



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PLANNERS SUBCOMMITTEE (PHEPS)

Thursday, December 1, 2016
9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
Conference Call

PARTICIPANTS

- Lori Andrew-Spear, Virginia Department of Health
- Sara Barra, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- 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
- Torrance Hubbard, District of Columbia Department of Health
- Chelsea Loy, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Sean O'Donnell, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Melissa Pawlus, Frederick County Health Department
- Judith Robinson, District of Columbia Department of Health
- Jenny Schitter, COG
- Sue Skidmore, Arlington County Department of Health
- Jeff Walker, Virginia Department of Health
- Rissah Watkins, Frederick County Health Department
- Art Webb, Loudoun Health District

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS UPDATE

- As an action from the HSEC 2.0 Workshop (October 31, 2016), nominations were solicited from the RESFs to form the HSEC's Advisory Council. The newly formed Council met for the first time on Tuesday, November 29, 2016.
 - The Council is comprised of representatives from the following disciplines: Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, Emergency Managers, Health, Public Affairs, and Information Technology.
 - The representatives from Health are Sherry Adams and Reuben Varghese.
 - Over the next 90 days, the Council has been tasked with recommending projects for FY 2017 UASI funding. The HSEC has identified three priority areas for the coming fiscal year: CCA, Interoperability, and Programmatic Approach to Regional Exercises.
- The Council will meet again in January (after the inauguration) to receive briefings from the CCA and Interoperability Working Groups to begin outlining future needs.



- Moving forward, the HSEC would like to minimize the extent to which UASI is the focus of regional collaboration.
- Documentation from the meeting is in the process of being developed and will be distributed for awareness.

Action Item:

- Julie Gall, COG, to send Committee the meeting documentation upon completion.

HEALTH OFFICERS COMMITTEE (HOC) FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- Regional Coordinated Messaging Framework
 - The *National Capital Region Crisis Communications Guide (2015)*, was shared with the Committee in advance of the meeting.
 - Although there is a mechanism through COG to disseminate regional messages, it is unlikely that the Health PIOs would be able to come to consensus (during an event) to develop a timely message.
 - Currently, the PIOs share jurisdictional messages across the region for situational awareness.
 - The BioWatch framework was used as a comparison.
 - It was reiterated that the NCR does not have designated authority; public health messages are developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and are shared with states and local governments.
- Zika 2016 Summary (Survey Review)
 - It was suggested that the questions related to humans and mosquitoes (in the Surveillance, Testing, Reporting, and Mitigation section) be separated.
 - Additionally, a question was added inquire about the efficacy of messaging to vulnerable populations.
 - The HOC is most interested in the “Moving Forward” section, if possible, please focus your attention on those questions.

Action Items:

- Jenny Schitter, COG, to present the *National Capital Region Crisis Communications Guide* to the Health Officials at their January 9, 2017 meeting.
- Elements from the *National Capital Region Crisis Communications Guide* should be included in the objectives for the next CRI exercise.
- Julie Gall, COG, to edit the Zika survey and distribute to the Committee for completion.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC) METRICS

- The purpose of the document is to demonstrate to the senior officials within each of the NCR jurisdictions the benefits of the MRC. The goal is to generate support for future funding.
- Because it is intended to be read by individuals who may not know a significant amount about MRC, some general background information was included.
- The document is focused on preparedness, but provides examples of how the MRC can be used during preplanned or routine events.
 - Use during preplanned events also encourages engagement and supports the maintenance of individuals’ skills.
- Specific numbers were purposefully not included, as numbers reported do not always represent the population that is called upon for an event.



- The Committee discussed the definition of response, as it relates to MRC.
 - A response “activity” includes preplanned events, declarations of emergencies, and deployments.
- It was also suggested that an example of a financial savings algorithm be included. However, this was not recommended for inclusion, as “value added” is subjective.
- Summary of Edits
 - The first paragraph under “MRC Metrics Methodology” will be edited to address the run-on sentence.
 - A bullet point will be added on page one to include MRC support in the field of Fatality Management.
 - “Number of hours spent in community outreach efforts related to public health” will be changed to “Number of hours spent in community outreach efforts related to public health and preparedness.”
 - “Number of hours spent in public health response activities” will be changed to “Numbers of hours spent in any requested all-hazards and/or public health response activities.”

Action Item:

- Sue Skidmore to finalize the document for approval at the January 5, 2017 PHEPS meeting.
 - Note: The document will be presented to the Health Officials at their January 9, 2017 meeting.

