



**Northeast Central Ohio Region 5**  
**REGIONAL WORKGROUP MEETINGS**  
**April 5, 2007**

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Present:** Sarah Metzger, Regional Hospitals Coordinator; David Calderone, Coventry Fire; Bruce Shade, Regional RMRS Coordinator; David Nunley, Regional Public Health Coordinator; Kathy Coleman, Summit County Health District; Mike Hildreth, MedCentral; Dave Randall, Richland County Health District; Mark Terzel, University of Akron.

**FACILITATOR:** Bruce Shade

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- Chief Calderone gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Summit County Communications Model and distributed a handout entitled “Interoperability: Stop Blaming the Radio.” Objectives of the model include:
  - Standardization of terminology
  - Shared all-purpose talk groups
  - A functional interoperability system with rules governing its use, including a bridging plan
  
- Bruce presented a slide illustrating types of communication paired with the system which would be most appropriate for it, i.e., radios for short bursts of information, conference calling, TeamSpeak, Skype, etc. for longer conversation. Medium bursts can be handled via email, faxes, landlines, etc. Alerts can be handled through reverse 911, WARN, OPHCS, pagers, and MARCS. Must develop a protocol for using the various systems – what to use when, and who needs to communicate with whom.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Need to address the process of interoperability in conjunction with the technological aspect
- Regional coordination is essential, but it will be one of the biggest challenges. EOC-to-EOC may be the most effective way to coordinate.
- Presenting the IO system as an optional tool may neutralize turf issues.
- Decision makers need to have a deeper, broader understanding of interoperability.
- Skype and TeamSpeak were reviewed.
- Consider using ICS forms/process while developing the plan, essentially developing an IAP
- Continuing dialog with other work groups as to what their communication needs are
- Deliverables – will take awhile to work out fully, but should try to achieve as many short-term solutions as possible.
- Recommendations to the NECO Steering Committee – at this point, recommendations would be to conduct a regional assessment of interoperable communication capability, develop regional interoperability communication plan, and create a plan for regional communication coordination point. Should also consider creating a regional team of communication/technical experts who can assist/operate the communications point.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Continue exploring the different communications options
- Review initial draft of assessment before next meeting.
- Start work on the communications plan

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Bruce will get an initial draft of the assessment out to the group by the first week of May.

## **OTHER**

- Next meeting will be on May 23 from 1:30 to 3:00 at ARHA.