

Public Health Preparedness Updates

February 2012



Public Health Preparedness Workgroup Updates

Public Health Preparedness Committee (PHPC)

Chair: Dave Cox; **Staff:** [Jack Herrmann](#)

The committee met to discuss the Presidential Budget, a brief review of the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit, and NACCHO program and workgroup updates.

Advanced Practice Centers Workgroup (APC)

Chair: Brian Johnson; **Staff:** [Laura Biesiadecki](#)

The APC workgroup held a call in early February. The group was provided updates on staffing, the APC Connections meeting and plans for the APC pre-summit workshop at the preparedness summit.

Medical Reserve Corps Workgroup (MRC)

Chair: Sandi Wiggins; **Staff:** [Paul Decknick](#)

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) workgroup met via teleconference twice in February to discuss implementation of the work plan, and to discuss strategies to sustain the workgroup's mission when current members roll off the workgroup. The MRC sub-workgroups continued to meet independently throughout the month to address the goals and objectives, with the main focus on re-establishing the MRC Toolkit. The next MRC Workgroup conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28th.

Public Health and Emergency Management Workgroup (PH-EM)

Chair: Terence Hayes; **Staff:** [Tim Siemsen](#)

The February PH-EM workgroup conference call was canceled. The next call is scheduled for Thursday, March 22.

Pandemic Influenza Workgroup

Chair: Christine Brooks; **Staff:** [Carolyn McCoy](#)

The February Pandemic Influenza Workgroup conference call was cancelled. The next call is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21.

Preparedness Outcomes and Measures Workgroup

Chair: Karen Smith; **Staff:** [Samantha Morgan](#)

The February Outcomes and Measures Workgroup call was cancelled and an updated was provided via email. The workgroup is moving forward with the development of a Joint Performance Measures Policy Statement with ASTHO. A task force will draft the policy statement along with colleagues from ASTHO's Performance Evaluation and Improvement Workgroup (PEIW). The policy statement will be reviewed by approved by the PPHR workgroup, Outcomes and Measures Workgroup, ASTHO's PEIW, the Preparedness Committee, and ASTHO/NACCHO Joint Counsel prior to submitting to both boards for approval in July 2012. The next call is scheduled for April 9th at 2pm-3:30pm EDT.

Project Public Health Ready Workgroup (PPHR)

Chair: Mark McDonnell; **Staff:** [Resham Patel](#)

In February, the Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Workgroup met by conference call to address key issues in improving the PPHR process, including a specific definition and eligibility guidelines for an applicant. The Workgroup is also preparing for the annual criteria review and revision process. As noted by the Metric Workgroup, these two workgroups are also working on a joint performance measures policy statement with ASTHO. A joint policy statement with ASTHO has never been completed; therefore, both organizations are working through the process. NACCHO PPHR staff concluded the call by sharing an update on the beginning of the spring review cycle and a recap of the 2012 Preparedness Summit PPHR activities, including the PPHR Recognition Reception and a sharing session with representative from PPHR, PHAB, and PHEP.

Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup (SNS)

Chair: Joshua Carlyle; **Staff:** [Tim Siemsen](#) and [Carolyn McCoy](#)

The SNS workgroup met informally at the Public Health Preparedness Summit on Wednesday, February 22. The workgroup discussed past projects and possible future endeavors. Possibilities include a gap analysis and alignment with the PHEP capability 8 (MCM distribution and dispensing), a second policy statement on budget cuts, gap analysis on closed POD technical assistance, Local Technical Assistance Review (LTAR) best practices and planning for Department of Defense assets. The workgroup also agreed to begin the process of assigning a Deputy Chair role to improve succession planning and assist the current Chair in his duties.

