Public Health Preparedness Updates

June 2012

Meetings and Conference Calls

Title: Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study (MIDAS) Meeting
Date: June 5–6, 2012
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann
Member Representative: Brandon Dean (LA County) and Paige Bordwine (New River Health District, VA)
Highlights: Jack facilitated a session at this National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored meeting which brought together academic representatives from the scientific modeling community with local and state health departments to explore future opportunities to introduce scientific modeling to the public health preparedness community. NIH is interested in advancing scientific modeling to address public health preparedness issues and would like to work directly with local and state health departments to identify how modeling can be beneficial to them. While many meeting participants were favorable of bringing these two communities together, the biggest challenge would be in how to translate the work each of these areas is engaged in order to look for the opportunities to work together. Many LHDs are unfamiliar with modeling technology and therefore, may not be aware of how models can assist with their planning/response activities. As a result of the session, NIH is interested in working with NACCHO to further local health department (LHD) understanding of modeling capabilities.

Title: What Presidential Policy Directive #8 (PPD #8) Means to County and City Public Health and Medical Practitioners Webinar
Date: June 6, 2012
Staff Representative: Tim Siemsen, Samantha Morgan
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Featured speakers Harry Mayer, PPD #8 Coordinator and Regional Emergency Coordinator/Field Supervisor for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and Christine Kosmos, Director, Division of State and Local Readiness at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provided an overview of the development of PPD #8 doctrine and described how the CDC Public Health Emergency Response (PHEP) and ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) capabilities contribute to community resilience. The webinar is archived at www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/webinars/webinar2PPD8/lib/playback.html. The webinar had 197 participants. Among those who responded to the webinar evaluation, 68 percent agreed that they will use information learned in the webinar to improve their professional practice.

Title: Homeland Security Policy Institute–Public Health and Emergency Management: Challenges and Opportunities
Date: June 7, 2012
Staff Representative: Stacy Hosler, Sara Rubin, Rachel Schulman, and Justin Snair
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Homeland Security Policy Institute's Preparedness, Response, and Resilience Task Force hosted a special event on Public Health and Emergency Management. Distinguished practitioners discussed challenges facing public health and emergency management, as well as efforts to synchronize policies and programs for these two disciplines. A task force report on the topic was released at the event. The report and a recorded webcast of the event are available at www.gwumc.edu/hspi/events/phem303.cfm.

Title: CDC Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLR) Meeting
Date: June 12, 2012
Staff Representative: Scott Fisher and Jack Herrmann
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: NACCHO met with the leadership of DSLR to provide a status update on NACCHO and the CDC's preparedness cooperative agreement proposals and activities, and to discuss how to coordinate all of NACCHO and CDC's joint preparedness initiatives to ensure the projects are aligned, and NACCHO's various project officers are informed of all projects and activities.

Title: Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Preparedness Think Tank
Date: June 12–13, 2012
Staff Representative: Scott Fisher and Jack Herrmann
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: The purpose of the Think Tank was to review PHAB's accreditation standards and measures, and to ensure that the standards and measures related to preparedness are consistent with other national based measures, including the CDC PHEP capabilities and Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) criteria. PHAB intends to use the input provided to inform the next iteration of its accreditation standards and measures. One recommendation posed by NACCHO was for PPHR recognition to serve as sufficient evidence for meeting the PHAB standards, and measured directly associated with preparedness. NACCHO and PHAB will explore this possibility.

Title: Health Occupation Students of America National Leadership Conference (NLC)
Date: June 19–22, 2012
Staff Representative: Debra Robinson, Tahlia Gousse, and Paul Decknick
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is a national career and technical student organization committed to preparing future healthcare professionals. Their national leadership conference (NLC) brought together some 7,000 secondary and post secondary students and advisors nationwide that represented their individual states and territories in dynamic general and business sessions, and a wide variety of competitive events related to the health industries. The conference features nationally known speakers, healthcare industry tours, and four days of testing, learning, and recognition. This year's conference was held in Lake Buena Vista, Florida at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Debra Robinson, Tahlia Gousse, and Paul Decknick staffed the expo booth, served as judges for the preliminary and final rounds of the Public Health Emergency Management competition, and served as presenters for an educational session entitled *Disaster Ready* which focused on individual preparedness in everyday environments. HOSA's NLC provides NACCHO with an invaluable opportunity to highlight NACCHO, the cooperative agreement with the Division of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, and its partnership with HOSA to students pursuing education and careers in the healthcare industries.

