



NORTHEAST CENTRAL OHIO REGION 5 Steering Committee Meeting June 14, 2007

Attendees: Peter A. Christ, Mercy Medical Center; Jim McGeehen, Alliance Community Hospital; Brian Tritchler, Summa ACH/STH; Howard Hunt, Summa/Cuyahoga Falls General; Dianne Possage, Columbiana County Health; Amy Risinger, East Liverpool City Hospital; Deanna Danner, Salem Community Hospital; Kristen Hildreth, Medina Co. HD; Christina Favitta, Medina Co. EMA; Michael Moser, Akron HD; Bob Pattison, Canton City Health Dept.; Suzanne Albury, Tuscarawas Co. HD; Dr. Jim Hubert, Tuscarawas Co. HD; Judy Tornabene, Tuscarawas Co. HD; Margo Erme, Akron Health Dept.; Leanne Beavers, Barberton Health District; Amy Rine, Barberton Health District; Kerry Kernen, Summit County Health District; Jeff Jones, Ohio Dept. of Health; Sandi Golden-Vesz, Ohio Dept. of Health-BPHP; Chris Snow, Lodi Hospital; Greg Smith, Medina Hosital; Lori Josefczyk; Dunlap Memorial Hospital; Kim Berger, Akron Children's; Ricki Geilier, WRHHS; David Rothe, Union Hospital; Cathy Smotrila, Forum Health-Northside Hospital; George W. Davis, St. Elizabeth/St. Joseph; Don Waldron, Trumbull Co. HazMat/LEPC; Chris Kiehl, Carroll County Health; Janet Brown, Twin City Hospital; Joan Robis, New Philadelphia City HD; Mike Hildreth, MedCentral Mansfield/Shelby; Vicki Rosser, Samaritan; Linda McCarty, Ashland Co.-City HD; Al Sanders, Ashland Co.-City HD; Stan Saalman, Mansfield/Ontario/Richland HD; Jim Smith, Shelby City HD; David Randall, MORCHD; Mary Derr, MORCHD; Sara Stutzman, Pomerene Hospital; Donald Knabe, Barberton Citizens Hospital; John Mason, Portage Co OHS/EMA; Susan Varnes, Wayne County HD; Lucinda Sentner, Trumbull Co. Health Dept.; Vaughn Anderson, Holmes County Health Dept.; Kim Villers, Portage Co. HD; Kelly Engelhart, Portage Co. HD; Lynette Blasiman, Ravenna Health; Robert Walker, Robinson Memorial Hospital; DuWayne Porter, Portage Co. Health Dept.; Sue Mischka, Ravenna Health Dept; Don McDonald, Stark Co. LEPC; Don Snyder, Plain Twp. Fire; Ray Friedmann, Canton Fire Dept.; Scott McKibben, Chief, Canton Twp. FD; Mark Keeler, Ohio Dept of Health-SNS; Amy Ascani, Stark Co. HD; Bruce Shade, NECO Region 5 RMRS Coordinator; Chris Feller, Aultman Hospital; Sarah Metzger, NECO Hospital Coordinator; David Nunley, NECO PH Coordinator; Walter Duzzny, Mahoning Co. EMA; Linda Beil, Trumbull EMA; Gary Mellor Holmes Co. EMA; Buck Adams, Medina EMA; John Sabo, Plain Twp. Fire Dept.; Susan Kovach, Mahoning Co. District BoH; Sandy Swann, Trumbull Co. Health Dept.; Terry Merrick, Girard City Health Dept.; Kathy Salapata, Niles City HD; Rita Spahlinger, Trumbull Co HD

Meeting was called to order by Chair John Sabo.

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 2007 meeting was made by Don McDonald, seconded by Bob Pattison. Unanimous approval.

Work Group Report Outs

NIMS

Mike Hildreth and Dave Randall reported that three meetings have been held and discussions included the need to re-train on NIMS. Hospitals haven't started NIMS training yet, although 4 individuals from the NECO region attended train-the-trainer training in Columbus recently and will be training hospital employees. Currently awaiting approval from the Ohio Hospital Association to initiate the process.

Bruce Shade reviewed the recommendations on NIMS trainings:

- All participating partners should be familiar with NIMS
- All command level personnel should be proficient in NIMS
- Classroom training preferred over web-based training
- Multi-disciplinary training should be conducted whenever possible
- ICS proficiency should be evaluated in drills, exercises, etc.
- Elected officials should be familiar with ICS and local government should be encouraged to have NIMS-compliant activities as standard agenda items
- Develop actionable plans for Unified Command, Wide-Area Command and MACs for NECO Region 5.

Corresponding actions:

- Offer training throughout the region
 - IS-300 and IS-400 courses – 2 have been held already this year, 2 upcoming; more in 2007-08.
 - EOC/DOC orientation course to be developed locally.
 - ICS topic driven seminar, a one-day program directed toward those directly involved with ICS.