Ad Hoc Advisory Groups

Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)

Chair: Chris Hoff; **Staff:** [Resham Patel](#) and [Samantha Morgan](#)

The PPAG held its first call on February 13th, 2012. The members were provided with a welcome, background, and workgroup expectations. The chair of the workgroup, Chris Hoff from Kane County Health Department in Aurora, IL, provided the members with the purpose, mission, and work plan for this advisory group. The group currently has local representation from 20 states and 3 directly funded cities. Rolling recruitment will continue for those states that do not have a local representative. The next call will still being determined but will take place in March.

Administrative Preparedness

Staff: [Samantha Morgan](#) and [Scott Fisher](#)

The Administrative Preparedness Project has begun scheduling interviews with the 60 state and local health departments that will participate in interviews and focus groups to provide both barriers and best practices regarding administrative preparedness practices for accepting, allocating, spending, monitoring, and reporting on federal funding during an emergency. A joint administrative preparedness workgroup comprised of members from NACCHO, ASTHO, CDC, and ASPR have reviewed and provided feedback on a literature review summary and the interview guide. The contractor will be conducting the interviews and focus groups during the month of March.

Project Updates

Advanced Practice Centers (Staff: [Laura Biesiadecki](#))

The Advanced Practice Center project welcomes a new staff member, Susan Wherley, who joined the staff as a program analyst as of February 20, 2012. APC held a successful pre-summit workshop at the 2012 Preparedness Summit. New promotional products highlighting APC products alignment with the PHEP capabilities were produced. NACCHO staff continues to investigate the contractual, financial and legal issues associated with program closeout.

Antiviral Dispensing Project (Staff: [Tim Siemsen](#))

NACCHO Staff have been planning for live simulations of the Antiviral Dispensing Model at retail pharmacies in Independence, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois.

ASPR Project (Staff: [Scott Fisher](#) and [Jack Herrmann](#))

NACCHO continues to collect contact information for preparedness staff from every local health department. As of February 28, 1306 general preparedness coordinators and 1031 sensitive preparedness contacts have been identified. Also, a recording of NACCHO's first webinar with ASPR, which occurred in late January, is now archived on NACCHO's website. NACCHO is working with ASPR to confirm the date and topic for the second in this series of webinars.

Medical Reserve Corps Project (Staff: [Debra Robinson](#))

The Capacity Building Awards' contract period will close March 30th, 2012. The State Special Project Award application closed and it has moved to the review stage. In addition, the 2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit (ITS) Scholarship application closed and the applications were reviewed. Notifications for this travel scholarship will be sent on March 9, 2012.

Nurse Triage Line Project (Staff: [Jo Ellen Warner](#))

NACCHO has been planning the CDC/ASTHO/NACCHO Pandemic Nurse Triage Line Stakeholders Meeting in Atlanta Georgia on March 20, 2012. The goal of the meeting is to synthesize explorations about the acceptability and feasibility of a new coordinated system of nurse triage telephone lines for use during a severe pandemic, and to explore challenges, barriers, and solutions for developing next steps. About 100 attendees are expected including partners and representatives from state and local health departments, federal agencies, associations of physicians, nurses, poison control centers, health insurers, as well as from healthcare systems and communications technology partners.

Also, NACCHO staff have attended focus groups conducted by the Institute of Medicine in Tennessee and in Idaho to gauge public sentiment about the use of nurse triage lines in a severe pandemic. A third and final focus group will be held in early and a full report on the public engagement process will be available for the March 20th session.

Project Public Health Ready (Staff: [Scott Fisher](#))

This year's PPHR Recognition Reception, held in conjunction with the 2012 Preparedness Summit, honored 76 agencies from Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Virginia that successfully received PPHR recognition last year. The NACCHO PPHR staff team continues to provide technical assistance to LHDs from Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin as they prepare PPHR applications for this spring and next fall. Preparations are underway for the spring PPHR review, including recruitment for national reviewers. Selected reviewers will be trained and assigned applications in March.

