Meetings and Conference Calls

**Title**: Domestic Preparedness Executive Briefing—Resilience: 2001 to 2011, and Beyond!  
**Date**: September 12, 2011  
**Staff Representative**: Tim Siemsen  
**Member Representative**: N/A  
**Highlights**: The purpose of this briefing was to discuss gaps uncovered in a recent Domestic Preparedness Survey. The survey of Domestic Preparedness Advisors and readers indicated that in terms of what has been accomplished, currently implemented, and still needs to be completed, some interesting gaps and synergies are apparent. While the majority of the survey group understands resilience, many have not incorporated resilience into their organizational plans; the reader group has considered training volunteers or forming teams of volunteers to assist in large-scale disasters, while the Advisory group had significant concerns about risk involved with volunteers; both groups agreed that not all individuals, families, and communities are as prepared as they should be and professionals who are responsible for making their organizations more resilient have not taken steps to be more resilient in their personal lives. Based on survey results, it was concluded that emergency planners, responders, and receivers are developing a clear and comprehensive understanding of resilience. However, there are still disconnects with priorities and needs within organizational structures at various levels of management. More needs to be accomplished to promote comprehensive public-private collaboration and partnerships to help all sectors and jurisdictions prepare more effectively for the next major event.

**Title**: Veterans Affairs (VA) Public Health Meeting  
**Date**: October 11, 2011  
**Staff Representative**: Jack Herrmann  
**Member Representative**: N/A  
**Highlights**: The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize the VA with the range of preparedness activities NACCHO is engaged in and potential opportunities for partnership. The VA also shared their preparedness activities and arrangements were made to share additional VA public health initiatives with other NACCHO staff during a future meeting.

**Title**: Hospital Incident Command System National Summit  
**Date**: October 11–12, 2011  
**Staff Representative**: Scott Fisher  
**Member Representative**: N/A  
**Highlights**: The purpose of the summit was to review the current use of the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) as an ICS for acute care facilities, discuss lessons learned from the use of HICS, and identify improvements that could be made to the HICS Guidebook. Representatives from public health and healthcare organizations made recommendations for modifications that will be incorporated into the next iteration of HICS, which will be released in June 2012.

**Title**: MRC Regions IX-X Training Summit  
**Date**: October 12–14, 2011
Staff Representative: Debra Robinson, Tim Siemsen
Member Representative: Various members

Highlights: MRC leaders from eight western states attended this three day training summit. Keynote speaker, Dr. Elaine Enarson, presented a workshop on “Women, Men and Gender in Disaster: Issues and Actions.” National MRC and NACCHO updates were presented. MRC volunteers who were deployed to the recent tornado devastation in Joplin, Missouri and during Hurricane Irene shared their experiences. Washington State MRC units discussed their support of clinics which provide medical services to low income, uninsured and underinsured individuals and families. The summit concluded with an exercise to identify key issues facing MRC units and methods to address those issues, including targeted media, messaging, and potential national spokespeople.

Title: Hospital Preparedness Program-Public Health Emergency Preparedness Performance Measurement Workgroup Meeting
Date: October 25–26, 2011
Staff Representative: Scott Fisher
Member Representative: Karen Smith, Joshua Carlyle

Highlights: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the HPP-PHEP grants alignment process and provide input on draft joint HPP-PHEP performance measures. Specifically, the group reviewed and provided feedback on those measures related to the surge management capabilities (i.e., Fatality Management, Volunteer Management, and Information Sharing/Medical Surge). CDC and ASPR will revise the draft performance measures based on the feedback provided and seek additional input from the HPP-PHEP Performance Measurement Workgroup.

Title: Institute of Medicine Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events
Date: October 19, 2011
Staff Representative: Jack Herrmann
Member Representative: J. Duchin (Seattle-King County), A. Plough (Los Angeles), B. Pritchett (District of Columbia)

Highlights: The Forum met for its quarterly meeting. Agenda items included: PAHPA Re-Authorization and Weapons of Mass Destruction Bill, Threat Assessment Briefing, WMD Center Report Card and IOM Prepositioning Medical Countermeasures, CDC’s Antiviral Distribution and Dispensing Strategy, and State and Local Health Care Resilience. Highlights from these sessions included the following information: There is no movement on the Senate’s PAHPA Re-authorization language. There continues to be bipartisan support, but specific details of the bill are yet to be released; the House has been working on the WMD bill and further information on the bill should be available late winter or early spring; the Forum was provided with a sensitive, but unclassified bioterrorism threat briefing. Members of the Forum suggested that such information would be useful on a routine basis and additional efforts should be made to provide such information to state and local public health officials. DHS/HHS representatives encouraged state/local public health officials to reach out to their State’s Fusion Center to receive such information; the Forum discussed the recently released WMD Center Report Card and the IOM report on prepositioning medical countermeasures. Please see http://www.wmdcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/bio-response-report-card-2011.pdf and http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Prepositioning-Antibiotics-for-Anthrax.aspx for these reports; the CDC presented its plans to address the potential use of nurse triage lines, poison control centers, and pharmacies as modalities to dispense antiviral medications in the event of a large scale influenza pandemic. Both ASTHO and NACCHO are working with the CDC on various components of this project; and state (KY, TX) and local public health officials (DC, Los Angeles) presented their efforts on enhancing health system resilience in their communities/states. Building partnerships/healthcare coalitions and pre-identifying gaps and challenges were central to ensuring resilience across the public health/healthcare sectors.