Title: Anti-Viral Dispensing Demonstration Drill
Date: June 22–24, 2012
Staff Representative: Sara Rubin and Tim Siemsen
Member Representatives: Michael Loehr (WA), Cynthia Morgan (UT), Amy Pine (CA), Matt Zahn (CA)
Highlights: Representatives from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), CDC, NACCHO, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Illinois Department of Health and the City of Chicago Department of Public Health participated in "Scripted Surge". The purpose of this drill was to demonstrate pharmacy actions against current plans and capabilities for a pandemic influenza response. The drill was intended to test the feasibility of using community pharmacies to dispense Federal antiviral assets. Walgreens provided the venue at a store located in Chicago's downtown. This was the second of two drills to assess the feasibility of the proposed dispensing system. The

previous drill focused on an independent pharmacy in Independence, MO, while this drill was conducted in a large, urban chain pharmacy.

Title: Ogilvy Social Media and Preparedness Event
Date: June 26, 2012
Staff Representative: Sara Rubin and Jo Ellen Warner
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: A distinguished panel of speakers both in-person and via a real-time Twitter discussion (#OgilvyX) included Jack Markell Governor of Delaware (@GovernorMarkell), Director, Lt. Cmdr. Chris Servello Navy Newsdesk U.S. Navy (@USNavy), Suzy DeFrancis Chief Public Affairs Officer American Red Cross (@RedCross), Jason Samenow Chief Meteorologist and Founder "Capital Weather Gang" Washington Post (@capitalweather), and Jim Cowen (Moderator) Senior Vice President Ogilvy Washington (@OgilvyDC). Social media has become a forum to engage the public, provide situational awareness, and allow organizations to provide better services during disasters. The Red Cross, in particular, can monitor several trends nationwide via social media and use the data to stay better engaged through their innovative DigiDoc, a platform to view/analyze this information within their emergency operations center (EOC). The panelists also spoke about the importance of integrating social media into all aspects of an organization and training employees with subject matter expertise, not just public affairs roles. All panelists stressed the importance of gaining trust of the public through social media, not over-hyping issues, and quickly dealing with misinformation/errors in a transparent manner.

Title: California 2012 Local Preparedness Training Workshop
Date: June 26–28, 2012
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann
Member Representative: Preparedness representatives from California's 57 LHDs
Highlights: Jack presented the keynote address for this annual workshop and focused on the national perspective for local public health preparedness over the next year. His presentation included the current status of federal preparedness funding, policy issues, and NACCHO preparedness projects. Many LHDs in attendance took the opportunity to share with Jack their successes and challenges in carrying out their preparedness responsibilities and activities.

Title: National Environmental Health Association Conference (NEHA)
Date: June 28–30, 2012
Staff Representative: David Dyjack and Laura Biesiadecki
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: The NEHA Annual Meeting is designed to train, educate, and advance people who have an interest or career in environmental health and protection. Emergency preparedness was a major thread throughout the conference including workshops and sessions dedicated to the connection between environmental health and emergency preparedness. Session topics included Functional Assessment Service Teams, Community-Based Participatory Research and Environmental Health Capacity for Preparedness, and CBRN response. NACCHO leadership met with representatives from federal government (i.e. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) Branch of CDC) and private corporations (i.e., Dunkin Donuts and 7-11) to examine model practices in food safety.