Public Health Preparedness Law Project (Staff: [Scott Fisher](#))

Progress continues toward the finalization of Public Health and the Law: An Emergency Preparedness Training Kit. The curriculum was presented during a workshop prior to the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit. Component Summaries tied to the curriculum's five components as well as videos introducing and summarizing the curriculum were presented for the first time. NACCHO circulated a survey to collect feedback on the kit, which will be used to make final refinements to the materials before wide distribution this spring.

Radiological and Nuclear Preparedness Project (Staff: [Tim Siemsen](#))

NACCHO deployed a survey in the first week of February to gather information on radiation preparedness activities that have been undertaken since the March 2011 "Bridging the Gaps" conference. Information collected via this survey will be used to identify progress that has been made in improving radiation preparedness as well as gaps that remain. The survey had a nearly 50 percent response rate and analysis of the results is ongoing.

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) (Staff: [Tim Siemsen](#))

NACCHO staff continues to move deliverables forward on this project. NACCHO, ASTHO, and CDC staff met with the meeting facilitator and researcher at the PHP Summit to discuss the Whole Community Planning for Medical

Countermeasures (MCM) meeting. Additionally, NACCHO staff met with the contractor who will be handling the DoD planning project. Significant progress was made on both projects. Finally, NACCHO staff successfully hosted the Ignite Session on “The Six Most Memorable SNS Lessons You Will Ever Learn in 45 minutes” as part of the PHP Summit.

Government Affairs Update (Staff: [Laura Hanen](#))

On February 13, President Obama released his FY2013 proposed budget that includes funding for the Department of Health and Human Services. NACCHO has compiled a detailed [funding chart](#) of public health preparedness programs. Programs of particular interest include:

- CDC’s Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response - \$1.28 billion, a cut of \$54 million
 - State and Local Preparedness and Response Capability – \$642 million, a cut of \$15.5 million. The President’s budget eliminates the separate funding lines for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreements, the Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness and CDC’s programmatic operating costs and rolls them up into the single funding line of State and Local Preparedness and Response Capability. The PHEP grants would absorb the cut of \$7.5 million in CDC operating costs. Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness are eliminated, a \$7.9 million cut.
 - Strategic National Stockpile - \$439.4 million, a cut of \$64 million from FY2012.
- Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response – \$982 million, an increase of \$56 million over FY2012.
 - Hospital Preparedness - \$255 million, a cut of \$120 million from FY2012.
 - Biomedical Advanced Research and Development - \$547 million, an increase of \$132 million over FY2012, including \$415 million to be made available from current BioShield Special Reserve Fund balances to supplement these activities.”
 - Medical Reserve Corps - \$11 million, a cut of \$1 million from FY2012.

NACCHO has prioritized PHEP in its FY2013 funding request of Congress and is asking that the program be restored to its FY2010 funding level of \$715 million. NACCHO is also asking Congress to reject the President’s proposal to eliminate the separate PHEP funding line authorized by *the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006*. NACCHO is also encouraging local health departments to weigh-in with their Members of Congress in support of this funding.

The House of Representatives passed the *Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act Reauthorization of 2011* (H.R. 2405) on December 6 and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee marked up their version of the bill (S. 1855) on December 14. The Senate is expected to pass their bill on the floor through the expedited process of unanimous consent in the near future. After Senate passage, the differences between the two versions of the bills will be reconciled among House and Senate staff before returning to the two chambers for final passage.

The House version includes redeployment language that would allow health departments to shift staff from other departments in an emergency. NACCHO, ASTHO, TFAH and APHA have been talking with Senate staff urging them to support a redeployment provision in the final package. NACCHO has provided Senate staff with sample employment policies and job descriptions from health departments demonstrating that non-emergency preparedness health department staff are expected to take part in all-hazard response activities as a condition of employment.

Future Activities/Meetings/Conferences/Workshops

Nurse Triage Line project meeting (Atlanta)	March 20, 2012
Project Public Health Ready National Review Meeting	May 8–9, 2012
Project Public Health Ready Workgroup Meeting	May 10–11, 2012
2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit (Nashville, TN)	May 21–25, 2012