



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PLANNERS SUBCOMMITTEE (PHEPS)

Thursday, January 5, 2017
9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
COG Conference Room 4/5

PARTICIPANTS

- Patrick Ashley, NVERS
- Sara Barra, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Clark Beil, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Mary Laurel Castle, Prince William Health District
- Julie Gall, COG
- Richard Goddard, Chair, Prince George's County Health Department
- Zvi Gruenspecht, City of Alexandria Health Department
- Jesse Habourn, Fairfax County Department of Health
- Kathy Hatter, Fauquier Health District
- Steve Hood, Loudoun County
- Debra Howe, 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
- Steven Rankin, U.S. Army Joint Force Headquarters, NCR
- Judith Robinson, District of Columbia Department of Health
- Jose Salazar, Loudoun County
- Jenny Schitter, COG
- Sue Skidmore, Arlington County Department of Health
- Donna Thomas, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Rissah Watkins, Frederick County Health Department
- Jordan Zarone, Rappahannock Health District

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

HONORING DR. ULDER TILLMAN

- As many of you may already know, on January 3rd, Dr. Ulder Tillman, Montgomery County Health Officer, passed away suddenly.
- She joined Montgomery County in 2003, working extensively with COG and the Health Officials Committee.
- She was a brilliant, warm, and approachable person. To honor her, the Health Officials will be writing a letter outlining her accomplishments and regional contributions. It will be presented to the COG Board of Directors on January 11th.
- The PHEPS held a moment of silence to honor her.

COMMITTEE CHAIR / CO-CHAIR ROTATION

- To ensure equitable distribution of leadership responsibly, the positions rotate between the sub-



regions yearly. Historically, the District of Columbia has only had a single person to fulfil this requirement, potentially placing an unnecessary burden on that individual.

- A possible alternative is to select the Chair / Co-Chair from the eight PHEPs. However, this could mean that the Chair / Co-Chair would be from the same sub-region.
 - Or, the District could ensure that during years when they Chair the sub-Committee, they have two representatives available (so an alternate is available to attend the meeting if the Chair is unable).
- Ultimately, the District of Columbia needs to determine if they believe the task is too onerous.

Action Item:

- The District of Columbia representatives to discuss the possible options with their leadership. A final decision will be made in March.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS UPDATE

- On January 3rd, COG's Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety welcomed a new Managing Director, Scott Boggs. Scott previously spent 26 years with the Prince William County Fire Department.
- The HSEC met yesterday to outline their priorities for 2017. These priorities include:
 - Updating of the NCR Strategic Plan.
 - Establishing planning guidance for regional projects and the FY 18 UASI cycle.
 - Beginning conversations on legacy UASI sustainment projects.
- The Advisory Council will meet on January 10th to discuss the UASI FY 17 process.

HEALTH OFFICERS COMMITTEE (HOC) FOLLOW UP ITEM

- On Monday, Richard Goddard will be providing an update to the HOC on PHEPS activities. This will include presenting on the Zika survey (best practices, lessons learned, anticipated 2017 approach).
- The Committee reviewed the draft summary document provided. Minor edits were recommended during the meeting.
- Discussion on Zika Responses
 - In Montgomery County, the Zika cases identified were a small percentage of the population targeted in outreach efforts. They found that going to neighborhoods to conduct outreach was labor intensive. In 2017, they plan to target neighborhoods with high travel populations, etc.
 - In Prince William County, educational information was distributed in areas identified as mosquito "hot spots."
 - In Arlington County, messaging was equitable across the community. However, the higher floors of high-rise buildings were not messaged until later in the season.
 - In the District of Columbia, outreach was centered around human behavior / activity. Messaging and outreach targeted travelers, especially during certain times (i.e. holidays) or to certain locations (Latin America, the Caribbean, etc.).
- Montgomery County will be holding a Mosquito Task Force discussion on January 24th in Rockville, MD.
 - This will provide the local health department to propose suggestions to the State on what worked well (and what did not) in the 2016 Zika response.
 - COG member jurisdictions are welcome to attend.

Action Items:



- Julie Gall, COG, to edit the Zika summary document and distribute to the Committee for final review.
- Clark Beil, Montgomery County, to send Julie Gall the invitation to the Task Force Discussion. Julie Gall will distribute to PHEPS.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC) METRICS

- Because PHEPS recently welcomed new members, the document was not finalized at the meeting as anticipated. Instead, the document will be distributed to the Committee for additional review prior to presenting to the HOC.
- The goal of the document is to provide the Health Directors information on the importance and uses of MRC.
 - Overall demonstrating that there is a large return on investment from the grant funding.
- It was discussed that the document's metrics should include all deployments, not just emergencies.
 - The metrics are consistent with what is collected at the Federal level.
- Anne Arundel County is collecting data on the effectiveness of MCR, as well as the types of events they are used in. This data may be of interest to the PHEPS.

Action Item:

- Committee to send any additional edits to Sue Skidmore by January 31, 2017.
 - Sue Skidmore to finalize the document for final discussion at the February 2, 2017 PHEPS meeting.
 - Note: The document will be presented to the Health Officials at their April 10, 2017 meeting.