Title: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Intergovernmental Affairs Advisory Think Tank Conference Call
Date: June 28, 2012
Staff Representative: Tim Siemsen, Debra Robinson, and Sara Rubin
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: The FEMA Think Tank is a forum to engage the whole community, connect resources, and share best practices, and develop solutions to the challenges we face in emergency management. The focus of this month's call was Emergency Management, Healthcare, and Public Health: Increasing Coordination and Collaboration. Topics discussed include:

- Emergency Management Coordination, improving communication with the Healthcare and Public Health sectors;
- Medical Incident Support Teams (M-IST), a cutting edge best practice supporting State Emergency Management; and
- Tennessee Mental Health Response Plan- coordinated state, regional, and local mental health planning and response efforts for disasters of any type; and Tennessee Recovery Project – creative approaches to providing services to reduce stress and the impact of disasters on survivors.

Title: Food and Agriculture Sector Joint Quarterly Meeting
Date: June 12–14, 2012
Staff Representative: Paul Decknick
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: The Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) Food and Agriculture Sector held a joint quarterly meeting with Government Coordinating Council (GCC) and Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) to discuss ongoing challenges within Food/Ag critical infrastructure protection. Government and private sector members came together to break down barriers between the sectors and enhance collaboration and information among key stakeholders in the Food/Ag field.

Title: Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Social Marketing Competition Hotwash/After Action Report (AAR)
Date: June 29, 2012
Staff Representative: Debra Robinson and Paul Decknick
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: Representatives from the Divisions of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, NACCHO's MRC Project, and edVenture Partners held their final meeting to conduct a hotwash and after action report to close out the national competition. Students formed teams that represented their college, university, or technical school, to develop a comprehensive integrated marketing plan using traditional and new media that would target the Generation Y. Specific objectives included:

A. Identifying appropriate messaging, benefits, and incentives to promote MRC volunteer opportunities within the medical and public health professions; and
B. Develop an integrated marketing communications strategy that delivers an action plan to enlist and engage medical and public health professionals needed as volunteers to strengthen MRC units in communities throughout the U.S.

Third place went to the University of Findlay in Ohio. Finishing in second place was Missouri State University and the winner of the competition was Ball State University in Indiana. A total of 16 colleges, universities, and technical schools participated in the competition.

Public Health Preparedness Workgroup Updates

Public Health Preparedness Committee (PHPC)
Chair: Dave Cox; Staff: Jack Herrmann
The Preparedness Committee did not convene in June, but did participate in the June Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) call. The next scheduled Preparedness Committee call is scheduled for the last week of July.

Advanced Practice Centers Workgroup (APC)
Chair: Brian Johnson; Staff: Laura Biesiadecki
The APC workgroup did not convene in June. The next scheduled meeting is for the first week of July.

Medical Reserve Corps Workgroup (MRC)
Chair: Sandi Wiggins; Staff: Paul Decknick
The MRC Workgroup did not convene in June. The next scheduled meeting is for the last week in July.

Public Health and Emergency Management Workgroup (PH-EM)
Chair: Terence Hayes; Staff: Tim Siemsen
The PH-EM workgroup conference call took place June 28. Agenda items included PPD-8, the recently completed draft Department of Defense Guide and Toolkits for LHDs, resources that public health brings to a response, "Public Health and Emergency Management: Challenges and Opportunities," a George Washington University Report, and FEMA Pre-Disaster Emergency Declaration Requests. The workgroup will be scheduling a joint conference call with the Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup to begin discussion of a proposed Public Health Strike Team concept.

Pandemic Influenza Workgroup
Chair: Christine Brooks; Staff: Sara Rubin and Tim Siemsen
The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for July, with the date TBD.

Preparedness Outcomes and Measures Workgroup
Chair: Karen Smith; Staff: Samantha Morgan
The June conference call was canceled and will be rescheduled for July.

Project Public Health Ready Workgroup (PPHR)
Chair: Mark McDonnell; Staff: Resham Patel
In June, the PPHR Workgroup met briefly by conference call to welcome newly appointed members and review the work plan and group's focus areas. NACCHO PPHR staff provided an update on the spring review cycle, as well some background information on upcoming calls for feedback.

Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup (SNS)
Chair: Joshua Carlyle; Staff: Tim Siemsen
The June conference call was canceled. The next call is scheduled for July 9.

Ad Hoc Advisory Groups

Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)
Chair: Chris Hoff; Staff: Resham Patel and Samantha Morgan
The PPAG held a call on June 13, 2012, with one new member joining the advisory group. The advisory group currently has 41 members, including representatives from the four directly funded cities. The agenda included two presentations/discussions from federal partners. Katie Fox, Director of FEMA's National Preparedness Assessment Division gave a presentation on the National Preparedness Report. Additionally, David Marcozzi, Director of the National Healthcare Preparedness Programs at ASPR led a presentation and discussion on the 2012 Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities and building healthcare coalitions. Laura Hanen from NACCHO provided the group with an update on the FY 2013 Budget and Appropriations. During the remainder of the call members provided suggestions for future agenda items. The next call will be on July 9, 2012 during 3:00-4:30 PM, EDT.

Administrative Preparedness
Staff: Samantha Morgan and Scott Fisher
NACCHO, in collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health, developed a report titled *Health Department Barriers to the Administration of Emergency Preparedness Funds Granted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).* The final report was completed on May 31, 2012. ASTHO, NACCHO, CDC, and ASPR are in the process of determining next steps for the report which will include a webinar and recommendations for states and locals. These deliverables can be expected in September 2012.

Project Updates

Advanced Practice Centers (Staff: Laura Biesiadecki)
The Advanced Practice Centers (APCs) are in the process of transferring products to the NACCHO website in order to create a centralized repository of all APC products. Additionally, APC representatives hosted a booth at the National Environmental Health Association annual conference and are preparing to lead a pre-workshop session at NACCHO Annual in Los Angeles. The session will introduce a broad audience to PHEP capabilities and the resources available from the APCs to address the capabilities.

Antiviral Dispensing Project (Staff: Sara Rubin)
The Antiviral Dispensing (AVD) Project completed its second "scripted surge" drill on June 25, as noted above, to test the feasibility of using community pharmacies to dispense federal antiviral assets. The CDC, NACCHO, and ASTHO will compile a report that discusses the findings from both drills—the first took place in a small, independent pharmacy in Independence, Missouri, and the second at a Walgreens in downtown Chicago. Moving forward, the next main objective of the project involves determining how the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets should be divided under this new antiviral dispensing model between health departments and pharmacies. To that end, NACCHO, along with ASTHO, will engage several workgroups to explore this question and focus on unique populations that would be served by LHDs during a pandemic.

ASPR Project (Staff: Scott Fisher and Jack Herrmann)
NACCHO hosted the webinar, "What PPD #8 Means to County and City Public Health and Medical Practitioners," on June 6th. Participation in the webinar increased 47 percent compared to the first webinar, "ASPR 101," which occurred earlier this year. More information on this webinar is included in the meetings and conference calls section. The next webinar is scheduled for 1:00 PM, EDT on July 20, and will focus on volunteer management. NACCHO continues to identify contact information for the preparedness coordinator and sensitive contact in each LHD. As of late June, preparedness coordinators for 1,749 of the 2,565 LHDs have been identified nationwide.

Medical Reserve Corps Project (Staff: Debra Robinson)
The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Team has been working diligently to closeout all deliverables and activities from the PY2012 work plan. Currently, the MRC team is actively reviewing programs and processes related to the 2012-2013 Capacity Building Awards (CBA) and Training programs, while convening sub-working groups to develop process improvement plans for these projects.

