Public Health Preparedness Updates

May 2012

Meetings and Conference Calls

Title: CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting
Date: May 1–2, 2012
Staff Representative: N/A
Member Representative: Karen Smith (Napa County, CA)
Highlights: The Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) received updates on division responses to the BSC's recommendations from the Division of Emergency Operations, Division of Select Agents and Toxins, Division of Strategic National Stockpile, and the Division of State and Local Preparedness. The BSC also received a detailed introduction to OPHPRs work in the area of laboratory preparedness and the work of the Anthrax Management Team. The most interesting item on the agenda was a discussion of the progress being made on developing a unified preparedness index.

Title: National Emergency Management Association National Homeland Security Consortium Meeting
Date: May 2, 2012
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann and Tim Siemsen
Member Representative:
Highlights: The Homeland Security Consortium meeting provided consortium members with updates on PPD-8 implementation and the National Homeland Security Consortium white paper which addresses cyber hazards, climate change, demands on global resources, changing demographics, emerging technologies, violent extremist ideologies, WMD proliferation and mega-hazards. A presentation by the Congressional Research Service focused on the federal budget outlook for 2013 and beyond. A consultant from the Center for Homeland Security & Defense at the Naval Postgraduate School gave a comprehensive update on current terrorist threats. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided an update on the Strategic Foresight Initiative, including uncertainties that define and drive the future emergency management environment, strategic needs and gaps that our community will have to address, a view of the emergency management community of 2030, and the next steps to prepare for the future.

Title: Antiviral Dispensing Project Meeting
Date: May 7–8, 2012
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann, Tim Siemsen, Jo Ellen Warner, and Sara Rubin
Member Representative: Cynthia Morgan, Leticia Mathis, Umair Shah, and Neal Lustig
Highlights: The Antiviral Dispensing Project Meeting engaged stakeholders on the proposed alternative antiviral distribution and dispensing method during an influenza pandemic, while also exploring the feasibility and acceptability of the project. Some identified benefits of this model included increased access to antivirals, use of existing systems, and reduced burden on local/state health officials (allowing more of their attention to be focused on at-risk populations). Potential barriers that arose included payment issues (dispensing fees administered by pharmacies), tracking and reporting requirements, public messaging needs, the role of local health departments (LHDs) in decision making, and legal/regulatory concerns. Researchers from various universities presented models and studies that indicated pharmacies have the capacity to meet demand of dispensing antivirals to the public during a pandemic (based on historical pandemic data and varying severity levels), and both pharmacists and pharmacy executives exhibit high levels of acceptability for this alternative dispensing model.

Title: Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) National Review Meeting
Date: May 8–9, 2012
Staff Representative: Laura Biesiadecki, Scott Fisher, Samantha Morgan, Resham Patel, and Rachel Schulman
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: NACCHO held a PPHR review meeting that involved 21 applications from various LHDs in Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The 33 reviewers, state leads, and NACCHO staff met in Austin, TX to discuss and score the applications. Feedback from the review session will be compiled and provided to the applicants.

Title: American Red Cross (ARC) Disaster Leadership Meeting
Date: May 10, 2012
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann and Debra Robinson
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Met with ARC Leaders to exchange information about NACCHO's preparedness initiatives. Four areas were identified for potential future partnership to include collaboration on addressing functional needs support shelters, community resilience, anti-viral distribution and dispensing methodologies, and community health needs assessment. NACCHO will work with the ARC team leads for these areas and provide further information in a future update.

Title: Project Public Health Ready Workgroup Meeting
Date: May 10–11, 2012
Staff Representative: Scott Fisher, Samantha Morgan, Resham Patel, and Rachel Schulman
Member Representative:
Highlights: The PPHR Workgroup met in-person in Austin, TX to discuss current and future projects for NACCHO's PPHR Program; the connection between PPHR and other national initiatives, including accreditation and the National Health Security Preparedness Index; and revisions to the criteria, paying particular attention to the areas in PPHR that should be congruent with the PHEP capabilities.

Title: EdVentures Competition
Date: May 11, 2012
Staff Representative: Debra Robinson, Justin Snair, Stacy Hosler, and Tahlia Gousse
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: MRC staff attended the executive presentation for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteer Recruitment Challenge and participated on the judging panel. The EdVenture/MRC partnership invited undergraduate and graduate student teams from the U.S. to design an integrated marketing communications (IMC) plan designed to increase the number of volunteers in local MRC units nationwide. The IMC plan was particularly focused on Generation Y and utilized traditional and non-traditional marketing tactics. Finalist teams from Ball State, Missouri State, and University of Findlay attended the competition. Ball State University won the competition and presented their plan to the MRC leadership at the 2012 Integrated Training Summit in Nashville, TN.

