



Region II Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition

Executive Committee Minutes Thursday, February 22, 2007 / 8:00 AM 25 Meade St. Worcester, MA

In attendance: Kerry Clark, Ken Gikas, Trisha Parent, Cheryl Rawinski, Andrea Callanan, Sara Delisio, Howard Ziff, Chris Montiverdi, Lois Luniewicz, Walter DePaolo, Andrew Pelletier, Paul McNulty, Sandra Knipe, Roger Mallet

Absent: Karyn Card, Nancy Allen, Lenny Izzo, Jana Ferguson

Visitors: Derek Brindisi, Mike Sireci, EAW, Bob Bliss, Kathleen Gilmore, MDPH

- **Review & approve minutes of Combined Steering and Executive Committee, February 08, 2007:**
 - Lois: Changes on page 2 under regionalization, change to “Chris agrees”
 - Page 2: insert the word “funded” so statement reads “only mandated program funded by MDPH”.
 - *m/s/a with corrections*
- **Next Meetings: March 8, 2007 / 9:00 am / TBD**
March 22, 2007 / 9:30 am / Meade St., Worcester
 - Kerry is attempted to schedule the next combined meeting in Gardner. He was unable to arrange a meeting place there, so he will attempt to arrange a meeting location in Athol or Westminster.
- **Updates – Kerry Clark, Program Manager**
 - **Personnel:** Kerry introduced the newest consultant. Sara Delisio is from Millbury and has a background in Emergency Preparedness. Kerry also introduced Kathleen Gilmore who was in attendance. Kathleen is with MDPH and is temporarily filling in until MDPH finds Region 2 a replacement for Jane Anderson.
 - **Budget:** The city manager for Worcester has signed the amendment to accept the remaining 60% of the Pan Flu funding. A final budget outlining the remaining funds will be sent to Ray Richard along with amendment.

- **Deliverables:** The final draft for this year's grant deliverables was emailed to everyone by Jana. Copies were made and handed out to members of the Executive committee. Most members have not had the opportunity to review these items and will be discussed at the next meeting. Howard – proposed a formal letter be written to MDPH, Dr. Lisa Stone and Dr. Bigby to state that we should not be bound to the deadlines established in the deliverables due to the tardiness of the final deliverables and grant funding.
 - **Training:** Kerry reported that training in FEMA's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) is currently under revision. The online training must be completed before the classroom session and is scheduled to be available at the end of March. He will continue monitor it's availability.
 - Derek suggested investigative epidemiology training for local Boards of Health. Kathleen Gilmore stated that this training is available on the Local Public Health Institute of MA website. Kerry – please send out an email to the region regarding this training and the website address.
 - Paul asked Kerry to research a workshop on radiological training to include Geiger counter use. This training should be provided to all of Region 2.
 - Kerry received an email from Phil Leger of Athol requesting the committee authorize funds to attend the NEHA conference in Atlantic City, this June. The average cost per person will be approximately \$1400. Howard – Kerry, send out an email to the region asking how many people are interested in attending.
 - **Equipment:** Walter DePaolo is currently researching the cost of ICS vests for all EDS locations in Region 2. The new Equipment Survey will be finalized and sent to all 74 communities.
- **MA DPH Regional Coordinator Updates:** Jana was not in attendance; therefore, updates will be postponed until the next meeting.
 - **Host Agency Update and Regional MRC Updates:** Karyn Card was not in attendance. Kerry reported that she is attending the Statewide Task Force in Emergency Management on Populations with Special Needs.
 - **Mike Sireci and Cheryl Designore, Mass Teacher's Association:** Mr. Sireci presented to the Executive committee a Teacher's Pandemic video project which Kerry, Karyn and Derek are members of the Advisory Committee. The program is designed to educate teachers on pandemic planning and volunteer opportunities to include the MRC. Initially, the video project was designed to educate teachers within Worcester. The project has grown in order to provide education throughout the 74 communities within Region 2. A presentation and video was presented to the committee. Kathy Gilmore suggested that the video be kept generic so the content does not quickly become outdated. Andy would like to see more training

opportunities reaching out to the other communities. Howard is in favor of the project but would like to see no copyrights so everything is distributable and would like Mr. Sireci to re-cast the budget to address schools by districts. A vote was made to revise the school numbers and for this group to return with an updated proposal and costs associated with video production and training.

- **Public Health Public Information:** Derek introduced Bob Bliss who has recently retired from the City of Worcester. Mr. Bliss is offering his services to help promote Public Health initiatives throughout Region 2 by reaching out to local media. He has 32 years of experience in newspapers and government public relations and would like to assist the Coalition. Interest was expressed by the committee members and Mr. Bliss will develop a proposal/scope of work.
- **Strategic Planning Updates:**
 - The discussion regarding a Public Health nurse will be postponed for future meetings.
 - Kerry – Harold Cox contacted him regarding members from Region 2 interested in participating in a Regionalization Workgroup. Several members expressed interest; however, the committee voted to have Sandra Knipe represent Region 2 as the primary and Phil Leger as a secondary representative.
- **New / Old Business:**
 - At the beginning of the meeting, Paul McNulty requested that the Central Mass Disaster Animal Response Team be added to the agenda for the April Steering Committee. This will allow time for local Dog Officers the opportunity to attend the presentation.
 - Mr. McNulty also discussed the Homeland Security funding of \$95,000 to be spent on pandemic flu planning. The committee agreed that some money should be dedicated to ISCU planning.
 - Paul also stated that the plans for the Reverse 911 are moving forward. The program should be in service by the end of March and training will begin in April. Kerry also reported that he is working with John Schaffer regarding payment of increase training and coverage throughout Region 2 which the committee voted on at the last meeting.
 - Signages for EDSs were discussed. Kerry updated the committee that the state SNS/EDS Workgroup is in the process of finalizing signs that will be distributed to all the communities. They are using the Washington State model to develop these signs. Kerry will keep the committee posted on the progress of this project.
- **Adjourn:** *m/s/a*