



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PLANNERS SUBCOMMITTEE (PHEPS)

Thursday, November 3, 2016
9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
COG Conference Room 4&5

PARTICIPANTS

- Lori Andrew-Spear, Virginia Department of Health
- Patrick Ashley, Northern Virginia Emergency Response System
- Clark Beil, Montgomery County Department of Health
- Glenn Blanchette, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Nora Caplan, District of Columbia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- Mary Laurel Castle, Prince William Health District
- Julie Gall, COG
- Richard Goddard, Vice Chair, Prince George's County Health Department
- Zvi Gruenspecht, City of Alexandria Health Department
- Jesse Habourn, Fairfax County Department of Health
- Jenny Schitter, COG
- Sue Skidmore, Arlington County Department of Health
- Jon Stewart, District of Columbia HSEMA
- Donna Thomas, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Art Webb, Loudoun Health District

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

HEALTH OFFICERS COMMITTEE (HOC) UPDATE

- At their October 24th meeting, the Health Officers continued their discussion of the Regional Communicable Disease Notification Framework.
 - Since the Framework was finalized in July 2016, no incidents have raised to the level of regional notification. However, it was noted that the Hepatitis A event was limited to Northern Virginia and did not meet the threshold for notification.
- Considering the jurisdictional work surrounding Zika, the Health Officers proposed the development of a coordinated messaging framework.
 - The framework would ensure that when regional messages are issued, nuanced differences across jurisdictions (or sub-regions) are explained.
 - PHEPS suggested that this type of framework may already exist.
- The Health Officers would also like PHEPS to review Zika best practices to inform the 2017 season.
 - A summary document could be developed as a result of a survey (i.e. an examination of what worked and what did not).

Action Items:

- COG staff to determine if a notification protocol / plan already exists and could be tailored to



Zika.

- A proposed draft to be shared with the Health Officers at their January 9, 2017 meeting.
- Note: A *National Capital Region Crisis Communications Guide* was developed in 2015 by RESF 15.
- PHEPS Co-Chairs to attend January 9, 2017 HOC meeting to provide quarterly update.

MEDICAL RESERVE COPRS METRICS

- The metrics were originally drafted to provide justification for UASI funding. In anticipation of the 2017 UASI process, the document needs to be finalized.

Action Items:

- COG staff to send Sue Skidmore an edited draft of the document.
- Sue Skidmore to finalize the document for approval at the December 1, 2016 PHEPS meeting.

CY 2017 WORK PLAN

- Five Year Exercise Requirement
 - PHEPS should have a discussion surrounding requirements, to inform regional exercises.
 - An RESF 8 (or subcommittee) liaison to the Exercise and Training Subcommittee will be able to support this effort.
 - This is an agenda item for the RESF 8 November 16th meeting.
- Zika
 - PHEPS to develop and issue a survey to examine Zika best practices and lessons learned.
 - Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene may also have developed a survey.
- Coordinated Regional Response
 - PHEPS to develop a matrix for jurisdictional medical countermeasures (MCM) response.
 - The following questions will be used to inform the matrix:
 - Does your jurisdiction utilize a tiered opening?
 - How many PODs exist within your jurisdiction?
 - What types of PODs do you have (ex. nursing homes, private businesses)?
 - What security measures are in place at the PODs?
 - How is medication deployed to the POD (sent directly or to a central location)?
 - Are customers allowed to drive to the POD site (or are they required to utilize public transportation or walk)?
 - Does your jurisdiction utilize a staff staging site?
 - How do you handle your critical infrastructure?
 - How do you dispense to your jurisdiction's first responders, POD staff (please consider families as well)?
 - What is your jurisdiction approaching the electronic screening?
- Continuity of Operations Plans
 - The review (and/or examination and update) of the ConOps plans should remain as a long-term Work Plan item, however, it is unlikely this will be addressed regionally within the next 12 months.
 - Northern Virginia is required to update their plans every year.
 - Maryland updates plans based on lessons learned.



Action Items:

- COG staff to request jurisdictional AARs and questions to inform Zika survey.
 - Staff to develop and distribute survey.
- COG staff to request additional questions to inform MCM response survey.
 - Staff to develop and distribute survey.

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES

Commonwealth of Virginia

City of Alexandria Health Department

- The department is in the middle of a plan review.
- Law enforcement partners from the City have requested a Chempack deployment training.
 - Deployment of an EMS Chempack will be tested.

