

Minutes
DEMHS Region 3
R-ESF 8
Public Health Sub-Committee Meeting
Sept. 12, 2014
Wethersfield Police Dept.

Attendees: Francine Truglio, Dave Koscuk, Nicole Hawley, Michael Pepe, Marge Seiferheld, Eileen Boulay, Betty Morris, Michael Pirro, Rob Miller, Maryann Lexius, Wendy Mis, Melissa Marquis, Steve Huleatt, Chuck Motes, Janet Leonardi, Charles Grasso, and John Degnan.

- Welcome- Steve Huleatt welcomed everyone to Wethersfield.
- Approval of Minutes- Chuck Motes motioned and John Degnan seconded the motion. All in favor. Minutes will be posted to the CRCOG website for housing.
- Regional Status Updates:
 - Project Updates-
 1. Steve H. reminded the group of what the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) tool is and when it was released. He stated that since Melissa Marquis sat on the national committee that assisted in the development of the tool, she has made herself available to DPH for technical assistance as it is rolled out. CT DPH volunteered to assist CDC on the evaluation of the tool as both an early adopter (one of 34 awardees) and Region 3 as a formative evaluation or Deep dive to provide more detailed feedback to CDC on the tool itself. DPH informed Region 3 PH Leadership that they would be required to complete the ORR tool on a regional basis within about a week timeline. This came with no incentive or funding. Because of the experience associated with completing the Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Application in 2012, this was able to be completed. Without that background information or experience, the completion of the tool would have been near impossible. The completion of the tool was done over a 3 day period and consisted of a small working group (Melissa, Steve, Carmine Centrella, and Dave Koscuk).
 2. The CDC will be in CT reviewing both the State and Region 3. Sept. 23rd is the state review and the 24th is the Regional review. There will be approximately 6-8 CDC representatives here for the reviews.
 3. Melissa provided an overview of the MCM ORR tool that was completed on the Region's behalf:
 - a. It's a fillable PDF which is nice, but then it needs to be uploaded to a secure SharePoint site and there is a need to free type the responses directly to the website.

- b. DPH then needed to sign off on it and once that was done, CDC was then able to review the information.
 - c. As part of the tool, the team felt it was necessary to include the PPHR executive summary which describes the Regional capacities and capabilities it has.
 - 4. A review of each function was done (from a regional perspective – NOT LOCAL)
 - 5. As a result of this experiment in submitting the ORR, it provided us with an opportunity to review the regional plans and identify areas that need to be revised, revisited, or otherwise modified. A process needs to be determined as to who is ultimately responsible for this as there is no longer any regional funds for this activity.
 - a. A question was raised on how the most current version of plans can be obtained. Dave Kosciuk will work with Melissa to determine if we can find a regional solution to host the most current read only versions. Ideally all other ESF specific plans would reside in the same location. Melissa reminded everyone that a flash drive was provided to all LHDs after the PPHR application which contained all Region 3 plans and some state plans that were used for the application.
- Dave reported that a copy of the Connecticut DPH Statewide Assessment of the Regional ESF-8 Committees was released yesterday by DPH. This document is being distributed within the regional email groups. Dave gave a history of the assessment process. He believes that the authors have done a fair job identifying the issues and opportunities.
- CREPC- Dave reported that there will be another CEM/IAEM Emergency Manager test coming soon. This was part of the regional opportunity that was provided to interested parties in having CREPC pay for CEM certification.
 - Melissa also reported that Carmine Centrella recently attended a meeting with his Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) colleagues to continue conversations around providing first responder med kits. More information will be provided at a later date.
 - Dave mentioned that the Citizen Corps Conference will be on October 16, 2014 at Water's Edge Resort. Registration is available on the CRCOG website under 'What's New'.
- State Updates
 - DPH- No representation
 - DEMHS- No representation
- Local Public Health Preparedness Contract -reminder that local expenditure reports due next week.
- Notes from the Field:

- Steve reported that Quadrivalent flu vaccine is being delayed until Mid-October. Plan accordingly.
- Melissa attended the SNS prep course in Anniston, Alabama last week. She stated it was a good training for local preparedness folks, and added that CDC will be updating the course to include information on guidance for the next 50 days of a MCM campaign involving Anthrax.
- Chuck Motes stated that he recently celebrated his 50th year working in Local Public Health!
- John Degnan reported that NACCHO is seeking to provide a radiation tabletop exercise in CT in February. Eastern Highlands Health District and West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District were approached about the possibility. Interest among the region was gauged to determine possibility of conducting this exercise on a regional level. More information will come.
- Other Business
 - As a result of previous discussions at ESF-8 public health meetings a survey was sent out asking respondents to rank the 15 public health capabilities based on priority and current level of planning. The results from that survey were reported out. The top 2 capabilities were Community preparedness and Emergency public information and warning. We will be looking to develop some small working groups to look at what information is currently developed in our local and regional plans and also what the remaining gaps are.
 - Melissa also shared some upcoming webinar dates for various CDC/NACCHO led webinars on closed PODs and other MCM related topics.

***Next meeting Oct. 3. Location North Central District Health Department.
 East Hartford Health Dept. hosting the November 2014 meeting
 New Britain Health Dept. hosting the December 2014 meeting.***