Meetings and Conference Calls

**Title:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Anthrax in Pregnant and Postpartum Women Meeting (Atlanta)  
**Date:** August 1–3, 2012  
**Staff Representative:** Jack Herrmann  
**Member Representative:** N/A  
**Highlights:** Representatives from state, local, and federal public health along with academia reviewed research findings related to the effects of anthrax exposure on pregnant and postpartum women. Additionally, data was presented on adverse effects from anthrax vaccine and other pharmacotherapies were reviewed. Provisional clinical guidelines for the treatment of anthrax in this population were also reviewed along with recommendations for how to raise the visibility of the final version of the guidance with invested stakeholders.

**Title:** Administrative Preparedness Briefing with Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)  
**Date:** August 6, 2012  
**Staff Representative:** Jack Herrmann, Scott Fisher, Samantha Morgan, and Jennifer Nieratko  
**Member Representative:** N/A  
**Highlights:** Representatives from NACCHO, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), CDC, and the Office of the ASPR provided a briefing on administrative preparedness to the ASPR. The briefing updated the ASPR on progress made over the last year related to administrative preparedness and identified near-term upcoming activities as well as potential gaps to be addressed in the long-term.

**Title:** Meeting with White House National Security Staff (NSS)  
**Date:** August 7, 2012  
**Staff Representative:** Jack Herrmann, Scott Fisher, Laura Biesiadecki, Debra Robinson, Tim Siemsen, Paul Decknick  
**Member Representative:** N/A  
**Highlights:** Representatives of NACCHO’s Preparedness senior staff met with White House National Security Staff to share each other’s priority areas. NACCHO staff reviewed their project portfolios and identified opportunities for future partnership with NSS.
Title: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Preparedness Symposium  
Date: August 7–8, 2012  
Staff Representative: Sara Rubin  
Member Representative: N/A  
Highlights: FEMA’s National Preparedness Symposium (NPS) served as a forum for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments along with private sector partners to build stakeholder relationships, enhance community resilience, share innovative solutions, and highlight lessons learned from implementing a whole community approach. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate offered opening remarks that highlighted the need to work as a team and build national capabilities, not merely jurisdictional capabilities, to demonstrate preparedness for issues of national significance. Breakout sessions included a wide range of emergency management topics such as: Presidential Policy Directive 8, FEMA’s Strategic Foresight Initiative, whole community approaches, cyber security, and general population sheltering to address access and functional needs.

Title: Department of Justice (DOJ)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Health and Human Services (HHS)  
Stakeholder’s Listening Session  
Date: August 10, 2012  
Staff Representative: Debra Robinson  
Member Representative: N/A  
Highlights: This “stakeholder listening session” was hosted by the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and HHS Office for Civil Rights. The session was designed to hear from those on the front line who face challenges for providing emergency planning and response services to vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. Three major lines of discussions were formulated around Issues Affecting Diverse Racial and Ethnic Groups, Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Populations.

The challenge posed to the group was to share examples of successful models that are being used in emergency management to address known gaps in services and resources that can help mitigate the impacts on already vulnerable populations which are even more disproportionately vulnerable after a disaster. The information garnered from the conversation was desired to help inform federal departments and agencies about ways existing dollars may be used to ensure the inclusion of historically excluded groups.

