

CREPC ESF 8 Public Health Sub-Committee
Minutes
July 10, 2009
Mansfield Town Hall

Attendees: Claudia Gugliotti, Jeremy Plossay, Allyson Schulz, Robert Miller, Juanita Estrada, Judy Torpey, Steve Huleatt, Rick Matheny, John Degan, Michael Pascusilla, Maryann Lexius, Tom Gavaghan, Bill Kramer, and Melissa Marquis.

Welcome from John Degan and Rob Miller to Eastern Highlands Health District. Melissa Marquis called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

Approval of Minutes- John motioned to approve the minutes, Judy Torpey seconded, all in favor.

Regional Planning Updates

- Workgroup Updates
 - Resource Typing- no recent meetings. Need to update the resource inventory for the region. Not a contract deliverable, but would be nice to update due to staff changes.
 - Training & Exercise- Allyson Schulz reported that the group has stalled at this time. Will continue to work as needed. Group trying to meet today. Steve Huleatt asked if people have gone onto <http://www.thepodgame.com/> website. It is a virtual POD where you play certain roles. Might have some utility as a training piece. Steve also asked if there was any work on the pictograms (pocket communicators) that Allyson mentioned last month- per Allyson not much work has been done. Steve and Allyson will work together on this matter. Steve suggests that the Training and Exercise committee review this, as he has some money that could be used towards this program. Steve knows a person (Tom Buckley) that could help to kick this program off, Steve will get in contact to find out his availability. Steve also mentioned that he is working with CADH to use their skills using community mitigation and push models with skilled nursing facilities. Would be more like an awareness/facilitated discussion. This is being fast tracked- more info to come. All in favor.
 - Communication Systems- Bill Kramer is trying to connect with Keith Victor to discuss using STOCS boxes to enable interagency communication. ITAC/ICALL systems being evaluated as well. May need training on which ever system is chosen.
 - ESF-8 Workgroup updates
 - Volunteer recruitment and retention- Not much work being done at the local level due to time constraints. John Shaw is moving ahead on some items, though details unknown. ESAR-VHP being pushed forward. Concern still exists over the maintenance of any database.
 - Alternate care site planning- no report. State still looking at regulation relief. Still some pushback being felt. Work being

done locally, but not much regionally, according to Maryann Lexius. Alternate standards committee is moving forward. Minimal reporting being done at this time. Maryann brought up the DPH goal for 2 tabletop exercises (TTX) in September through November. The 2 TTX will be focusing on hospital evacuation and mass fatality. DPH is looking to do each TTX in each of the 5 DEMHS regions. More information to follow. Mass fatality workgroup is moving forward.

- Patient tracking system development- after demonstration with models, it appeared to get bogged down with costs. Has since stalled. No current updates yet. Maybe it could be linked into WebEOC. Discussions taking place with respect to this. WebEOC will be able to track bed counts in hospitals as of Sept. 1st. Steve will get some additional info and get back to Melissa.
- RESF 8 Exercise 2009- Autumn Storm functional exercise July 15th. Maryann went to the planning meeting last week- Manchester will be playing out of the New Britain RCC. Looking into filling roles for controllers, and simcell- please contact Carmine if you can help out with the simcell role. Training will be done the day before for those roles. It is becoming more of a hospital drill. WebEOC will be stood up, Windsor and NCDHD (Enfield?) EOC will be opened up also for the drill. The full scale exercise will likely be done on Sept. 23rd.
- Drills and Exercises Updates
 - MDA #31 hosted a school dismissal tabletop that was facilitated by CADH. 52 out of 57 people attended. The drill was well received and worthwhile. They are also gearing up for an August 19th functional H1N1 clinic. Additionally, they will be testing WebEOC connectivity. Local media will be invited as well as town management and volunteers.
 - Mike Pascucilla is planning a TTX with Board of Education in mid to end of August. May need to conduct 2 sessions- for pan flu.
- Local PHP Contract
 - Mary Pettigrew just sent out preparedness funding and decisions need to be made for H1N1 plan by Sept.
 - Steve just handed out CDC guidance on vaccination target priorities. What does the region need to do to support this effort? Maryann reported they have had numerous conversations with school folks and talking about “what if?”- Their Board of Ed suggested not during school day and parents/guardian present. Perhaps an evening clinic. Tracking on doses is a huge component of planning. The Flu coalition is meeting today to look at some of the issues revolving around mass vaccination and supplies. CADH is working on developing a template for school-based vaccination for local health

