

# **RMRS**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**September 23, 2005**  
**Lucas County Emergency Services Training Center**  
**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

### **I. Regional Partner Updates**

#### **a. RMRS**

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is the process in which governmental assets are requested and mobilized to assist during declared disasters. Chief Wolever commented on the need for the region and Ohio to create teams that are ready to assist. We are spending too much time trying to develop lists of volunteers.

Chief Wolever stated that once the Med Tac teams are developed that Ohio we be able to respond quickly. Chief Wolever asked for anyone interested in helping develop the Med Tac program to see him after the meeting or contact him directly.

#### **b. Public Health- Aaron Otis**

The public health governance committee is currently reviewing the draft copies of the communications and clinic plans and expects to have them completed by November, 2005.

The MRC training scheduled for October 7 at Defiance County Health Department has been canceled. We expect the training to be rescheduled for early November, 2005.

Vaccinations for volunteers-

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department will provide vaccinations for all public safety forces at no charge. At this time all non-governmental workers will be charged for their vaccinations.

#### **c. Hospital Update- Kathy Silvestri**

Hurricane Rita Update- HHS will be working directly with all governmental hospitals in the event forward movement of patients is required.

Kathy asked that hospital volunteer lists be maintained. Current recommendations for vaccinations are TB, Tetanus, and Hepatitis B.

Kathy also asked that all hospitals begin submitting their bed counts to the hospital council again.

Liability- Legislation has been written to provide liability for medical volunteers. This legislation only addresses response efforts for hurricane Katrina.

HHS stated that only two hospital medical volunteer teams were deployed during hurricane Katrina. It appears that this method was not efficient and took too much time to develop. Again this points to the need to develop regional Med Tac Teams that could quickly mobilize to assist during emergencies in Ohio.

## **II. Western Erie Biodefense Preparedness/Education Center**

Dr. Bisesi and Dr. Blumenthal outlined a concept to develop a biodefense preparedness/education center in Northwest Ohio through the Medical University of Ohio. The concept is to develop a system to increase the education, conduct research and provide services to the area in regards to biodefense. The core concept is to increase the laboratory support for the region. For further information please review the attached document titled "Plan for Western Erie Biodefense Preparedness/Education Center (WEBPEC).

## **III. RMRS Committee Updates**

### **a. Patient Care- Cheryl Herr**

Cheryl has developed an Altered Standards of Care to Respond to a Mass Casualty Event. She provided a copy of this document and requested for people to review the document and provide comments to her. Cheryl stated that this document comprehensive and community based. In addition it started the framework for triage.

A question was asked if this document could be used by EMS to triage. Dr. Lindstrom stated that EMS providers should already have similar triage protocols in place.

An electronic copy of the Altered Standards of Care to Respond to a Mass Casualty Event will be sent out to the region.

### **b. Communications- Mike Wurst**

The last meeting for committee was in Ottawa, Ohio. The group discussed the development of contact lists and notification procedures. A contact list is being developed which will contain discipline and county specific information.

It appears that health department radio frequencies have not been programmed into the Sheriff Departments Communication Vehicles. Hancock has received their communication vehicle and Lucas County expects the delivery of their communication vehicle shortly. Please, contact your county sheriff department to make sure that all of your health department radio frequencies are programmed into the vehicles.

The next meeting will be on October 14 in Seneca County at the Pioneer Mill located at 255 Riverside Dr.; Tiffin, Ohio. Please contact Mike Wurst if you would like to attend.

**c. Pharmaceutical- Bill Mueller**

The chempack containers are in place in the region. Antibiotics have been purchased and we are currently determining if there are any shortfalls. Still moving forward on setting up a vendor managed inventory. Need to address how the health care community fits in the health departments POD plans. Specifically, we need to determine if health care staff will be treated at the hospital or at a fixed POD location or a combination of both. Bill and Kathy will work together on determining how much antibiotics are available in the region.

**d. Training & Education- Art Matten**

The committee is proposing utilizing a website to maintain a list of current training needs. This is a volunteer system to determine the training needs of the first responders in the region. In addition this system should help determine the training levels of the first responders in the region.

