

North Central Healthcare Coalition (NCHC)

December 5, 2013

Attendees: Mel Johnson, Nez Perce County Emergency Manager
Richard Broncheau, Nez Perce Tribe Emergency Management
Katy Quinn, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center
David Reynolds, Moscow Volunteer Ambulance
Don Gardner, Clearwater County Emergency Management
Sandy Rollins, Latah County Disaster Services
Molly Terhaar, Idaho County Deputy Clerk of Programs
Jerry Zumalt, Idaho County Disaster Management
Debi Ruppe, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
Jamie Johnson, Lewis County PIO
Dave Hasz, Lewis County Emergency Management
Travis Myklebust, Lewiston Fire Department
Garry DeJong, Lewiston Fire Department
Cheri Holthaus, St Mary's Hospital Community Relations Coordinator
Deb Snyder, American Red Cross
Les Eaves, Clearwater County Ambulance
Bill Spencer, Syringa Hospital and Ambulance
Tami Pearson, South Central Public Health
Larry Troxell, South Central Public Health
Dominic Pomponio, Life Flight Network
Alan Martinson, Latah County Disaster Services
Matt Dudley, Public Health - Idaho North Central District
Kayla Moehrle, Public Health – Idaho North Central District
Casey Schooley, Public Health - Idaho North Central District
Ryan Bender, Public Health - Idaho North Central District

Bill Spencer, Syringa Hospital and Ambulance

- Bill welcomed everyone.
- Roundtable introductions.

Updates:

Advisory Committee Update

- Proposed changes to the bylaws were reviewed:
 - 2-year term length for chair and vice-chair
 - Officers begin terms on calendar year
 - If an officer leaves their position, a new officer will be voted on at the next NCHC meeting
- Don Gardner moves to change bylaws as written
- Dave Hasz seconds
- Motion passes

North Central Information Network (NCIN)

- JIC/JIS exercise on January 22nd
- Still need evaluators for the functional exercise

EMS Taskforce

- Organizing a conference call in early 2014 to finalize a list of instructors in the region for training.
- Planning on requesting a training cache trailer from the Bureau of EMS in Boise that could be staged in our region.

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- Continuing to look into iLearn as an internet training program with a site administrator from the region overseeing progress by participants.

Personal Protection Equipment – Matt Dudley, Public Health Preparedness Program Manager

- Matt discussed the importance of developing emergency supply plans with vendors that could supply PPE on a priority basis.
- Using MOUs with vendors will assist in medical surge events.

Receiving Large-Scale Evacuation of Patients – Matt Dudley, Public Health Preparedness Program Manager

- Matt presented on preparing for a large influx of patients and how to distribute within the jurisdiction/region.
- Discussion ensued on the utilization of alternate care sites and protocols for the discharge of appropriate patients.

Evacuation Plans for Large-Scale Events – Matt Dudley, Public Health Preparedness Program Manager

- Healthcare organizations should develop their evacuation plans by considering alternate care sites and discussing protocols.
- Hospitals need to consider that EMS units will not always be available during a large-scale event. They need to consider other resources such as school buses for transportation purposes. Using an MOU with the local school district will help identify resources available during an evacuation.
- Use the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as a resource for broader needs. Hospitals should look over their plans to identify whether or not they have protocols in place for how to contact their EOC.

Patient Transport Processes during Evacuation – Open Forum

- The coalition discussed the region's options for transport during evacuations.
- The AmbuBus was discussed as an option for ASPR grant funding next year. AmbuBus is a bus stretcher conversion kit. Information on this product will be sent out to the coalition.
- National Guard has limited resources in the region and should not be relied on.
- Life Flight can transport two patients at a time during large-scale evacuations. Life Flight base locations include Lewiston, Pendleton, La Grande, and Sandpoint. There are other hospital-based air medical transport services in the area that could be used.
- Coordination is critical between all participating agencies.
- The activation of the County EOCs during evacuation will assist in the process by providing added resources.
- Long Term Care (LTC) facilities are an area of concern due to the large number of residents. LTCs should be included in plans and exercises.

I-84 Pendleton Bus Crash Mass Casualty Incident – Dominic Pomponio, Life Flight Regional Director

- A bus carrying an unidentified number of patients crashed down a steep embankment near Pendleton, Oregon, on December 30, 2012. The bus rolled down a hill 200 feet. Bus passengers were South Korean, creating a language barrier.

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- First call came in to Umatilla County 911 at 10:07 AM. CTUIR ambulance was first agency to be dispatched. They requested assistance from the Pendleton Fire Department. The Emergency Manager was notified at 10:40 AM and the EOC was requested to be open.
- Life Flight was contacted at 10:40 AM. Due to freezing fog they were unable to depart. At 10:50 AM, Life Flight 12 crew was activated to St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton. At 11:00 AM, Life Flight sent two fixed wing aircrafts to the scene.
- The Incident Command (IC) was staged on the highway. As responding units arrived to the scene, the IC began to get buried in the congestion making it difficult to find. New protocol stages ambulances away from the scene and called for patient pickup when ready.
- 39 patients were transported from the scene in 2 hours 38 minutes. Pain medications and IVs were administered while patients were still on the bus. All patients received collars and backboards. The bus to ambulance transfer took an average of 4 minutes 5 seconds. Transportation to the hospital was 20 minutes. There were 9 fatalities from the accident.
- 26 patients were transported to St. Anthony's Hospital. Patients were re-triaged by physicians, ER nurses, and paramedics. Miscommunication with Walla Walla General Hospital prevented the transfer of any patients to that location.
- Life Flight crew included five flight nurses and six flight paramedics. At St. Anthony's the crew provided assistance with triage, treatment, and arrangements for patient transfers. Due to a lack of cell phone signal inside the hospital, Life Flight has instituted a mandatory check-in every 15 minutes for updates.
- Challenges from the scene of the accident included:
 - Accountability of victims
 - Age ranged from 7 to 75
 - Bus Manifest: 1) No clear number of passengers. 2) Passengers switched buses at last stop without communicating it. 3) It was written in Korean.
- Radio Communication was an issue as the County was operating with a different frequency than responding mutual aid agencies. Cell phone service was also unavailable due to the terrain.
- There was no list of the resources neighboring agencies could provide. Walla Walla had ATVs that would have helped transport patients from the bus to the ambulances. St. Anthony was also unaware of the availability of neighboring hospitals.
- Life Flight is capable for transferring patients and resources with rapid turnaround time. They can also provide additional resources when requested.