Title: ASTHO Antiviral Vaccine Administration (AVA) Meeting  
Date: August 20, 2012  
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann  
Member Representative: Steven Alles (Philadelphia), Erica Pan (Alameda County), Alonzo Plough (LA County), Shelly Schecther (Nassau County), Jane Shunney (Southern Nevada), Bob Zehentbauer (Columbiana Health District)  
Highlights: State, local, federal, private, and other stakeholders were brought together to review preliminary guidance for the distribution of AVA following a suspected/confirmed anthrax attack. Meeting organizers reviewed associated risks from anthrax exposure and vaccine administration as well as the findings from focus groups conducted with professionals and the public.
Title: National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)-ASTHO Joint Policy Work Group Meeting
Date: August 23, 2012
Staff Representative: Scott Fisher
Member Representative: N/A
Highlights: State representatives from NEMA and ASTHO were brought together to discuss issues related to the integration of emergency management and public health preparedness. In particular, the group discussed potential strategies for alignment between FEMA and CDC as it relates to the requirements to conduct hazard vulnerability assessments and a proposal submitted by NEMA to DHS calling for an emergency management comprehensive preparedness grants structure. Moving forward, it will be important to assess how states and locals are dealing with integration of the Threat Hazard Vulnerability Identification Assessment (THIRA) required by FEMA and the public health based hazard vulnerability assessments required as part of the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program.

Public Health Preparedness Workgroup Updates

Public Health Preparedness Committee (PHPC)
Chair: Dave Cox; Staff: Jack Herrmann and Resham Patel
Per the July Preparedness Committee decision, the PHPC participated in the August Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) conference call (see below).

Advanced Practice Centers Workgroup (APC)
Chair: Brian Johnson; Staff: Laura Biesiadecki
The Advanced Practice Centers workgroup did not convene in August.

Medical Reserve Corps Workgroup (MRC)
Chair: Bobbi Alcock; Staff: Paul Decknick
The MRC Workgroup met on August to discuss the management and communications processes for the Workgroup. The Workgroup will be utilizing NACCHO’s SharePoint platform to share information, edit tools and other products, and post discussion threads to address items in the new work plan. The MRC Workgroup will meet next on September 12th, via teleconference.

Pandemic Influenza Workgroup
Chair: Christine Brooks; Staff: Sara Rubin and Tim Siemsen
The Pandemic Influenza Workgroup met on Wednesday, August 15 to review their work plan and discuss the group’s direction for the year ahead. The group also reviewed and commented on a Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup policy statement that is up for review by the NACCHO Board this year. The current goals for 2012–2013 include:
- Enhance the quality of tools within the NACCHO Toolbox that relate to pandemic influenza.
- Identify and share best practices for pandemic influenza preparedness and planning at local health departments (LHDs).
- Strengthen NACCHO’s policy guidance to local, state, federal, and private partners regarding pandemic influenza.
Preparedness Outcomes and Measures Workgroup
Chair: Karen Smith; Staff: Samantha Morgan and Rachel Schulman
The Chair and Vice Chair of the workgroup held a conference call with NACCHO staff to finalize the 2012–2013 work plan based on feedback from workgroup members provided via email. Also discussed was the agenda for the workgroup’s next call, scheduled for Wednesday, September 19. Dale Rose from CDC and Cynthia Hansen from ASPR were invited to participate on the September call in order to discuss their agencies’ development and implementation of measures for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and PHEP cooperative agreements.
Workgroup goals for 2012–2013 are:
- Provide input and advice to CDC, ASPR, and national partners, through participation on the PHEP Workgroup and other initiatives, developing measures to assess LHD readiness to respond to emergencies.
- Assess progress toward implementation of the PHEP, HPP and other performance measures at the LHD level, provide recommendations for future direction.

Project Public Health Ready Workgroup (PPHR)
Chair: Mark McDonnell; Staff: Resham Patel
In August, the PPHR Workgroup met by conference call to discuss revisions to the PPHR criteria. Workgroup members provided written and verbal feedback on areas such as information sharing, legal and administrative authority, and reporting of exercises and real events. Earlier in the month, the Workgroup reviewed and approved the advisory group’s own work plan for the 2012–2013 year, reaffirming the group’s goal to provide leadership, guidance, and direction to NACCHO and its partners to maximize the effectiveness of PPHR’s products, programs, policies and procedures and contribute to ensuring that the needs of local public health preparedness efforts are addressed.