Title: Advanced Practice Centers CDC Meeting
Date: October 28, 2011
Staff Representative: Dana Cole, Jack Herrmann, and Dave Dy jack
Member Representative: Brian Johnson, Cindy Rieger

Highlights: Representatives from each of the APC sites, three Connector Sites, and the NACCHO APC staff attended a one-day series of meetings with several key staff members from various divisions and centers at CDC. This meeting was co-hosted by NACCHO and Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response. The goal was to raise awareness of APC and its successes among the various programs at CDC, and to open dialogue about how APC could enhance the work of these CDC programs. There were several excellent presentations from NACCHO and APC staff, and there was a strong positive response from the CDC community. Several ideas and suggestions came out about potential partnerships with APC and CDC. The next steps include a follow-up call with the APC sites and targeted follow-up with CDC staff.

Title: Community Health Resilience Workshop 2011
Date: October 25–26, 2011
Staff Representative: Tim Siemsen
Member Representative:

Highlights: Host by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of Health Affairs, the workshop was the first in a series to focus on identifying information that public health organizations require to better meet the needs of the communities they serve and increase community health resilience. Discussion included development of a local-to-national level framework for information sharing to enhance community health resilience to meet stakeholder goals, objectives, and outcomes. Challenges that can impede information sharing and situational awareness were identified and ways to address them were discussed. Development and maintenance of a repository of best practices, tools, and technologies to build and improve community health resilience information sharing and situational awareness were discussed. Follow-up conference calls and webinars will build on this initial meeting.

Public Health Preparedness Workgroup Updates

Public Health Preparedness Committee
Chair: Dave Cox; Staff: Jack Herrmann
The committee met via conference call. Agenda items included a review of the NACCHO-Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) scope of work, a Government Affairs Update, reports from the APC Workgroup, Metrics Workgroup, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Workgroup, Pan Flu Workgroup, Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Workgroup, and Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Project reports were also provided for APC, MRC, Antiviral Dispensing, PPHR, SNS, and Public Health Law.

Advanced Practice Centers Workgroup
Chair: Brian Johnson; Staff: Dana Cole
There has not been a workgroup meeting this month. However, Brian Johnson and Cindy Rieger attended the APC/CDC meeting in Atlanta on October 28, 2011. A workgroup call will be scheduled for mid-November to discuss the outcomes of this meeting and discuss potential sustainability strategies.

Medical Reserve Corps Workgroup
Chair: Sandi Wiggins; Staff: Paul Decknick
The MRC Workgroup met via teleconference on Wednesday, October 26 to discuss the implementation of the work plan. Sub-workgroups and sub-workgroup leads were identified for each of the three workgroup goals, and sub-workgroup leads were instructed to schedule ad hoc meetings as necessary to implement the objectives for their defined work area. The next MRC Workgroup call will occur Wednesday, November 30.

Public Health and Emergency Management Workgroup
Chair: Terence Hayes; Staff: Tim Siemsen and Jennifer Smock
The workgroup approved a revised mission statement, continued a discussion of a proposed Catastrophic Planning Checklist and discussed what resources public health brings to a response and how to create greater awareness of those resources within emergency management. A proposal to collaborate with the SNS Workgroup in developing a concept for ESF8 and/or public health incident management teams was approved.

Pandemic Influenza Workgroup
Chair: Christine Brooks; Staff: Carolyn McCoy
The workgroup met this month and discussed various aspects of the workplan moving forward. The workgroup will be moving ahead on the tool review of Pandemic Influenza Planning tools in the NACCHO Toolbox. The workgroup also discussed moving forward on using SharePoint as its main point for organization.

Preparedness Metrics Workgroup
Chair: Karen Smith; Staff: Samantha Morgan
The Metrics Workgroup held its first conference call with the new committee members. There was a discussion about the workgroup’s focus and work products which led to the proposed idea of developing measures for addressing countermeasure distribution at the “last mile” (at the LHD level). The chair, Karen Smith, stated she will be obtaining additional input from the PHEP Evaluation meeting in Atlanta (October 25 & 26) and the PHP Committee on the intended direction for this workgroup. Karen mentioned the development of a crosswalk for all metrics and performance measures relevant to PHEP.

