



Northeast Central Ohio Region 5
REGIONAL WORKGROUP MEETINGS
March 14, 2007

PIO

Present: Kristen Hildreth, Medina Co. HD; Susie Frew, Carroll Co. HD; Kristi Kato, Summit Co. HD; Dave Randall, Richland Co. HD; Ray Herbst, Ashland Co. HD; Bob Walker, Robinson Memorial Hospital; Christine Isenberg, Robinson Memorial Hospital; Dave Bentz, Portage Co. HD; Susan Varnes, Wayne Co. HD; Cindy Jakybick, MedCentral; Steve Bosso, Twinsburg/Ravenna Twp. Fire; Paulette Kline, Barberton HD; Kathy Coleman, Summit Co. HD

FACILITATOR: David Nunley

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- It was decided to merge the Public Health PIO group with the Steering PIO group and representatives will report back to their respective disciplines as needed.
- Kristen Hildreth will act as chair of the group and do the report-outs at the Steering Meeting.

Training for PIOs

- No set standards are in place for PIOs in any of the disciplines.
- There is a week-long, very intense, course available through the Fire Academy.
- There is an online course through FEMA – IS-702 which covers general public information systems.

Communication Systems

- Need to define what information/communication systems are out there (OPHAN, OPHCS, HAN, etc.)
- Hospitals need to be connected to the PH systems.
- Develop a summary sheet of the systems for the region, possibly do a Power Point presentation at the June 14 Steering meeting. David will look into it.

Regional JIC

- Clarification that the JIC is for routing all types of information, not just issuing press/media releases.
- JICs are typically physical sites located away from the EOC, but it's possible to do a virtual JIC as well.
- Concern about the size of the region and likelihood that participants would/could drive to a single location.
- Clarification that it's not necessary to have a representative from all 13 counties at the JIC; as long as the participants know how to work a JIC, it can be one representative for all hospitals in the region, one representative for all the public health agencies, etc.
- Need to define the regional JIC and stress to community partners that it is an information sharing network rather than a location that people have to drive to from all over the region. Also need to look at developing a process for determining who would take the lead and how information is disseminated from the JIC to the counties.
- Overall goal is to create a process for forming a common message, regardless of whether it's called a Joint Information Center, Joint Information System or something else.

- JIC training is available through the Fire Academy. It's a very intense, 7-hour, advanced PIO training course. Participants need to have the basic PIO course first. The Ohio State Patrol also does a training every year at ODOT. It's heavy on police and fire, but other disciplines are also involved.

ACTION ITEMS

- David will send out the Regional SOG to the group for review prior to the next meeting.
- For the next meeting, bring ideas for information sharing during an event (1-800 conference lines, conference bridging, free conferencing through ODH/OEMA, etc.), with an explanation of how they work, what the cost is, etc.
- If possible, group members are encouraged to take IS-702.

OTHER

- Christine has a brief template/guidebook which spells out PIO responsibilities and restrictions. Anyone who would like a copy can email her at cisenberg@rmh2.org.
- It was agreed that it would be very helpful to have county EMA directors at the table.
- The next meeting will be April 4, 2007 at 10:30 at the Akron Regional Hospital Association.