Regional Updates

Clearwater County is adding a new feature to their website that provides maps that will assist with planning. You will be able to select images of maps that can provide emergency service lines, disaster zones, critical infrastructure, etc. The County now has reverse 911 notification capability, which will be used through phone, email, and text. It will be able to evacuate designated areas quickly.

Nez Perce Tribe: Nimiipuu Health is looking for a new executive director. The Tribe is also working on grants requirements and updating their all-hazards plan.

Nez Perce County is working on the January 22nd regional JIC/JIS functional exercise. They are also working on the same website design Clearwater County has instituted.

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Latah County CERT has participated in 12 public education events on Emergency Preparedness. They currently have five certified instructors. They are working on adding a CERT training in Lewiston.

Lewis County is currently rewriting their emergency operations plan. The County is working with Idaho County on a Fire ICS functional exercise. The County is also taking registrations for ICS 400 training – January 16-17th in Kamiah, Idaho.

Moscow Volunteer Ambulance is working on a full-scale exercise in April. It is based on a plane wreck on Moscow Mountain that involves 30 patients. Gritman Medical Center will also be involved in the exercise.

Safe and Well Website – Deb Snyder, Regional Director American Red Cross

- Safe and Well is a website through American Red Cross (ARC) that provides communication after a disaster.
- Through the website you can either list yourself or search for registrants.
- ARC will assist with registrations
- Register by phone, paper forms, or website.
- Types of Safe & Well Welfare Inquiries include; General Welfare Inquiries, Emergency Welfare Inquiries, and Family Reunification Requests.

Interoperable Communications – Don Gardner, Clearwater County Emergency Manager

- District Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB) best practices were completed on Tuesday. It is important to get these practices into every agencies possession.
- There are over 200 frequencies in our region being used. It would be great to start fresh with only five channels shared by everyone including one district wide channel that everyone can talk to. This can be accessed through the internet radio over IP. The DIGB is going to get a vendor in on it to look at total costs. The interoperable channel set aside in V-Call 10.
- A demonstration of the Simplex Repeater was provided. The Simplex can provide communication for both VHF and 2 meter frequencies. It also has the capability to repeat messages, record voicemail, provide announcements, and connect to the internet. Don demonstrated how to create a wireless footprint with up to a 5 mile area coverage.

Medical Reserve Corps – Ryan Bender, Public Health Preparedness Healthcare Liaison

- Advisory board had their 2nd meeting on November 13th. There are eight MRC members on the board that help with planning and recruiting.
- MRC nurses are currently assisting the University of Idaho's flu clinics open to students and faculty.
- The MRC has planned a medical sheltering exercise with American Red Cross (ARC) on December 17th at LCSC
- ARC is providing Disaster Services Overview and Psychological First Aid to MRC volunteers on January 11th at Public Health in Lewiston. Training with ARC will provide the volunteers an opportunity to obtain dual membership.

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- The MRC is looking at dates for CPR/First Aid training good for two years through the American Heart Association.
- Discussed impediments to the use of MRC volunteers during medical surge events. It was identified that credentialing and unfamiliarity of hospital plans are barriers for using volunteers. The idea of incorporating MRC volunteers into exercises will help improve the ability to involve them in during a disaster or medical surge event.

Essential Elements of Information – Katy Quinn, St. Joe’s Emergency Preparedness and Environment of Care Manager

- Provided a handout that allows agencies the ability to provide any essential information that they would be willing to share.
- EEIs help fill in gaps by providing information on resources needed.

Medical Surge TTX – Casey Schooley, Public Health Training and Exercise Coordinator

- Planning a tabletop regional medical surge exercise for April that involves a winter storm scenario.
- The exercise will address components of five HPP capabilities.
- COOP planning will be another key component addressed in the exercise. We will try to identify resource needs after the first three days.
- Looking for a representative from each hospital and one Emergency Manager to participate on the planning committee.

Election of New Officers:

- Mel nominates Katy Quinn – SJRMC for Chair of the NCHC
- Don seconds nomination
- Nomination Passes – Katy Quinn new NCHC Chair
- Dave Reynolds nominates Bill Spencer- Syringa EMS for Vice Chair of the NCHC
- Dave Hasz seconds nomination
- Nomination Passes – Bill Spencer new NCHC Vice Chair

Ryan will contact the Lewiston Police Training Center for a room reservation for the February 11th NCHC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

**NEXT MEETING OF THE
North Central Healthcare Coalition
Tuesday February 11th ~ 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**