

Res. 03-03

RESOLUTION ON LOCAL PREPAREDNESS FOR BIOTERRORISM AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS AND EMERGENCIES

WHEREAS, present and future funding opportunities are available to upgrade state and local public health jurisdictions' preparedness for and response to bioterrorism, other outbreaks of infectious disease, and other public health threats and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the most effective strategy to control a disease outbreak caused by an act of bioterrorism is full and appropriate collaboration between thoroughly prepared local and state public health systems; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that local public health systems, collaborating with state public health systems, achieve preparedness in the following areas: preparedness planning and readiness assessment; surveillance and epidemiology capacity; laboratory capacity; electronic information and communication, including complete development of the Health Alert Network; risk communication and health information dissemination; and education and training of the public health workforce; and

WHEREAS, effective community preparedness requires integration of planning by traditional first responders, hospitals and other private health care providers with the public health system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supports continued and optimal funding to build local public health capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACCHO urges full collaboration between state and local public health agencies in statewide planning and funding allocation decisions for bioterrorism preparedness, with planning and funding that is sufficient for local public health agencies to achieve a level of preparedness that meets their needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACCHO supports appropriate assessment and evaluation of all planning efforts to assure that improvements to capacity are being achieved (e.g., Local/State Public Health Preparedness and Response Inventory); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACCHO advocates the development of systems to respond to bioterrorism that build upon systems used to respond to everyday outbreaks of disease; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACCHO urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to incorporate these requirements into guidance for state funding.

Proposed by NACCHO Bioterrorism Committee

Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors September 9, 2003