CY 2017 WORK PLAN: MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

- Because there were numerous recommended edits to the survey, it was suggested that each jurisdiction submit feedback electronically.

Action Item:

- Committee to submit edits to the survey to Julie Gall (JGall@mwcog.org).

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES

Commonwealth of Virginia

City of Alexandria Health Department

- The Health Department is working with the City’s Fire and Police Departments on a deployment policy for the EMS Chempack.
 - Currently, the only mechanism for deployment of the Chempack is with a Fire Department asset.
- Although the Commonwealth is working in the arena of Chempacks, it has been determined that jurisdictional movement of the item is a local responsibility.
- Prince George’s County and The District of Columbia are also working on their Chempack plans.
 - It was suggested that “Chempacks” be placed on the January PHEPS agenda.

Arlington County Department of Health



- The Department of Health recently examined the effectiveness of the “Chesapeake Bus Model”¹ in Arlington.
 - Although it was effective in areas with high population density, overall, it does not appear appropriate for the County.

Loudoun Health District

- Loudoun submitted a final Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) application to NACCHO on November 10, 2016.
- The County’s After Action Report (AAR) on Zika is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month or in early January.

Virginia Department of Health

- Virginia is working in coordination with Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a Unified Command structure to support the Potomac Sheen incident.
- Virginia continues to support the District of Columbia with Inauguration planning.
 - The Commonwealth is participating in several working groups.
 - A MAC will be operational January 19-20, 2017.
 - Staffing requests have not been finalized.

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Department of Health

- Judith Robinson is the lead for the Medical Countermeasures and CBRNE Inauguration Working Groups.
 - The groups will be updating their respective ConOps plans to forward to HSEMA.
- The Department of Health is working with their jurisdictional partners to develop a Field Operations Guide to Chempacks. A drill with the Police Department will occur prior to the Inauguration.

District of Columbia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

- The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is part of several Inauguration Planning Committees.
 - As part of the Inauguration planning, OCME will be forward deploying assets in unmarked vehicles for rapid response.
 - A request was made and approved for the staging of a large cache of body bags.
 - Once available, Donell Harvin will share additional information on access to the cache.
- The next Fatality Management Working Group meeting will be held in late January or early February and will kick off the exercise planning.
 - As mentioned, the NCR-wide exercise will take place in September 2017.
 - The Group’s other priorities for CY 2017 include:
 - The development of a Mass Fatality Management “playbook.”
 - An examination of the Mass Fatality resources within the region.

¹ The “Chesapeake Bus Model” is a method of mass prophylaxis dispensing, first used in Chesapeake, Virginia.



- Procurement of a Mass Fatality Cache.
- Development of a Mutual Aid Agreement for Fatality Management.
 - Once a working draft is completed, it will be distributed to regional stakeholders for feedback.

State of Maryland

Frederick County Health Department

- Barbara Rosvold is retiring, her last day is tomorrow.
- Melissa Pawlus has joined the Health Department as a Program Manager.

Montgomery County Department of Health

- The Department of Health recently welcomed a new Public Health Emergency Planner, Sean O'Donnell.

Prince George's County Health Department

- In alignment with the rest of the NCR, Prince George's is supporting Inauguration planning.
- Richard Goddard's office has moved to a new location. He will send the Committee updated contact information.

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

- The Maryland NCR will host a training on CMS preparedness.
- The Department is working with Health and Human Services Region III on Ebola planning in coordination with Johns Hopkins.

Action Items:

- Committee to send Zvi Gruenspecht (Zvi.Gruenspecht@vdh.virginia.gov) examples of Chempack policies or procedures.
- Julie Gall, COG, to place a Chempack discussion on the January PHEPS agenda.
- Donell Harvin to forward information on the availability of the body bag cache to the Committee.
- Richard Goddard to forward his new contact information to the Committee.

MOVING FORWARD

- Decision: Sue Skidmore was nominated and selected as the new Committee Co-Chair.
 - She will begin her term on January 1, 2017.
- It was suggested that the rotation of Chairs / Co-Chairs be examined, to ensure the District of Columbia is not overwhelmed in the frequency of their appointment.

Action Items:

- Julie Gall, COG, to send a standing 2017 calendar invite for PHEPS meetings.
- Julie Gall, COG, to place a Chair Rotation discussion on the January PHEPS agenda.

NEXT PHEPS MEETING: JANUARY 5, 2016 AT COG.

