the April Statewide drill. They will be delivering commodities to their closed POD partner, ESPN. Chuck reported that ESPN is working on their delivery plan, possibly setting up a drive thru delivery system. The goal is to serve 7,000 households over a 24 hour period. He is also looking into using a web-based registration system for use in dispensing commodities in his district. He will forward the information when it is available.
 - Manchester will be conducting a functional exercise on April 17th. They will be testing a new POD site. The exercise will consist of receiving at one site and moving it to another site. It is a half day exercise and anyone is invited to attend.

- In preparation for the RDS Statewide drill, Eastern Highlands has already held a seminar for staff. In addition, they will be holding a tabletop exercise on March 18th in Mansfield.
 - CCHD will be testing various aspects of their plan during the statewide drill, including just in time training; Newington's notification plan and site assessment.
 - **CREPC**
 - Carmine reported that plan reviews for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) project are to be done by April 1st.
 - Carmine discussed decreased grant funding which is forcing them to decrease from 4 to 2 contractors. MMRS ESF and some training money are still available.
 - Dave Kosciuk reported that reallocation of FY-10 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds allowed the addition of all assisted living facilities in Region 3 to be covered by the Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP).
 - Melissa strongly encouraged members to closely study the updated first responder prophylactic template and integrate it into your local plans, as it will continue to be a focus of the new TAR tool. She also suggested that we personalize the train the trainer power point and have our Department Heads view it.
- **State Updates**
 - **DPH**
 - Greg Chiara reported that the State sent out a memo to locals this week detailing the process and responsibilities for the statewide drill in April.
 - Statewide ESF 8 Assessment- Second tier of surveys will be going to EMS, MRC, behavioral health and Community Health Centers (CHCs) soon. Full report will be ready end of June or early July.
 - Harvard Hazards and Vulnerability study is completed and will be released by DPH for use by local health. Greg will send the report out.
 - DPH will be issuing a letter next week discussing amendments to the deliverable dates in our contracts.
 - Emergency Preparedness Planning Initiative (EPPI) planning continues for the Governor's statewide exercise to be held on June 21 and June 23. The scenario will be a Category III hurricane. The exercise will focus on Communications and Mass Care. At least one multijurisdictional shelter will be opened.
 - **DEMHS**
 - No representative present, but report submitted (see below).

- The Emergency Planning for Schools training mandated by last year's legislature was designed and submitted to the legislature for their review. DEMHS will be holding a "pilot" training with the new materials that have been developed. During the year, a training will be held in each of the 5 Regions as a part of the roll out. A presentation was made to several school Superintendents last Thursday at the University of St. Joseph of the new training.
 - A Bomb Threat Management Workshop will be held on March 25 at the University of St. Joseph by the Federal Department of Homeland Security. This is designed mainly for corporate security personnel.
 - Bill Kramer will be leaving as the Hebron Emergency Management Director at the end of March. No new appointment has been named as yet.
 - Don Moore has left as the EMD for Bloomfield and the new EMD is Police Chief Paul Hammick.
 - Plans continue to move forward in planning for EPPI scheduled for June 21 and 23.

- **Local Public Health Preparedness Contract**
 - No info on next year's contract yet.

- **Notes from the Field**
 - Maryann Lexius discussed Manchester's partnership with Walgreens pharmacy during their flu clinics that developed into discussion of a statewide MOU to supply pharmacists to POD's. Pharmacy personnel would be available to distribute pills or vaccinate during a Public Health Emergency. There was discussion on how to get this accomplished. Dave Kosciuk suggested that perhaps the region could enter into the MOU with Walgreens vs. the State as a whole. Maryann will discuss with Steve to have Walgreens present at a future meeting.
 - Maryann also discussed with the group how they have utilized pharmacies in a Public Health emergency to supply shelter residents with 5 days of prescription medication.
 - Melissa discussed recent release of FDA, FAQ document regarding Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA). She questioned an area in the FAQ if the burden for individual prescriptions for doxycycline and ciprofloxacin may be lifted during a declared public health emergency. She has had brief discussions with Brooke Courtney from the FDA, and was informed that this document will be discussed during a town hall meeting at the Preparedness Summit.
 - There will be an actual dispensing POD drill at the Preparedness Summit. There is room for 250 participants, 140 have already registered. (As of 3/18- POD exercise full.)

- **Other Business**

- SWOT discussion to be done at April meeting. Please review SWOT documents sent out last week by Melissa. Allyson identified that the expansion of Everbridge to local health departments was a strength that should be added.
- Carmine felt that there is a need for a mission statement or charter for strategic planning.
- Carmine reminded the group that MMRS is still in existence. He is continuing to work nationally to establish MMRS as a discrete program and is looking to obtain local MMRS funding.

Next meeting date is April 11th at North Central Health District.