

Minutes
DEMHS Region 3 - RESF 8
Public Health Sub-Committee Meeting
North Central District Health Dept.- Vernon
November 1, 2019

Attendees: Katie Roane, Alexis Steele, Sara Darlagiannis, Wendy Mis, Janet Leonardi, Eric Hood, Melissa Marquis, Patrick Getler, Johnathan Butler, Michael Pepe, Steve Huleatt, Patrice Sulik, Charles Brown, Jennifer Kertanis, and Rob Miller

Meeting called to order at 09:30 AM

Welcome:

- Patrice Sulik, Director of Health for the North Central District Health Department and Steve Huleatt Director of Health for West Hartford – Bloomfield Health District welcomed the group to the NCDHD Vernon Office.
- Introductions done around the room.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion for approval of the September meeting minutes by Patrice, seconded by Charles Brown. No abstentions. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Regional Status Updates:

- **Training, Drills and Exercises:**
 - Farmington Valley Health District is hosting a full-scale mass vaccination exercise to vaccinate 400 people that are part of the critical workforce. Utilizing mutual aid from West Hartford Bloomfield Health District and Central Connecticut Health District.
 - Patrice Sulik asked how vaccine was funded. Melissa explained that the jurisdictions being vaccinated are paying for the vaccine and Farmington Valley is just ordering it for them as a third-party distributor. Exercise costs could not be covered using PHEP Grant funds per DPH. Staff time is covered.
 - 20% POD set up facility drills, staff notification and assembly drills, and site activation drills have been nearly completed for Region 3. CCHD is the remaining LHD to complete it.
 - Funding for teaching Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training is available for municipalities to conduct trainings in their communities. Funds can be obtained for instructor costs and classroom materials.
 - Jennifer Kertanis brought up that maybe Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) could be targeted in a regional influenza immunization clinic.
 - Eastern Highlands Health District is hosting a Pandemic Flu tabletop in partnership
 - At the HCC Steering Committee each Regions commit 40,000 Dollars of Ebola grant funds for a statewide hospital resource management system. Region 3 already has this system so there is disagreement on why Region 3 should commit its regional funds for a system it already has.

CREPC Update:

- Steve reported his retirement from WHBHD as Director of Health and announced he will be assuming Carmine's previous contract position as MMRS and PHEP director for CRCOG. He will be working part-time. His contact information will be shared once it is established. The group thanked Steve for his service to the Region and looks forward to working with him in his new role.
- Steve also indicated he would like to align our ESF-8 public health meeting agendas with program reports for contract reporting. Short discussion ensued regarding possible agenda items including local updates, local deliverable/participation in regional deliverables, medical countermeasure updates, multiyear training and exercise plan updates, etc. See below for greater details.

State Updates:

- No representatives from state present.
- Steve Huleatt shared an update from the HCC Steering Committee each Region commit 40,000 Dollars of Ebola grant funds for a statewide hospital resource management system. Region 3 already has this system so there is disagreement on why Region 3 should commit its regional funds for a system it already has.

Local Public Health Preparedness Contract:

- EHHD is conducting a tabletop exercise on pandemic influenza at UCONN. Kris Magnussen from LLHD will be facilitating the exercise.

Regional Contract:

- Issues with regional DCIPHER access for the representatives of the five Regional CRIs chosen to have access to DCIPHER.

Workgroup Reports:

- Development and Assignment to Regional workgroup structure:
 - MCM Workgroup formed for those with DCIPHER Access
 - MYTEP Workgroup for updating the Regional MYTEP
 - MCM Planning Workgroup for developing the Regional CRI Plan
- Report out on plan workgroup meeting:
 - MCM Planning Workgroup met to review the Region 4 CRI Plan that was provided at the Regional leads meeting. Workgroup members consist of Melissa Marquis, Johnathan Butler, Sal Nesci, Michael Pepe, and Patrice Sulik. Workgroup focused on moving towards a skeleton structure of a Region 3 CRI Plan that aligns with the Regional PHERP and RESP since Region 3 has a robust Regional Coordination Center which is unique among the five regions.

- Regional MYTEP work group will handle the exercise planning for the Regional Tabletop Exercises. Current plan is to have combined tabletop exercise for anthrax and pandemic influenza.

Other Business:

- Melissa announced that although it has not been formally articulated, the CDC has reported that with the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) expansion CDC will allow jurisdictions who have received Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recognition in the past 5 years that they will receive reciprocity on a large section of the planning elements in the ORR. They will still be required to complete all the operational elements. Region 3's PPHR recognition status is good for 4 more years, so this will benefit us greatly. Steve explained how the Region is and What PPHR is.
- Steve asked how the group would like to structure future meetings as monthly or bi-monthly and local deliverables that need to be reported out on in quarterly reports that can headings in the meeting agendas. John Butler mentioned:
 - the dates of meetings attended by us,
 - Updates on planning for regional exercises,
 - the 24/7 Contact Form,
 - POD Site Form and Jurisdictional Data Sheet (JDS),
 - Regional MCM Action Plan
 - Workgroups for Regional MCM Plan and Regional MYTEP
 - POD locations will be for the 3 primary PODs
- Steve Huleatt will be trying to set up a meeting with City of Hartford to see what they need help with for the Dispensing Full-Scale Exercise.
- DPH is interested in getting more registered providers for the Vaccination for Children Program. Central Connecticut is working on going through the process North Central District Health Department is going to start in January, and Eastern Highlands Health District is planning to start the application process this fiscal year as well.

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Next Meeting December 6th, 2019 hosted by CRCOG