departments to use from a DPH grant. Mike recommends using data, and engaging with Board of Ed to use their data for patient tracking. Rick Matheny will be using the salamander system to help with tracking kids and doses. Lots of discussion ensued about timing of vaccination and who will vaccinate. Regional approach- if kids can't get vaccinated at clinic, can they go to another clinic in neighboring town? Develop template on how to setup and run a school clinic- CADH working on this.

- DPH is holding internal meeting on vaccination and antiviral distribution and prioritization. There will be a meeting July 16th from 11-12 (conference call) to discuss.
- Should we hold a meeting in August on school vaccination issues? Also could we take this plan that CADH is creating for region 3 plan? Should we also develop a working group to assist CADH in writing this plan? Melissa recommends this. Perhaps we host a meeting in August at CADH with conference call capability. Plan August 14th at CADH. Details to follow.
- CRI
 - As noted
 - CREPC is mainly staffed by volunteers. Steve mentioned that many of us all volunteer- keep in mind we all have jobs outside what we volunteer for.
- State Preparedness Planning Update
 - Department of Public Health- WebEOC finished first round of trainings. 150 people trained. Region 3 and 1 had most attendees. Need around 50% of LHDs trained. Will be hosting more trainings at DPH. The DPH training is different from DEMHS- need to be trained on the DPH boards as well. Can CADH help at all? Melissa suggested sending personal emails to those that haven't attended any trainings and encouraging them to come in light of what might come in the fall with H1N1. Rick also mentioned that many people might not understand what WebEOC is and what the value of it is. Communicating this would also be important to get more people trained.
 - Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
 - Governor Rell issued a press release this morning announcing a new commissioner for DEMHS. They've been busy dealing with the Wethersfield tornado investigation. Pushing to FEMA that the amount of damage to parts of CT were part of a weather system. \$4 million estimated in damages. Waiting to hear word on funding reimbursement. Retirement party for those retiring at DEMHS- Tom will send invitation to Melissa to send to the group for those interested. Commissioner Thomas supported those during the Buckland Mall drill, Steve asked to make notation. Incident Management team was activated during the hostage situation last week in South Windsor. The team is there to assist the local incident commander. There are 50 members, and are looking for 84. They are activated by request from the IC.

- CREPC Update
 - UASI grant application has taken up many resources and time from folks. One item is the syndromic surveillance system: Steve has encouraged this to stay in the grant. It could help to track people (fire, EMS, PH, etc) as well (aggregate attendance records). Could establish trend tracking and benchmarks.
 - Carmine sent out the capabilities assessment testing (CAT) yesterday. They released the scoring for mass prophylaxis. Steve and some others will review the CAT and will report out more information at a later date.

- MMRS Update- no report

- Other Business
 - BT management team and regional liaisons have made application for carry over funding for next year to replenish the fixed inventory (things that have expired or been used in clinics/drills)- consider what you might need for H1N1 as well. A regional order will be placed once all the data has been collected. How many people opted for Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI)? Rob stated that they have a unique relationship with UCONN. They manage the inventory and Rob provides stipends. Steve shared the ancillary supplies list that Mary Pettigrew provided. Disregard the pricing as it is outdated. Melissa will distribute the electronic version to the group. Please complete and send back to her. Also discussed getting some standardized containers to hold much of this equipment to deliver to the POD. Steve will look into this.
 - Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) August 6th meeting- please attend if able. Hartford will be having their TAR, but for those who can make are encouraged to attend. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, and is on CT Train. Please register through there. Steve gave a brief discussion on what PPHR is for those in the room who were not present when region 3 went through the accreditation process.
 - Steve talked a little about the vulnerable populations grant and the work that is currently being done. There will be a regional meeting around September to roll out the guidance document. More to follow.

Next Meeting – September 4, 2009
NCDHD Office- Enfield