Project Public Health Ready Workgroup
Chair: Mark McDonnell; Staff: Resham Patel
In October, the PPHR Workgroup met by conference call to discuss the five focus areas for the year: sustainability, consistency in reviews, alignment with other national initiatives, highlighting program benefits, and outreach to jurisdictions that are eligible for re-recognition. NACCHO PPHR staff shared the work on these topics to date, and the workgroup brainstormed and prioritized next steps for each.

Strategic National Stockpile Workgroup
Chair: Joshua Carlyle; Staff: Julie McMorrow
No updates this month. The workgroup decided to cancel the October meeting due to the Columbus Day holiday.

Project Updates

Advanced Practice Centers (Staff: Dana Cole)
Most of the APC focus this month was centered on the October 28 meeting at the CDC in Atlanta. All eight APC sites presented at this meeting. Additionally, NACCHO APC staff are working to get the year’s marketing plans underway, while several of the APC sites have been attending regional conferences promoting APC work. Recruitment for partners for this year’s Quality Improvement project has started.

Antiviral Dispensing Project (Staff: Amanda Kudis)
A joint report by ASTHO and NACCHO was circulated to NACCHO’s ad hoc Antiviral Dispensing Project Workgroup, NACCHO staff, and CDC representatives. Feedback on the draft of the report was collected, and a second iteration of the report should be circulated in early November. A conference call with the ad hoc workgroup was held on October 19 to discuss the draft report and pharmacy simulations are expected to occur in January 2012. On October 24, NACCHO, ASTHO, and CDC met with James Hodge (legal/policy consultant) to discuss the legal challenges experienced during H1N1 for antiviral distribution and dispensing, as well as any potential legal challenges if an alternative model were to be enacted.
Medical Reserve Corps Project (Staff: Debra Robinson)
NACCHO staff attended the MRC Region IX-X Training Summit in Seattle, during October 12–14. Planning has been ongoing for four additional MRC regional meetings which will occur during November in Denver; St. Louis; London, CT; and Washington, D.C. NACCHO is providing new capabilities and developing tools from video captured from Regional Meeting Training Sessions. Staff continues to collaborate with the DCV MRC Program Office on planning for the Medical Reserve Corps 10th Anniversary, with the official observance slated for July 2012. NACCHO is proposing a monthly calendar of MRC Anniversary related events and activities that can be adapted for use by local MRC units.

MRC Regional Coordinators are currently reviewing the Capacity Building Award (CBA) applications. CBA announcements are scheduled for release in December 2011. Applications for the CBAs have once again exceeded the funding levels available for the program. Work continues on developing the MRC Travel Scholarship applications for the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit (Anaheim, CA) and the 2012 Integrated Training Summit (Nashville, TN). Application packages for the DCVMRC Recognition Awards and 2012 State Special Project Awards (SSPA) are also in their preliminary planning stages.

Nurse Triage Line Project (Staff: Jo Ellen Warner)
The NACCHO Nurse Triage Line (NTL) Project is a joint effort with ASTHO, CDC, AHIP/health plans, American Association of Poison Control Centers, and professional medical associations (e.g., AAP, AAFP, ACOG, IDSA) to explore a new model for providing antiviral medications to symptomatic individuals during an influenza pandemic. The NTL model is being explored due to its potential to dramatically lessen the burden on local public health and health care resources in a flu emergency.

It is expected that the new model will be a collaborative effort of the public and private sectors—public health, health care providers, poison control centers, private insurers, and a cellular technology entity—to provide telephonic antiviral dispensing in a future pandemic. A core component of the model is the use of nurse triage lines to support home-management of illness by prescribing antiviral medications to symptomatic callers over the phone without requiring the caller to be seen in person by a prescriber.

On Friday, October 14, the Nurse Triage Line (NTL) Project Ad Hoc Workgroup met in person for the first time at NACCHO’s offices in Washington, DC. Lisa Koonin, Senior Advisor, CDC Influenza Coordination Unit and Lead for Pandemic Medical Countermeasures at the CDC Influenza Coordination Unit, attended along with project partners from Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) and ASTHO. Two more project partners participated by web conferencing-- Dr. Richard Dart, President, American Association of Poison Control Centers and Paul Meyer from Voxiva (a company that encourages healthy choices via mobile technologies).