CY 2017 WORK PLAN: MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

- The goal of the survey is to identify both commonalities and nuanced differences between the jurisdictions. Context on why there are differences should also be provided.
- The extended counties will also be included in the data collection.
- Summary of Edits
 - An additional option ("other") was added to the list of closed POD agreements.
 - "Public Reporting Orders" was changed to "Public Messaging."
 - Language was added to "how will you handle critical infrastructure" to provide additional context.
 - The question referencing "dark" websites refers to sites outside of NCRScreening.org.

Action Items:

- Richard Goddard to provide Julie Gall with the CDC definition of critical infrastructure to discuss during the February 2, 2017 PHEPS meeting.
- Julie Gall to address the recommended edits to the survey and distribute to the Committee.
 - Completed surveys may be returned to Julie Gall (JGall@mwkog.org) by COB Friday, January 20th.

CY 2017 WORK PLAN: CHEMPACKS

- In Northern Virginia, the Virginia Department of Health is examining Chempack notification, request, and deployment plans, to determine if a centralized process is feasible.



- Alexandria recently completed a local examination of deployment plans for the hospital and EMS Chempacks.
- In advance of the inauguration, the District of Columbia worked with their Chempack partners to develop deployment plans. While the Department of Health drafted guidance to follow, specific operating procedures were the responsibility of the partners.
 - The plans will be tested next week.
- Moving forward, the Committee could seek to compare the plans across the region to determine best practices in mobilizing / utilizing the Chempacks.
- Judith Robinson anticipates receiving a shelf life extension for some of the pharmaceuticals within the District's Chempacks.

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES

Commonwealth of Virginia

City of Alexandria Health Department

- The emergency operations center will be open from 7am on January 19th to 3pm on January 21st. Currently, only emergency management will be staffing the center; partner organizations will be on standby.

Arlington County Department of Health

- The emergency operations center will be open from 5am-5pm on January 20th. All ESF leads will be in attendance.

Loudoun Health District

- The Health District recently submitted names to the State MRC Coordinator for support of the inauguration.
- The Health District is also working on plans for closed POD agreements with the County's nursing homes.
- The County's all-hazard plan was submitted for review.

Prince William Health District

- The County had both a white powder and RAD incident within a week of one another.
 - The white powder was determined to be a mixture of laundry detergent and illicit drugs.
 - Regarding the RAD incident, a small piece of Cesium 137 was found on route 123. It is possible that it came from a portable density gauge; but the source remains unknown.
 - It was suggested that the newer, more sensitive RAD detectors carried by law enforcement, detected the Cesium when older models could not.
- The emergency operations center may be open during the inauguration, however, at this time, they have not request ESF 8 support.

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Department of Health

- Inauguration
 - The emergency operations center will be active from January 17-22 for the inauguration.
 - As part of inauguration planning, a proposal was sent to request an additional 4-6 Chempacks (from outside of the NCR) to be forward deployed within the District.



- To date, there have been many permit requests for protests / demonstrations.
- The leads for the different inauguration working groups will be submitting their own component to the ConOps.
- Paul Duray is the ESF-8 point of contact during the inauguration.
 - He will have access to the schedule for the communication calls.
- HEPRA will be tracking any patients transported outside of the NCR, as well as supporting family reunification.
- The District will attend a CDC supported MCM Operations Guide meeting on January 25-26th.
 - Judith Robinson requested feedback from the NCR jurisdictions to provide a more holistic input.

State of Maryland

Charles County Health Department

- The Department is working through a school-based TB event that involves over 400 contacts.
- The Department is also involved a major relocation while their building's roof is under reconstruction.

Frederick County Health Department

- The County is hiring for a PHEP and SNS Coordinator.

Montgomery County Department of Health

- The emergency operations center will be open from 6am-10pm on January 20th.

Prince George's County Health Department

- Richard Goddard's office was moved into the Health Department's headquarters.
- Although the emergency operations center will be open for the inauguration, the times have not been released.

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

- The state EOC will be open on January 20th. Enhanced bio-surveillance will be completed prior to, and after, the inauguration.
- The State Health Department recently welcomed a new Secretary, Dennis Schrader.

Action Items:

- Judith Robinson to send Julie Gall the communication schedule for distribution to PHEPS.
- Julie Gall to send Judith Robinson the PHEPS distribution list (to request information for the January 25-26 CDC MCM meeting).

MOVING FORWARD

- It was suggested that the Committee consider completing a regional exercise within the next year.
 - Although engagement in situational awareness calls / status updates throughout the inauguration event may not count as an exercise (per CDC requirements), it should still be done.
 - The after action report from the inauguration may inform areas to test, or how to frame an exercise.
- Because there were issues with the last 5-year exercise requirements (completed too soon into the cycle, was not accepted at the end, etc.), documentation from the CDC should be requested

to ensure an exercise will count if completed in year 1.

- Moreover, representatives from the CDC should be invited to the required HSEEP meetings.

Action Items:

- Julie Gall to add the exercise item to the February agenda for additional discussion.

NEXT PHEPS MEETING: FEBRUARY 2, 2017 VIA TELECONFERENCE.