**e. Policy and Procedure- Kelly Burkholder-Allen for Dr. Rega**

Dr. Rega has not received any comments about the Alternate Care Site white paper that he provided at the last meeting. The document is available on the HCNO website. Comments can be forwarded directly to Dr. Rega at [NDMSMD@aol.com](mailto:NDMSMD@aol.com).

**f. Mental Health- Dr. Lewton and Karen Duriat**

The committee has developed a draft plan. Once they complete the plan they will start to present the concept to the 18 county mental health boards.

The committee presented the trainings that they conduct with mental health workers. The training addresses how and where mental health fits in during disasters.

The committee stated the importance for mental health to be involved in all aspects of response and recovery. Examples, include mass fatalities, fires, and risk communication. In addition to being at the incident scene mental health should be at the emergency operations center to assist the response and recovery efforts.

**g. Veterinary Committee- Chief Locher spoke for Dr. Tate**

Committee had there first meeting in Wood County. About 16 counties from Northwest Ohio were present. The committee has developed several workgroups to address the specific needs of this project.

OEMA is very interested in this group and is looking at utilizing their plans to develop the state plan.

**h. Epidemiology Workgroup- Aaron Otis spoke for Mark Eckhart**

The epidemiology workgroup has revised there response plan and expect the plan to be approved by the public health governance committee in December, 2005. The workgroup will be inviting other disciplines to attend their meeting so that can begin to develop relationship and specific discipline education materials.

**i. Command and Control**

Chiefs Wolever and Locher developed “just-in-time” training for the 3 counties that participated in the regional exercise on Area Command. This concept is described in NIMS and worked well during the exercise. The training is available to other counties upon request.

**j. Mass Fatalities- No Report**

**k. Technical Advisory- Provided under II.**

**l. Safety and Security- No Report**

**m. Resource Management- No Report**

**IV. After Action Report 2005**

Copies of the AAR were passed out and signed for by the health department, hospital or emergency management agency representatives. The AAR was very positive on the abilities and responses of the health departments.

Comments from Wood County were to make sure there were less injects so more time could be spent on incident action plans and incident management systems.

Allen County was concerned with the parallel tracks that the EOC and Area Command were taken. Need to make sure that they are working together and not separately. Don't try to do four days into one exercise.

Fulton County stated that the strength of the exercise was having representation at both the EOC and the Health Department.

## **V. 2006 Regional Exercise**

- Northwest Ohio would like the exercise in April or May of 2006
- We should consider using the same exercise this will help us focus on other points of concerns.
- Dr. Harrington suggested that we want to look at Tularemia.
- Guidance from ODH should come in a month concerning if we can use the same template.
- Suggestion was made to start planning for the exercise now.
- Chief Locher stated he would get the planning group in place.
- A representative from each health department participating will remain on the exercise planning team.

## **VI. Med TAC**

The committee has written a mission statement. The group is now looking at how to build teams of medical volunteers. The concept is to deploy the team for 12 hours and then be back filled by other Medical Assistance Team. Anyone that is interested on working on this state committee please contact Chief Wolever.

## **VII. Shelf Life Extension Program (SLEP)**

### **Chemical-**

Funding is available for replacement of expired valium auto injectors. A PO is progress to replace the valium. The 2 PAM Chloride expires in 2006 and has been entered into SLEP. If the drugs do not meet the SLEP parameters, funding has been allocated for replacement of expired medications.

We expect to receive information from the MMRS national director on the SLEP concept.

### **Antibiotics-**

RMRS Cache expires this month. The cache has been entered into SLEP. Others who have entered Doxy into SLEP have received a 2 to 3 year shelf

life extension. Wood County Health Department sent Chief Wolever and Chief Locher a letter outlining concerning of using expired doxy. Once the medication has expired we are asking that you don't use the product. However, don't discard the doxy until we hear back from SLEP. Chief Locher is going to continue to look into Wood County's concerns about the use of expired doxy.