The workgroup began its in-depth exploration of the feasibility and acceptability of using NTLs [state and/or regional] during a future pandemic as a means of improving access to antiviral prescriptions for ill persons during a pandemic. As the project continues, the workgroup will (1) identify outstanding policy, legal, medical and nursing practice issues (and possible resolution of issues); (2) explore if collaborative practice agreements with pharmacists can be utilized during a future pandemic; (3) public acceptability of NTLs; and (4) test “opt-in” mobile telephone texting to provide post-Rx info and query for side effects. Learn more about the NTL Project at www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pandemicinfluenzaprep/nursetriageline.cfm.

Additionally, NACCHO hosted the Nurse Triage Line Project Subject Matter Experts’ Presentation webinar on October 28. Gregory M. Bogdan, Ph.D., Research Director, Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center and Ruth Lynfield, MD, State Epidemiologist and Medical Director, Minnesota Department of Health presented their experiences with regional call
center models that enable nurse advice/triage lines, poison control centers, or other hotlines to provide public information and decision-support lines, as well as prescribe antiviral medications without requiring symptomatic callers to be seen by prescribers during a flu pandemic.

**ASPR Project (Staff: Scott Fisher and Jack Herrmann)**
NACCHO and ASTHO staff met to discuss joint project activities with the goal being to identify the barriers and challenges encountered by state and local health departments (LHDs) when attempting to accept, allocate, spend, and monitor federal funds during a disaster. NACCHO and ASTHO will develop a joint work plan for the project and seek input and guidance from CDC and ASPR.

**Project Public Health Ready (Staff: Scott Fisher)**
In October, PPHR staff provided technical assistance to reviewers participating in the fall 2011 national review. The fall review involves 52 applications from Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Virginia and 78 reviewers. The reviewers, state leads, and NACCHO staff will meet in New Orleans for the National Review Meeting on November 3–4, 2011. During this meeting, reviewers will have the opportunity to discuss the PPHR applications. PPHR staff continued to provide technical assistance LHDs implementing the PPHR State-Model in Arizona, Connecticut, Louisiana, Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Oregon. PPHR staff also continued to provide technical assistance to LHDs going through PPHR re-recognition in Connecticut, South Carolina, Idaho and Kentucky.

**Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers (Staff: Jack Herrmann)**
There has been no activity on this project as it awaits approval from the CDC.

**Public Health Preparedness Law Project (Staff: Scott Fisher)**
No update.

**Radiological and Nuclear Preparedness Project (Staff: Julie McMorrow)**
No update.

**Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) (Staff: Julie McMorrow)**
NACCHO staff is preparing for the upcoming webinar in November on the Institute of Medicine’s report on the prepositioning of antibiotics for anthrax. The webinar will explain different types of prepositioning strategies and the benefits, costs, and tradeoffs associated with each; and it will also explore how to use the decision-aiding framework to determine which prepositioning strategies, if any, would be appropriate for a particular community. The webinar will help attendees understand the committee’s recommendations for state, local, and tribal public health departments and consider the next steps for local public health officials.

**Government Affairs Update**
The federal government is currently being funded under a continuing resolution through November 18. The Senate Appropriations Committee has passed their FY2012 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill that includes funding for CDC preparedness and response activities as well as for the Department of Health and Human Services. The House has taken no action on their version of the bill only going so far as to put a copy of a bill up on the House Appropriations Committee website. The bill is intended to be a marker for negotiating with the Senate. Unfortunately, the House did not issue a Committee report to accompany the bill so many of the funding details are unknown. NACCHO has developed a funding chart that outlines the funding for preparedness activities in the two bills. Click here to view the chart.

There is likely to be some movement this fall to reauthorize of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act which expired on September 30, 2011. The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed their bill in July. After addressing
concerns with the cost of the bill, Energy and Commerce leaders hope to have the bill on the House floor before the end of the year. In the Senate, Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Bob Casey (D-PA), Mike Enzi (R-WY), and Tom Harkin (D-IA) have been working to draft legislation that has three themes: Accountability, Transparency, and Certainty. Senate staff are planning to share a draft bill early in November with stakeholders to get feedback and garner support for the bill. PAHPA reauthorization continues to be a top priority for NACCHO. It will require significant external pressure to get the bill passed in the Senate given other competing priorities and challenges.

New Announcements, Resources, and Tools
Webinar: The Institute of Medicine Report on Prepositioning of Antibiotics for Anthrax; Next Steps for Local Public Health will be held November 7, 2011. The official registration link for the upcoming webinar on the recent IOM report on prepositioning of antibiotics for anthrax is https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/showReg?udc=ybgo8ocppult.

Future Activities/Meetings/Conferences/Workshops
MRC Region VIII Conference (Denver, CO) November 2–4, 2011
MRC Region III Conference (Washington, DC) November 14–15, 2011
MRC Region I & II Conference (Lakeville, CT) – November 16–18, 2011
MRC Region V & VII Conference (St Louis, MO) November 29–December 2, 2011