Arlington County Department of Health

- The MRC applied and was awarded the National Association for County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Challenge Award.
 - The award will support the formalization of participation and training requirements for the County's MRC program.
- The department continues to work closely with the Pentagon on their closed POD plan.
- The department is also working with County agencies (Emergency Management, Fire/EMS, and Police) to update the responder prophylaxis plan.
 - Once approved by the respective Chief/Director, a facilitated discussion will occur prior to holding a drill.
 - The drill is planned for early-mid 2017.
- The annual requirement to train on the COOP plan was completed.

Fairfax County Department of Health

- A kickoff meeting will be held today to begin the process of reviewing the COOP plan.
- The agency's Zika Incident Management Team (IMT) demobilized on Monday.
- The County will be holding a series of POD exercises, to begin in January 2017.

Loudoun Health District

- An AAR on the Zika response will be finalized shortly.

Prince William Health District

- A flu, vaccine, and POD exercise was recently completed.
 - As a lesson learned, the department will be utilizing a different methodology when setting up queues. Currently, the procedure is to use caution tape to establish lines.
 - Feedback from those that participated in the exercise (largely a foreign-born population) stated that it looked too official / government controlled.
 - Thus, Prince William will be moving towards a more customer service oriented POD design.
 - Fairfax County has received similar feedback. They have removed signage that states "screening."
 - Other jurisdictions have moved to using plain rope, instead of caution tape.



Virginia Department of Health

- Messaging surrounding Zika will shift to focus on travel related and sexual transmission during the winter months.
 - Additional messaging will be issued prior to spring break.
- Currently, the department is assessing the effectiveness of Zika messaging to determine how much citizens know about it.
- The department is working with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to provide guidance on media calls for information on heroin overdose deaths.

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Department of Health

- The District will be reaching out to the CDC for a Chempack training.
- Inauguration planning has begun with the CBRNE group.
 - If you are not on the distribution list, but would like to be, please contact Judith Robinson.
- The District is working with pharmacies to act as hybrid closed PODs (PODs that will initially be closed, but will reopen to the public after a certain period).

District of Columbia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

- Once completed, the AAR from the Mass Fatality Management exercise will be shared with the committee.
- A similar exercise will be conducted NCR-wide in September of 2017.
 - A Mass Fatality Management “playbook” will also be developed for the region as part of this project.

State of Maryland

Charles County Health Department

- A major relocation is underway due to a water leak in the building that houses the department.
 - If the committee has any suggestions on modular medical units, please contact Donna Thomas. These will be required to maintain operations during the relocation (to last approximately 3-4 months). The move will take place in February.
- A tri-County mass dispensing exercise is slated for May 2017.

Frederick County Health Department

- The PHEP from Frederick will be retiring in December.

Montgomery County Department of Health

- As reported at the last meeting, a new PHEP was anticipated to begin work this week. Approximately a week ago, she called to decline the offer.

Prince George's County Health Department

- The program will be moving offices; however, operations will be maintained.
- The program will continue to review Zika lessons learned while ramping up for the flu season.
- A meeting with the hospitals will occur shortly to ensure their efforts and the efforts of public health are in alignment.



Action Items:

- COG staff to distribute CDC Chempack training information to PHEPS, RESF 8, HOC, and the ERS'.
- PHEPS to contact Judith Robinson for inclusion in the Inauguration CBRNE Planning Group.

MOVING FORWARD

- A new Co-Chair needs to be appointed from Virginia.

Action Item:

- Coordination on the appointment to occur through Jeff Walker, as the Health Directors will need to make the decision.

COG UPDATE

- On October 31st, the HSEC and many of the region's public safety and homeland security experts gathered to share and discuss ways to increase situational awareness and collaboration across jurisdictional and discipline boundaries.
 - During the session, attendees:
 - Learned about the history, successes, and lessons learned from the HSEC (formerly the SPG-CAO HSEC).
 - Gained clarity around what's next for homeland security and regional preparedness in the NCR.
 - Shared perspectives about what it means to be part of a regional system.
 - Discussed the region's security threats, gaps, and priorities.
 - A key aspect of improving regional preparedness is to engage the experts from each discipline across all jurisdictions in the conversation. The SME 200 Workshop provided an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of regionalism in the NCR and to provide feedback, ask questions, and get involved in powerful change. The input and participation of the regions public safety and homeland security experts is valuable and critical towards creating a system that supersedes turf and builds capacity to prepare for the threats we face as a region.

Action Item:

- COG staff to send meeting follow up to the committee.

NEXT PHEPS MEETING: DECEMBER 1, 2016 VIA TELECONFERENCE.