

Region 3 ESF-8 Local Public Health Meeting Minutes – September 2018

Attendees: Patrice Sulik, Michael Pepe, Betty Morris, Steve Huleatt, Jennifer Kertanis, Marge Seiferheld, Sara Darlagiannis, Ann Hartman, Patrick Getler, Johnathan Butler, Don Mitchell, Heather Oatis, Derek May, Wendy Mis, Marco Palmieri, Janet Leonardi, Jonathan Hartenbaum, Melissa Marquis, Francine Truglio

Welcome: Melissa Marquis called meeting to order at 9:30 am

Approval of minutes – minutes from last meeting had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

- Meeting attendees pointed out corrections that needed to be made to the meeting minutes from the last meeting in June 2018.
- Motion by Allyson Shultz, seconded by Derek May for tentative approval of the meeting minutes from the last meeting once corrections have been made.
- All in Favor. Motion Carried.

State Updates:

- DEMHS:
 - Thomas Vaninni, the DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator has retired and Bill Turley, the Region 3 Coordinator is covering Region 5 until a new Region 5 Coordinator has been selected.
 - DEMHS is still holding the Puerto Rico Evacuee conference calls.
 - School Security Plans are due for their annual review and approval in the coming months (November).
 - DEMHS Region 3 has been having mail issues at the Armory and has not been receiving mail in a timely manner. Region 3 Office now has a P.O. Box (CT DEMHS PO 1236, Glastonbury 06033) to try and mitigate this issue.
 - The Region 3 office is moving from the State Armory to Brainard Airport
- DPH:
 - No representatives from DPH present.
 - Melissa informed the group that she was contacted by Corinne Rueb from CT DPH. Corinne asked if it would be okay if she could be periodically added to the Region 3 ESF-8 Local Public Health meeting agenda to discuss MCM Local Action Plans and conduct quarterly technical assistance calls in person with all the MDA Leads in Region 3. The group decided it would be best to have Corinne come next month in October rather than waiting until November for the next meeting. Corinne will be invited and will

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conduct the regional technical assistance meeting after the business meeting is completed.

Regional Status Updates

- CREPC / Healthcare Coalition:
 - Carmine mentioned at the Region 3 ESF-8 Healthcare Coalition (HCC) Meeting (9/5/18) that the amount of money received in quarterly payments will reflect what is shown in the Quarterly Financial Report.
 - Region 3 HCC has had at least two organizations decline their PHEP/HPP funds this fiscal year. The money will be placed into the regional fund to be used for a regional project at a future date.

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Contract:
 - Group discussion regarding the CT DPH's presentation at the HCC on 9/5/18 specifically regarding the PHEP Deliverable for conducting a Full-Scale Exercise in 2019 and the statement that the State wants to reduce the number of Mass Dispensing Areas from 41 to 12-15.
 - Group discussed how they want to go about addressing this with CT-DPH. It was agreed upon that the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council (CREPC) will bring up local healths' concerns to CT DPH at the next HCC Co-chairs meeting.

- Drills and Exercise / Multiyear training and exercise plan:
 - Discussion tabled until further clarification and guidance is received from CT DPH on change to POD Full Scale Exercise deliverable.

- Meeting schedule: Group decided to meet in October to discuss the PHEP contract and grant deliverables. Will determine then if another meeting will be held in November.

Project Public Health Ready Status Updates- Application Review

- PPHR Application submitted to NACCHO in August. Application will be reviewed by NACCHO in October. The Region will have 72 hours to respond to any comments, questions or requests for additional evidence that NACCHO reviewers might have and submit additional documentation or make revisions as needed.

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- Melissa provided a brief presentation on Region 3's PPHR Application to the group. Melissa reviewed the Regional Plans that were used as evidence for each of the three goals in the application.
- Part of the application involved training and exercise, including the need to document a future exercise plan for a functional or full-scale exercise in the next 12 months. The Goal 3 workgroup members decided on using the option of conducting a regional mass vaccination clinic for seasonal influenza. This was discussed during the meeting- however until we receive additional clarity on the CT-DPH exercise requirements- this will need to be temporarily postponed.
- Most of the documents used in the Region 3 PPHR Application can be found on the Capital Region Council of Government Website (www.crcog.org).
- The Regional Public Health Emergency Response Plan has not been posted to the CRCOG Website at this time.
- Steve Huleatt from West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District reminded the group that this is the first time that this kind of application has been submitted to NACCHO's Project Public Health Ready recognition program.
- The Region applied as a Support Agency which is a new type of classification that a organization can approve.
- Betty Morris from North Central CMED asked if the PPHR Reviewers focus on the dates of the documents submitted as evidence. Steve and Melissa said yes that dates are heavily looked at. Documents can't say draft on it and they must be updated and reviewed annually.
- Patrice Sulik, NCDHD, mentioned that documents can be revised during the review.

Other Business:

White Powder Incidents:

- White Powder Incidents occurred in the Region in the cities of Hartford and Bristol.
- Steve briefed the group on what the Region did during the incidents. Melissa received an alert that the Incident Management Team and regional HAZMAT team were activated. Steve reminded the group that the decision to reoccupy a building lays with the Local Health Director. Steve pointed to the Suspicious Package Protocol that was developed by the State.

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- Steve said that once the Region received intelligence it started pushing out situational awareness messages to all the Regional partners to keep them aware. Steve mentioned that there was a lot of communication from CT DPH. CT DPH included Region 3 in its communications which Steve mentioned is a huge step forward from the past.
- Marco Palmieri from Bristol-Burlington Health District was present and gave the group a report on the two white powder incidents in Bristol.
- Jennifer Kertanis asked the group if anyone was using these incidents as an opportunity to share the Suspicious Package Protocol with their town officials, so they are aware of it and can review it.
- Allyson brought up that this is a good opportunity to think about the public information response that our agencies would take if this happened in our jurisdiction. Bristol Burlington Health District developed a statement with their medical advisor. They have not received media requests yet, but they have met internally and have developed a plan for how they respond if they do.

Other Business:

Bradley International Airport Exercise

- Bradley International Airport is hosting a MCI exercise in September 29th, 2018. The Farmington Valley Health District, North Central District Health Department, and the Windsor Health Department all have a split jurisdictional boundary at the airport.

Next meeting Oct 5, 2018. WHBHD will host at the Bloomfield Town Hall- conference room 5