

Region II Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition
MINUTES
COMBINED Executive & Steering Committee Meetings
Thursday, February 8, 2007

In attendance: Kerry Clark (PHEP), Karyn Card (Worcester), Paul McNulty (Westboro), Lois Luniewicz (Grafton), Nancy Allen (Shrewsbury), Cheryl Rawinski (Sutton), Chris Montiverdi (Leicester), Andy Pelletier (Auburn), Sandi Knipe (Hubbardston), Trisha Parent (Upton), Jana Ferguson (MDPH) Walt DePaolo (Bellingham), Barry Lein (PHEP), Lenny Izzo (Hopedale), Steve Saravara (PHEP), Phil Leger (Athol, Royalston, Petersham, New Salem) Sara Kanessvsky (MPHA), Kenneth Gikas (PHEP), Harold Cox (BU), Barbara Mard (West Boylston), Missy Kahela-Bottoms (Mendon), Dennis Costello (Boylston / Northboro), Ted Wysocki (Wales, Brimfield, Holland) Mike Graf (Bellingham / Millville), Bob Moore (Shrewsbury), Thomas Purcell (Webster, Dudley), Lee Jarvis (Spencer).

Absent: Roger Mallet (Orange), Howard Ziff (New Braintree)

Approval of Minutes:

* January 11, 2007 Minutes – *m/2 changes (Lois) /a* spelling - Frederico / Commissioner

- January 25, 2007 Minutes – *m/s/a*
- HOLD Steering Committee minutes until next meeting.

Next meetings:

Executive: February 22, 2007 at 8:00 AM / WORCESTER

Executive: March 8, 2007 at 9:00 AM / TBD - Gardner, Athol, Westminster

Steering: March 8, 2007 at 10:00 AM / TBD - Gardner, Athol, Westminster

Updates:

- **Personnel:** Personnel Committee has authorized Kerry to hire three full time consultants. He introduced two of the new consultants during the meeting; Ken Gikas and Andrea Callanan. Sara Delisio will attend the next Executive Committee meeting. Each consultant will be responsible for between 14 or so towns, makes for a more solid team. Kerry – in the process of finalizing contracts with the City of Worcester, which are to be more task/goal orientated. Will discuss this further with Personnel Committee. Kerry will unveil the new territory alignments at the next Executive Committee meeting..
- **Budget:** the FY 07 full BT funds have arrived along with the 40% of the Pan Flu funding. We also received the contract amendment for the 60% of the Pan Flu funding.
- **Deliverables:** Kerry submitted to Jana the Town of Orange's EDS and special populations plans.
- **Rendon Group Video Production:** Kerry has been in conversation with Worcester Public Schools regarding a video they would like see produced for the teachers and ultimately the students. Leg work has been done. This video would

be test piloted in Worcester School System and then can be used across the state. Budget is \$26,000. The Committee was interested in this proposal. Kerry will have these folks attend the February 22nd meeting to discuss further. Chris – contact MA DPH as they also are doing educational materials. Jana – everyone should be getting some of this for free, and it was done with the Rendon Group. Kathleen Gilmore, who is currently acting as the Health Educator for Region 2, will also be invited to the next Executive Committee meeting.

- **Equipment:** Kerry placed order to Dell to get new laptops for the new consultants. Kerry indicated that he has a new equipment survey and would like the Equipment Sub-Committee to look at after today's meeting. Lois – returning a printer to the Coalition and offering it to anyone who needs it (HP 4 in 1).
- **Host Agency Update:** Karyn indicated that the funding has come in as well as the amendment for the other 60% of the Pan Flu funding, waiting for City Manager's signature and then the package will be forwarded to Ray Richard.
- **Worcester Regional MRC Updates:** although the program continues to move forward, the lack of funding has made it difficult to get the template letters out. Walt discussed the numbers each town has for targeted medical professionals in each town as well as orientations to be held both in Worcester and out in Region II. Cheryl Rawinski has requested MRC staff to conduct an orientation at the end of March in Sutton. A Quabbin orientation will also be conducted at the end of this month. Walt is setting up orientations in the southern and northern portions of Region II.
- **Inter-Wise:** Scott Kenfield presented on how Region II can attend Coalition meetings without traveling utilizing Inter-Wise technology and laptops. The program provides unlimited data, video, and voice conferencing software and headsets, purchased by MA DPH. System supports broadband network. For those in Western MA it may slow down some. Next steps: sign up on the enrollment sheets, MA DPH will send an account set up, provide headsets. Scott.Kenfield@state.ma.us Scott also indicated that a new HHAN system is coming.
- **Regionalization Discussion:** Guest speaker Harold Cox who is the Assoc. Dean at Boston University School of Public Health, prior work in Cambridge as Public Health Director for ten years. Purpose: how to improve local public health services across the state via regionalization. Power point presentation and other attachment distributed. Board of Health (state, local boh and 700 contracted agencies). Discussed top ten items LBOH deals with, most noticeably missing is emergency preparedness. Chris – agree that regionalization is a good idea. Andy – some of us here have already in the Tobacco Coalition or share RN's. Harold – this is not a new concept but builds on it and allows for flexibility. Nancy – what is missing is standardization. I only have funds to pay the RN for TB investigations. Certification is also an issue – for the Health Department. Derek – I agree with Andy, Tobacco Control does work. It is the only mandated program by the state. With the funding, we could provide these services. Worcester, we could be a stand alone department but we want to expand. If we really want to expand the scope of services is Regionalization – preliminary discussions with UMass, much like Cambridge Health Alliance...many