Title: Antiviral Dispensing Site Visit
Date: May 13–14, 2012
Staff Representative: Tim Siemsen
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Representatives from CDC, NACCHO, ASTHO and IEM, Inc. met with representatives of the City of Chicago Department of Public Health and Emergency Management and Communication, State of Illinois Public Health, and store and pharmacy managers of the downtown Walgreen's that will host the second of two antiviral dispending demonstration drills on June 24, 2012. Health department and emergency management representatives were briefed on

plans for the upcoming drill. Walgreen's representatives provided a tour of the store and the pharmacy manager provided details of Walgreen's system operations.

Title: Cal Prepare Advisory Committee
Date: May 16–18, 2012
Staff Representative: Tim Siemsen
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Members of the Cal Prepare Advisory Committee met in small group roundtable discussions with project directors and graduate students to review and give feedback on current research projects of this Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center include All-hazards Communication to Improve the Resilience of Vulnerable Populations, including Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Seniors; Early Warning, Investigation and Surveillance: Epidemiologic Networks in Action; Cal Prepare EXLAB, Small Hazard Preparedness Project; and Closing the Chemical, Radiological and Nuclear Gaps. Findings from the PERRC mid-program review by External Board of Scientific Counselors and an overview of core year two accomplishments were provided as an introduction. Additionally, PERRC funding opportunities and sustainability strategies were discussed.

Title: 2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit
Date: May 21–25, 2012
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann, Debra Robinson, Paul Decknick, Justin Snair, Stacy Hosler, and Tahlia Gousse
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Staff attended and staffed the 2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit, an event sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The training summit brought together HHS partners including the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). The Integrated Training Summit was co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Health Education Program, Inc (CHEP). Expert faculty presented on key focus areas including Healthcare Systems, Leadership, Public Health, Resource Management & Patient Movement, and Response Integration/Operational Medicine. Many of the staff participated in the Elizabeth Fitch Memorial 5k walk/run, joining other MRC leaders in an early morning "Let's Move" activity.

Title: Advanced Practice Centers Connections Meeting
Date: May 22, 2012
Staff Representative: Laura Biesiadecki and Susan Wherley
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: The eight APC site representatives met in Nashville to discuss plans for a dynamic, interactive pre-conference workshop at NACCHO Annual, as well as plans for the future as the APC program draws to a close. The group initiated a process to ensure that APC products developed over the past decade are preserved, ideally in an easily-accessible, Web-based format. Finally, the representatives worked together to create a mechanism by which APC products may be aligned with the CDC hospital preparedness program objectives.

Title: Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Critical Infrastructure Protection Webinar
Date: May 30, 2012
Staff Representative: N/A
Member Representative: Mac McClendon (Harris County, TX)
Highlights: The webinar included local, state and federal presentations focusing on the responsibilities each level of government has during major emergency response. This includes relationships and dependencies at each level of preparedness, planning, and response necessary for a successful return to normal daily activities and jurisdictional recovery. Additionally, the webinar highlighted Public Health, Medical and Emergency Management collaborations.

Public Health Preparedness Workgroup Updates

Public Health Preparedness Committee (PHPC)
Chair: Dave Cox; Staff: Jack Herrmann
The Public Health Preparedness Committee met by conference call to discuss the NACCHO/ASTHO joint policy statement on preparedness performance measures; the policy statement was recommended to advance to NACCHO's Board for consideration and approval. The Preparedness Committee received an update from NACCHO's Government Affairs team (details below). Committee members also shared key highlights from preparedness workgroups and discussed the role of the newly formed Preparedness Policy Advisory Group.

Advanced Practice Centers Workgroup (APC)
Chair: Brian Johnson; Staff: Laura Biesiadecki
The APC workgroup spent the majority of the call discussing the evaluation of the decade-long APC program. Members of the workgroup suggested a number of "exit interview" questions for the eight APC site managers intended to facilitate appropriate responses to emerging preparedness needs when the program closes. The workgroup also provided suggestions for tailoring the APC material to meet the demands of a broad audience at NACCHO Annual.

Medical Reserve Corps Workgroup (MRC)
Acting Chair: Bob Cohen; Staff: Paul Decknick
The majority of the MRC Workgroup attended the Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit in Nashville, TN during what would have been a regularly scheduled conference call. The workgroup members used this time to meet one another and discuss the future of the MRC Workgroup.

Public Health and Emergency Management Workgroup (PH-EM)
Chair: Terence Hayes; Staff: Tim Siemsen
The May meeting was canceled due to limited participation. The June conference call will be Thursday, June 28.

Pandemic Influenza Workgroup
Chair: Christine Brooks; Staff: Tim Siemsen
No update.

Preparedness Outcomes and Measures Workgroup
Chair: Karen Smith; Staff: Samantha Morgan
The workgroup continued to provide feedback on the multiple drafts of the joint performance measures policy statement. They sent the final draft to the Preparedness Committee for their approval on the May 22nd call. The statement is on track to be submitted to both boards (ASTHO and NACCHO) for approval in July 2012. The next call is scheduled for June 4, 2012 during 2 PM–3:30 PM, EDT.