Public Health and Emergency Management Workgroup (PH-EM)
Chair: Terence Hayes; Staff: Tim Siemsen and Justin Snair
Work group goals for 2012–2013 are:
- Development of a guide and templates for local LHDs to use in demonstrating resources, both personnel and equipment, that public health brings to any all-hazards response.
- In collaborate with the NACCHO Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup, development of a concept for and materials related to a public health emergency response task force concept (mass dispensing, epidemiology, environmental health, incident management team, etc).
- Reviews of literature, reports, projects and exercise proposals and after action reports (AARs) as appropriate with recommendations whenever possible.
- Development long term strategies for greater integration of public health into all aspects of emergency management, including mutually beneficial training, procurement and funding opportunities.

Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup (SNS)
Chair: Joshua Carlyle; Staff: Tim Siemsen
The SNS Workgroup monthly conference call was canceled. The next call will be Monday, September 10. The SNS Workgroup has selected Melissa Marquis as vice-chair. Workgroup goals for 2012–2013 are:
- Review and update 2008 policy statement Stockpiling and Distribution of Antivirals for Pandemic Influenza. Policy statement was written before the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and will benefit from lessons learned.
- Development of task force concept (mass dispensing, epidemiology, environmental health, incident management team, etc) in collaboration with NACCHO’s Public Health-Emergency Management Workgroup.
- Work with SNS SharePoint representative to develop a new section for L-TAR documents and identify best practices nationally that can be highlighted in this section.
Ad Hoc Advisory Groups

Administrative Preparedness
Staff: Samantha Morgan and Scott Fisher
NACCHO continues to collaborate with ASPR, CDC, and ASTHO to address administrative preparedness issues. The four organizations briefed the HHS ASPR, Dr. Nicole Lurie, on August 6 to provide an update on progress made so far and to suggest future areas of collaboration. NACCHO is leading planning for a September 20 webinar focused on administrative preparedness.

Preparedness Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)
Chair: Chris Hoff; Staff: Resham Patel and Samantha Morgan
In August, the PPAG met by conference call to discuss a NACCHO policy statement regarding all-hazards preparedness. The group welcomed 5 new members, representing Hawaii, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, and Nevada. The group now includes representation from 42 states and the four directly funded cities. In addition, the Preparedness Committee, comprised of NACCHO’s preparedness advisory group chairs, also participates in PPAG activities. PPAG is still recruiting for 8 more states: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, New Mexico, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Project Updates

Advanced Practice Centers (APCs) (Staff: Laura Biesiadecki)
The Advanced Practice Centers team is preparing to conduct site visits as the eight APC sites close down in the month of September. Staff will be collecting information regarding the successes of the program over the past ten years, as well as suggestions for promulgating the APC products and model in the future. Additionally, the APC program is working to align the 109 existing products with the HPP capabilities.

Antiviral Dispensing Project (Staff: Sara Rubin)
The activities, meetings, and deliverables for the Antiviral Dispensing Project in the upcoming year are still in the preliminary planning phases. NACCHO and ASTHO staff will meet this week to begin developing the framework for regional meetings in spring 2013 that would offer local and state health officials the opportunity to learn more about the proposed distribution and dispensing method. Additionally, a priority for the Antiviral Ad Hoc Workgroup in September will be to better understand “access challenged” populations that may not be able to receive antiviral medication from a pharmacy during a pandemic. NACCHO and ASTHO jointly prepared three abstracts for the Public Health Preparedness Summit that (1) provides an update on this project as a whole, (2) shares findings from the scripted surge pharmacy drill in Chicago, and (3) offers strategies to build and sustain partnerships between pharmacies and public health departments.