Debra Robinson, Tahlia Gousse, and Paul Decknick also represented NACCHO and the MRC Project at the HOSA national leadership conference during June 19–22. The NACCHO booth was one of the most highly visited booths thanks to a modified version of the well known game "Operation". MRC Program Analyst Tahlia Gousse adapted the game to include a qualification round of a trivia question about NACCHO, the MRC, or HOSA, before the participants were able to attempt their fate at the game and a chance to win the grand prize. Robinson, Gousse, and Decknick also served as judges to the national Public Health Emergency Preparedness preliminary and final rounds in addition to presenting an educational session focused on individual preparedness in everyday environments. This was a highly successful strategy for messaging information about NACCHO, the MRC, and HOSA to secondary and post secondary students who wish to pursue careers in the medical and health industries.

Nurse Triage Line Project (Staff: Jo Ellen Warner)
The Nurse Triage Line (NTL) Project is moving from the conceptual to the design phase. On June 27, 2012, the CDC convened a meeting of the NTL partners, including Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), ASTHO, and NACCHO, and several representatives from the American Association of Poison Control Centers to lay plans for a demonstration project to test the ability of poison centers to handle unprecedented upsurges in call volumes in a severe flu pandemic. (The poison control center system would serve as the infrastructure for an integrated network of NTLs. The NTLs would provide information to the general public, and assess symptomatic callers and provide antivirals as appropriate.) The demonstration project will be followed by tabletop exercises with state and LHDs to test ways to connect and integrate the NTL/poison center system with public health departments. The demonstration and tabletops will be planned in 2012 and executed in 2013.

Planning is also underway to test the acceptability of the texting program, FluCare, with focus groups which is designed to support antiviral use. For those who enroll, FluCare would deliver a five-day course of interactive text messages including medication reminders and educational information about potential side effects and warning signs. Public health managers will also use FluCare to deliver emergency alerts. NACCHO submitted an abstract to present FluCare at the mHealth Summit in December 2012, along with CDC, ASTHO, and Voxiva, the technology company that has designed FluCare.

Project Public Health Ready (Staff: Scott Fisher)
In June, NACCHO Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) staff provided technical assistance to national reviewers as they evaluated additional information from spring PPHR applications. NACCHO worked with review teams to conduct final review calls, during which final scoring decisions were discussed and determined. NACCHO staff prepared recognition materials and the 21 spring 2012 applicants, as well as eight resubmission applications, will be notified of their recognition status in early July. PPHR staff also continues to provide technical assistance to LHDs implementing state-model PPHR, as well as those pursuing re-recognition independently. In addition, PPHR staff made substantial revisions to the layout and content of the project website and launched the new version. PPHR staff also provided feedback to NACCHO's accreditation team on a resource that highlights the direct linkages between PPHR and accreditation.

Public Health Preparedness Law Project (Staff: Scott Fisher)
NACCHO began targeted distribution of *Public Health and the Law: An Emergency Preparedness Training Kit*. This initial outreach is focused on encouraging the primary attorney in each state health department to schedule training for public

health practitioners, their legal counsel, and other partners in their jurisdiction. Widespread marketing of the kit will begin in the coming weeks.

Radiological and Nuclear Preparedness Project (Staff: Tim Siemsen)

One year after the "Bridging the Gaps: Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness" conference, NACCHO surveyed attendees to identify what activities took place since the conference and where health departments still see gaps in their radiation emergency readiness.

Survey responses indicate that:

- Bridging the Gaps had a positive impact on attendees' radiation emergency planning efforts. Attendees not only shared information from the conference with their staff and partners, but they also incorporated tools acquired during the conference into their planning. Three out of four survey respondents reported beginning or enhancing radiation emergency preparedness efforts since attending Bridging the Gaps.
- Respondents experience difficulties in prioritizing radiation emergency preparedness due to lack of time and funding, the existence of higher priority threats, and the perception that other agencies or organizations have the responsibility of leading or initiating planning efforts. These challenges lead to a lack of skilled staff designated to focus on radiation emergency preparedness.
- Respondents clearly indicated what tools would be most helpful to them and identified their preferred formats for receiving additional information. However, responses indicate that they lack awareness of existing tools and resources that they may be able to immediately implement to improve their radiation readiness.