Project Public Health Ready Workgroup (PPHR)
Chair: Mark McDonnell; Staff: Resham Patel
In early May, the PPHR Workgroup met in-person in Austin, TX to discuss current and future projects for NACCHO's PPHR Program, the connection between PPHR and other national initiatives including accreditation and the National Health Security Preparedness Index, and annual revisions to the criteria, paying particular attention to the areas in PPHR that should be congruent with the PHEP capabilities. The Workgroup also met by phone at the end of the month to continue conversations regarding PPHR re-recognition strategies and sustainability, as well as increased alignment with other national initiatives.

Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup (SNS)
Chair: Joshua Carlyle; Staff: Tim Siemsen
The SNS workgroup conference call was held on Monday, May 14. The workgroup will revisit a proposal from 2011 for collaboration with the Public Health Emergency Management (PH-EM) workgroup in developing a concept for SNS Strike Teams. A SNS/PH-EM combined conference call will be set up for further discussion. Additional collaboration with the MRC work group may be considered. Josh asked the work group members to make recommendation s for 2012–2013 projects. The work group was reminded of the membership transition, with new members joining the work group in July. Josh will contact individual work group members to identify someone willing to serve as co-chair or vice-chair. Participants were reminded of the PPD-8 webinar that will be held on June 6.

Ad Hoc Advisory Groups

Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)
Chair: Chris Hoff; Staff: Resham Patel and Samantha Morgan
The PPAG held a call on May 14, 2012 with 3 new members joining the advisory group. The advisory group currently has 40 members, including representatives from the four directly funded cities. Eli Briggs from NACCHO provided the group with an update on the FY 2013 Budget and Appropriations. Leadership from CDC's Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLR) joined the call to inform the PPAG they will periodically be asking for their feedback on items that impact the local level. Additionally, they gave an update on grant alignment and about the move of the SNS Program Service Consultations into DSLR. During the remainder of the call members were provided with a presentation on the National Health Security Preparedness Index and the AMA Health Security Card National Rollout Meeting. The next call will be on June 13th at 3 PM–4 PM, EDT.

Administrative Preparedness
Staff: Samantha Morgan and Scott Fisher
NACCHO, in collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health, developed a draft report titled *Health Department Barriers to the Administration of Emergency Preparedness Funds Granted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS.* The draft was shared with the Joint Administrative Preparedness workgroup, which includes members from ASTHO, NACCHO, CDC, and ASPR. Members provided feedback and the final report will be released in June.

Project Updates

Advanced Practice Centers (Staff: Laura Biesiadecki)
The APC team is currently working on projects to align APC products with the CDC's hospital preparedness program capabilities and the Project Public Health Ready criteria. In addition, the team is working to transfer APC products from the eight individual health department websites to the NACCHO APC website in order to ensure continuous access to the products in the future.

Antiviral Dispensing Project (Staff: Tim Siemsen)
The H1N1 retrospective report is undergoing final editing and will be posted soon. Representatives of CDC, ASTHO, NACCHO and IEM, Inc. met with representative of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois and Walgreen's to review plans for the second antiviral dispensing demonstration drill to be held on Sunday, June 24. A stakeholder's meeting was held in Atlanta on May 8 to introduce the proposed distribution and dispensing concept.

ASPR Project (Staff: Scott Fisher and Jack Herrmann)
Planning continues for the second ASPR webinar, scheduled for June 6 at 2 PM. The topic will be PPD #8. Topics have also been identified for the remaining webinars. The May NACCHO Preparedness Brief included an article by ASPR on online emergency medical management tools.

Medical Reserve Corps Project (Staff: Debra Robinson)
The MRC staff worked throughout the month to finalize and submit the proposed work plan for Project Year 3 of the Cooperative Agreement with the DCVMRC. NACCHO MRC staff also spent much of the month preparing for and attending the Integrated Training Summit in Nashville, TN.

Nurse Triage Line Project (Staff: Jo Ellen Warner)
The NTL project is wrapping up the first phase of the project, completing additions to the web pages and finalizing a summary of the main planning themes that arose from the March 20th Stakeholder's Meeting in Atlanta. Staff has also been working with the CDC project director and the SMS provider (Voxiva) to build the scope of work for 2012–2013 which will include a tabletop exercise with state and LHDs and other partners to test operational aspects of the NTL model.