ASPR Project (Staff: Scott Fisher and Jack Herrmann)
Planning continues for the September 20 webinar, “Managing Administrative Preparedness Burdens on State and Local Health Departments.” This will be the fourth in the series of ASPR webinars. Webinar registration is open at https://cc.readytalk.com/r/uof996j5vxd0. Work also continues on an issue brief exploring the impact of budget cuts on local public health preparedness. A draft of the issue brief, including information gathered from interviews with three local health officials, is currently being reviewed.
**Biosurveillance (Staff: Paul Decknick)**
NACCHO is currently collecting input from LHDs and other key biosurveillance stakeholders regarding the National Strategy for Biosurveillance. Some key areas of interest are how communities are using biosurveillance to enhance public health preparedness; key platforms or systems that have demonstrated success or posed challenges; and potential guidance for Federal partners on ways to enhance local biosurveillance efforts. There are also several abstracts and sessions being prepared for the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit surrounding critical issues in biosurveillance. For more information, please contact Paul Decknick at biosurveillance@naccho.org.

**Medical Reserve Corps Project (Staff: Debra Robinson)**
August kicked off the start of the new project year for the Medical Reserve Corps project staff. Planning for the upcoming Capacity Building Awards (CBAs) was finalized. The CBAs are a key funding source for local MRC units to build their unit’s capacity and improve community resiliency. The annual leadership training conferences are also undergoing a major revision this year. Dates, locations, and the program schedule are all in development at this time.

A meeting with members of the Nurse Triage Line Project, Medical Reserve Corps Project, Division of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps Program Office (DCVMRC) and the American Red Cross (ARC) to discuss possible infrastructure and support models. Discussions between the ARC and DCVMRC are also being renewed and regenerated to ensure sustainable and integrated operations during times of disaster.

**Nurse Triage Line Project (Staff: Jo Ellen Warner)**
It is envisioned that the U.S. Poison Control Center (PCC) System would provide the infrastructure for the Nurse Triage Line (NTL) model. The NTL Project has begun planning for a one-day (6 to 8 hours) simulation with one poison control center to assess how it could manage a surge of influenza-related calls while still managing its routine, day-to-day calls. This surge of calls will be simulated using actors who will be seeking information or who are ill or caring for someone who is ill. Planning to date has focused on laying the draft criteria to be used to select a PCC, and foreseeable issues with selecting a PCC or conducting the simulation exercise. ASTHO and NACCHO have jointly prepared and submitted an abstract for the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit to provide an update on the NTL project and the simulation outcomes and findings.

**Project Public Health Ready (Staff: Scott Fisher)**
In August, preparations began for the fall 2012 PPHR review, including recruiting national reviewers and updating training materials. PPHR staff continued to provide technical assistance to current applicants and LHDs who are seeking to implement the PPHR state-supported model. In addition, PPHR staff has been working with the PPHR Workgroup on finalizing the 2012 Criteria.

**Public Health Preparedness Law Project (Staff: Scott Fisher)**
No activity this period.

**Radiological and Nuclear Preparedness Project (Staff: Tim Siemsen)**
No activity this period.

**Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) (Staff: Tim Siemsen)**
The NACCHO Preparedness Team welcomed Sarah Keally as the Program Analyst responsible for the SNS project. Sarah’s first day of work was Monday, August 27. An abstract was submitted for the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit, reprising last year’s successful IGNITE session of six 5-minute presentations focused on local public health SNS activities.
Government Affairs Update (Staff: Laura Hanen)
Congress is in recess from August 6 to September 10. This fall, Congress will be making decisions about whether to let legislatively mandated cuts to federal spending take place, which will result in an approximate cut of 8% to public health funding. NACCHO is encouraging LHDs to communicate now with Members of Congress and their staff about the impact of these impending cuts on protecting the public’s health. NACCHO’s website has tips for reaching out to your Senators and Representatives as well as a new Online Advocacy Guide.

FY2013 federal funding for preparedness activities has yet to be determined. Congress has yet to complete any one of the 12 annual spending bills. NACCHO has compiled a chart of public health preparedness funding streams in the House and Senate draft bills. It is likely that when Congress returns in September, the House and Senate will pass a continuing resolution to fund the government through March of 2013, six months into the fiscal year.

Future Activities/Meetings/Conferences/Workshops
CDC Influenza Pandemic Functional Exercise (Atlanta, GA) September 10–14, 2012
Webinar on Administrative Preparedness September 20, 2012