These findings are considered in the context of broader national initiatives to improve both the nation's and the public health community's ability to respond to all hazards. Radiation emergencies are one of a multitude of threats that health departments are building the capabilities to effectively address. However, their continued progress may be hampered by significant funding cuts that lead to reductions in staffing and program capacity.

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) (Staff: Tim Siemsen)

NACCHO, in collaboration with Pritchett and Associates, workgroup members, and representatives of LHDs who have developed working relationships with Department of Defense installations, produced a *Local Health Department Guide to Collaboration with Department of Defense* and a *Closed POD toolkit for use in Collaboration with Department of Defense*.

The purpose of the guide is to provide information to LHDs so that the process of integrating Department of Defense assets into a public health preparedness response is better understood; thereby, facilitating development of support agreements for incidents requiring a mass dispensing or mass vaccination campaign. It will assist in providing information regarding various authorities for Defense support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), a discussion of the process used to request support in various situations, the military forces that could be provided in support, suggestions for points of contact, a short listing of common acronyms used by the military that may be helpful in discussions, and a sample memorandum of agreement or understanding that can be used as a basis for beginning discussions regarding closed points of dispensing.

The toolkit will provide local health departments with document templates for establishing Closed Points of Dispensing (Closed PODs) agreements with Department of Defense installations. The toolkit contains a Planning Guide, a sample memorandum of agreement, a checklist to ensure that all requirements are known in advance and accomplished, training materials including sample briefing materials and forms that will be necessary to train the staff on the military installation, and materials to conduct a tabletop and full-scale validation exercise. The intent for this toolkit is to develop the capacity building outcome of an increased capacity for responding to public health emergencies requiring a mass dispensing or mass vaccination campaign for local communities nationwide.

Government Affairs Update (Staff: Laura Hanen)

FY2013 Funding Update

On June 14, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the FY2013 Labor-HHS-Education bill (S.3295) that includes funding for state and local public health programs. CDC's Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response received $1.29 billion, same as FY2012. Within that total includes the following:

- State and Local Preparedness and Response Capability – $657 million, same as FY2012.
  - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreements - $642 million, same as FY2012. The Committee requires that CDC award no less than last year's level through the cooperative agreements with state and local public health departments.
  - Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness - $7.9 million, same as FY2012.
- Strategic National Stockpile—$503 million, $30 million decrease from FY2012.

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response received $945 million, an increase of $19 million over FY2012. Within that total includes the following:

- Hospital Preparedness— $325 million, a cut of $51 million from FY2012.
- Biomedical Advanced Research and Development— $465 million, an increase of $50 million over FY2012. Includes $20 million to establish the Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Strategic Investor Corporation to foster and accelerate the generation of novel MCMs and technologies.
- Medical Reserve Corps— $11.0 million, a $200,000 decrease from FY2012.

House Preparedness Hearing

On June 6, the House Homeland Security Committee held a hearing entitled "The National Preparedness Report: Assessing the State of Preparedness." The report, authored by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and required on annual basis by *Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness* (PPD-8), measures the nation's preparedness. Witnesses included officials from FEMA, the Government Accountability Office, National Fusion Centers Association, and American Public Health Association (APHA). Witnesses underscored the need for national cooperation between public and private sectors and federal and local governments, a collaboration that would necessitate adequate resources and staff. APHA Executive Director Georges Benjamin highlighted the lost jobs in state and LHDs and cuts to their preparedness programs. He noted that "far more significant sustained investments in public health need to occur if we are to prepare the nation's public health system to protect us from the leading causes of death, and prepare us for a rapid response to a range of public health emergencies, whether naturally occurring or the result of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack."

Future Activities/Meetings/Conferences/Workshops

NACCHO Annual (Los Angeles, CA)	July 11–13, 2012
IOM Meeting (Washington, DC)	July 17–18, 2012
Webinar on Volunteer Management	July 20, 2012