Project Public Health Ready (Staff: Scott Fisher)
In early May, NACCHO held a PPHR review meeting that involved 21 applications, and convened 33 reviewers, state leads, and NACCHO staff met in Austin, TX to discuss and evaluate the applications. Following the meeting, feedback from reviewers and requests for additional information was compiled and provided to the applicants. NACCHO staff provided technical assistance to applicants as they addressed these areas and submitted appropriate information. Reviewers will evaluate this information and make final scoring decisions in June. PPHR staff continues to provide technical assistance to LHDs implementing State-Model PPHR, as well as those pursuing re-recognition independently.

In addition, PPHR staff presented PPHR information at the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners' Board Meeting. PPHR staff also worked with NACCHO's accreditation team to present information on the linkages between accreditation and preparedness to 200 webinar participants.

Public Health Preparedness Law Project (Staff: Scott Fisher)
Public Health and the Law: An Emergency Preparedness Training Kit is ready for distribution. It will be available in NACCHO's bookstore once targeted outreach is completed to encourage use of the kit in every state.

Radiological and Nuclear Preparedness Project (Staff: Tim Siemsen)
The report based on the recent survey of participants in the 2011 "Bridging the Gaps" conference is being edited and will be available soon.

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) (Staff: Tim Siemsen)
The findings and recommendations from the March 28 At-Risk Populations- Points of Dispensing Workshop will be posted soon. The third and final advisory call was conducted on May 24 for input on the "Local Public Health Guide to Collaboration with Department of Defense" and associated toolkit.

Government Affairs Update (Staff: Laura Hanen)
FY2013 Funding Update
On May 16 and May 22, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees passed their version of the FY2103 Homeland Security bill. The Senate provides $168 million for the Office of Health Affairs (OHA), while the House provides $132 million, a $35 million cut.

Office of Health Affairs [In thousands of dollars]	FY2012	President's FY2013 Budget	Senate	House
BioWatch	114,164	125,294	125,294	85,394
National Biosurveillance Integration Center	12,013	8,000	8,000	13,000

Chemical Defense Program	5,439	500	2,000	500
Planning and Coordination	6,162	4,907	5,249	5,407
Salaries and Expenses	29,671	27,757	27,757	27,702
Total, Office of Health Affairs	**$167,449**	**$166,458**	**$168,300**	**$132,003**

The House bill cuts BioWatch funding by $29 million for a total of $85 million. The House Committee report continues the requirement for OHA to notify the Committee 15 days prior to deploying any BioWatch device to a new location. The report notes, "while the Committee supports OHA's ongoing efforts to improve our Nation's biological detection capabilities, it has serious concerns about BioWatch Generation 3 program delays and inexplicably large carryover balances." The bill provides $13 million for the National Bio-Surveillance Integration System (NBIS), an increase of $987,000 to sustain existing activities and to expand the diversification of bio-surveillance capabilities through new competitive pilot programs. The House bill includes $1.8 billion for state and local homeland security grants at the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), an increase of $413 million. The House Report also directs DHS to develop a consolidation plan for all programs related to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) including activities in OHA and Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) into a new Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction Defense for the FY2014 President's budget.

The Senate bill provides $125 million for the BioWatch program, an increase of $11 million; however, funding for Generation 3 technology is withheld until the Secretary certifies that continued development is "prudent." The Senate Committee Report expresses concern about the lack of an adequate strategic plan for the National Biosurveillance Integration Center and prohibits the use of 50 percent of the funding for pilot projects until the Committee receives a strategic plan and a report explaining how each of the pilots supports implementation. The bill also includes $2 million for the Chemical Defense program, of which $1.5 million is available to complete additional demonstration pilots in areas at high risk of chemical incidents. For more details on the OHA funding, NACCHO has compiled relevant report language for the two bills.

As to the Labor-HHS-Education bill which funds CDC and ASPR preparedness programs, the Senate Subcommittee is scheduled to mark up a bill in Subcommittee on June 12 and move to full Committee consideration on June 14. It remains highly unlikely that the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee will schedule a markup, although the staff are in the process of drafting a bill.

House Passes WMD Legislation

On May 30, the House passed the *WMD Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2011* (H.R. 2764) authored by Representative Patrick Meehan (R-PA). The bill directs the Office of Intelligence (OIA) and Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to share information and provide tailored analytical support on chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats to state, local, and tribal authorities and private entities. The bill also directs the OIA, where appropriate, to coordinate with federal, state, local, and tribal authorities, including officials from high-threat areas, and enable them to provide recommendations on optimal information sharing mechanisms, including expeditious sharing of classified information, and on how they can provide information to DHS. The bill is bi-partisanly supported and passed swiftly on the floor through an expedited process.

Future Activities/Meetings/Conferences/Workshops

FBI Radiological Awareness and Response Workshop (Cleveland)	June 20–21, 2012
Anti-Viral Dispensing Demonstration Drill (Chicago)	June 23–24, 2012
National Environmental Health Association Conference (San Diego)	June 28–30, 2012
NACCHO Annual (Los Angeles, CA)	July 11–13, 2012