The Exercise Design Team will develop a tool to measure ICS proficiency in drills and exercises.

Strategies to address the other recommendations are being explored.

The next meeting will be held on July 19 at the Summit County Health District from 11:00am to 12:00pm.

PIO

Dave Randall reported that the group is encouraging all PIOs in the region to take the IS-702 online training.

Resource Management

Bob Walker reported that the group is reviewing the resource tools and systems currently in use in the region, as well as investigating other systems that are available. An evaluation tool has been developed and is being refined. Future goals include continuing to refine selection of tool and creating a protocol and policy for use of the system, once selected. Any feedback can be communicated to one of the regional coordinators to be brought back to the group for discussion.

Communications

David Calderone reported that the group has met three times; the next meeting will be July 20 at 1:30pm at the Akron Regional Hospital Association. The mission of the group is to develop for the region a comprehensive, interoperable communications plan. David reviewed the definition and scope of interoperability and gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing various methods of interoperable communications that may be utilized. The next step is to conduct a comprehensive communications survey across the region. It will be sent to the EMA directors and participation in the survey was strongly encouraged in order to obtain an accurate assessment of the region's capabilities. Participation in the Communications workgroup was also encouraged.

David recommended reading "Interoperability: Stop Blaming the Radio" by Ronald Timmons, "Learning to Talk: Lessons of Non-Operability in Public Safety Communications Systems" and SafeCom's "Law Enforcement's Guide to Interoperability."

Mass Care/Sheltering

Don McDonald has been elected chair of the workgroup. He reported that the immediate goals of the group include bringing more partners to the table, especially the American Red Cross due to their expertise in sheltering. Other partners include United Way, Salvation Army and MRDD.

MRC

Kerry Kernen reported that every county in the region is represented in the workgroup and efforts have been focused on developing consistent training and registration across the region, and discussion regarding badging options, state input, recruiting efforts and background checks.

Vice Chair Reports

EMA

Walt Duzzny reported that the group will be inviting members of the health community to attend an EMA work session regarding NECO deliverables on July 18 at 9:30am; the location will be announced.

An encouragement letter will be coming out asking for IMT participation in TT, functional and all other types of exercises.

The group encourages all members with questions about any of the functional areas to contact their local EMA because EMA is involved on a daily basis with all of these functions, and doing so may help avoid duplication of efforts.

Public Health

David Nunley reported that the development of the regional public health website is underway. The Plan Review workgroup has been reviewing the 2003 Regional Plan and will be updating it with the assistance of the Planning Department of ODH.

Jeff Jones of ODH spoke about their efforts to meet with local health departments to assist with systematic plan development and developing a common format for health departments to utilize. They are also working on Planning and Risk Management standards for the PHI grant. EMA representatives expressed concerns about duplication of efforts and lack of coordination in planning; Mr. Jones responded that, although there would be no mandate from the state to do so, the LHDs would be encouraged to work closely with their local EMAs regarding plan development.

Hospitals

Chris Feller reported that the group is currently reviewing strategic planning for grant funding in FY07, much will be centered on HICS and NIMS implementation. A training calendar is being developed in conjunction with the University of Findlay. The Joint Commission will be issuing revised standards regarding emergency planning and those will need to be addressed in the future. Tier 2 planning and training is underway at the direction of ODH. Decon training and ventilator training continues. Regional purchases have been approved by the state; purchases include storage trailers, pediatric carts for emergency rooms, and satellite phones for the hospitals.

Law Enforcement

Mark Keeler from ODH reported that the state has received feedback about the need to focus more on the security component of the SNS. Efforts to bring law enforcement up to speed and educate them about the expectations from Public Health are underway. Discussions have been held at the federal and state level; the focus is now on bringing the message to a local level. Mark is hoping to use a regional approach to facilitate this, and also get the Buckeye Sheriff's Association and other high level law enforcement to support it as well.

Fire/EMS

John Sabo reported that the IMAC and EMAC rollout was held in April through Ohio EMA, implementing the standards for reimbursement. It is currently in process of being included in the state Fire Chief's Emergency Response Plan. Ultimately, the goal is that EMA will be notified at the same time any type of deployment is requested, which will help facilitate the reimbursement process.

All Hazards Assessment

Buck Adams suggested that the health departments work closely with their local EMAs on their required hazards analyses, since EMAs are required to conduct these assessments as well and combining efforts will strengthen the documents for each of the disciplines.

Exercise Design Team

Bruce Shade reported that the After-Action Report for the functional exercise on January 25 was completed and submitted. The biggest issues were communication and ICS, which has led to these topics being addressed in planning and training efforts. The remainder of this year is directed toward planning for next year's exercises.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Walker, seconded by Bruce Shade. Unanimous approval.