contractors providing services that we should be able to provide with our logo on it. How do we get our arms around it? Regionalization is a great approach, funding is the main issue. Phil – we have small boards, you end up being on it by having your name on a ballot. We are always reacting, we don't have the ability to do the prevention work. Only when something happens does the public think about BOH. Tobacco Coalition works because it was funded. Otherwise, he would only follow up on a complaint. Harold – sustainability and dollars, major issues. Is this feasible? Valerie Daigle – the accessibility by the boards for the information and records – permits, letters, etc. that are sent out by the Region. Derek – we can start to form conceptual regionalization plans and go after the private funding out there that are willing and able to provide funding to expand public health services. Will take a lot of hard work on behalf of the Coalition. We may not get the money to provide an RN or inspector or get money from state to look at infant mortality, for example. Harold – what will the cluster look like? Pool inspectors for low volume activities – like pool or camp inspections. Andy – a major restriction is geographical issues. I don't need an epi on retainer, however it may be drastically needed in another community. The logic and feasibility are two different things. Phil – state should fund their mandates, district health officers. Harold – state health, local, contractors – it is important that we work collaboratively. Jana – will their ultimately be a recommendation? Harold – this is a voluntary model. We will encourage communities to come together as clusters and they determine the model that makes the most sense, just like the design and set up of the Region II PHEP Coalition. Phil – there are regional health offices where we do get services, like vaccination services. There is a model already there – we should look at it – those have been under funded.

- **Reverse 911 / Homeland Security Council:** Homeland Security Council has \$215,000 for this purpose (hosting costs, lines, maintenance, off-site back up). Can be used to alert residents where the HHAN is more for alerting emergency personnel. There are 14 cities and towns in Worcester County that already have it. If we combine our efforts, it will divide up costs per community. Alert based on geography or specific groups. System will be set up by 3/31/07 and to include one year of free call services. Sheriff's Office will be supporting \$40,000 (funding minute usage) and the Homeland Security is supporting the rest. Verizon will be providing numbers. Maintenance cost of licenses – approximately \$10,000 per year. Right now the system will use T1 lines (conventional) in the future we will use voice over integration which will be considerably cheaper. Two handouts were distributed (see attached). Phil – *motion to expand to 74 towns and whatever is necessary to handle the 74 town utilizing BT funding, \$17,100. m/s/a* (refer to handout items 1,2 ,9 and 10). Phil – down the road if something is missing, come back to us.
- **Ray Richard** – not able to attend.
- **New / Old Business:**

- Lee Jarvis requesting postage to do MRC mailings to include special populations. Jana – funding from this round can be used for postage. Jana – be aware there must be a mechanism to pay individuals towns. ***Phil – motion for up to \$15,000 for communities (first come, first serve) to be used from BT funds to pay for postage and printing to send out volunteer notices for EDS. m/s/a. Chris - motion to accept Lee Jarvis’ proposal for \$2,000. m/s/a***
 - Derek – showed EDS signage for Coalition consideration. Kerry will research costs. Derek – medical interpreters indicated that pictograms would not be helpful to other cultures. Verbage on the signs is more important vs. a picture. **Kerry will research other signs and sources for the region.**
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- **Adjourn: m/s/a**