



FY 2014-2015 Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)
Spring Healthcare Coalition Conference Minutes
Region 6
CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria
March 26, 2015
11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.



Participants: (x indicates present)

Hospitals			
X	Avoyelles Hospital: Mike Johnson		Riverside Hospital of LA
X	Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital: A. Hoskins, B. Deloach		Specialty of Winnfield
X	Bunkie General: Terry Riche		Tri Parish Rehabilitation Hospital
	Byrd Regional Hospital	X	Winn Parish Medical Center: Todd Teal
X	Central LA State: Kelly LaCroix	EMS	
	Central LA Surgical Hospital	X	LaSalle Parish Ambulance at Hardtner Medical Center: James Horn
X	Christus Dubuis Hospital: Dianne Strother	X	LaSalle Parish Ambulance Service District d/b/a LaSalle Parish Hospital: Daphne Montpelier
X	Christus St. Frances Cabrini: Mary Tarver		Med Express Ambulance Service
X	Compass Behavioral Hospital of Alexandria: Vanessa Graves	X	Miss-Lou Ambulance Service, Jim Graves
	Dept. of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center		Vidalia Fire & Rescue
X	Doctor's Hospital at Deer Creek: Brenda Willis, Paul Eaves	X	Acadian Ambulance Service: Jacob Andries, Dustin Ethridge (Region 6 EMS DRC)
X	Hardtner Medical: Melissa Wold, Laura Jones	X	BJACH EMS: Jessica Thomas, Henry Willrich
	Healthsouth Rehab of Alexandria		
X	LaSalle General Hospital: Brenda Smith		
	Leesville Rehab Hospital	Other Partners, Guests	
	Longleaf Hospital (Crossroads)	X	Office of Public Health - Region 6: Rebecca Beaman, Ronald Goudeau
	Oceans Behavioral of Alexandria:	X	GOHSEP: Teresa Basco
X	Promise Hospital of Miss-Lou: Kathy Prospere		
	Rapides Regional Medical Center: Kenny Sasser, Chuck Butterfield		
X	Riverland Medical Center: Billy Rucker, Sam Ellard, Wanda Durham		

Facilitators:

Mary Tarver, Region 6 Designated Regional Coordinator (DRC), Frances Arledge, LHA Research and Education Foundation/Hospital Preparedness Program

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Mary Tarver, Region 6's Hospital Designated Regional Coordinator (DRC), welcomed everyone to the meeting and began group introductions.

Regional Updates & Announcements

Ms. Tarver distributed a regional hospital contact list to the group and requested they review and let her know if anyone was missing or if there are errors in the list. The roll call sheets have been updated and will be sent to the group to share radio roll-call responsibility. During "non-hurricane" season, radio roll call will be held the first Monday of every month at 9:30 am. Starting in June, weekly radio roll-calls will be conducted on Mondays at 9:30 am. Lastly, Ms. Tarver mentioned the Needs Assessment Survey due date is March 31, 2015 and clarified a couple of questions from hospitals about questions on the survey.

Objectives, “Readiness” & 2014 in Review

Frances Arledge began with introducing the new name of the regional meetings hosted by LHA. The term Rounds is no longer used for the twice/year meetings conducted by the LHA HPP Grant Staff. These meetings are now referred to as Regional Healthcare Coalition Conferences. All hospital, EMS providers, and healthcare industry key players in emergency preparedness and response are invited to attend our regional conferences regardless of whether they directly accept grant funds. This helps continue building coalitions and foster a setting where ALL players are invited to bring ideas to the table and understand the planning functions of the ESF-8 Network.

The meetings objectives are to 1) Provide an overview of ESF-8 activities in the calendar year 2014 at both State and Regional levels, 2) Discuss Healthcare Readiness in Louisiana in the context of an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness, and 3) Review information and timelines for the current grant year and for future funding opportunities. Concluding the calendar year 2014, the fear of Ebola presenting unexpectedly in communities and hospitals in particular caused much anxiety. State healthcare leaders across the country were hearing a common message from our hospital and healthcare provider communities that their systems were not ready to safely identify and effectively treat an Ebola patient.

Hospital Readiness

Hospitals define readiness by knowing the risks to their organizations, having the plans to mitigate and respond to those risks, and having the resources to support the plans. There are also regulatory components to readiness as they relate to The Joint Commission accreditation and soon the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed conditions of participation as they relate to hospital compliance for reimbursement. The CMS final rule on conditions of participation are expected to come out by the end of the 2015 calendar year. The requirements look very familiar including the emphasis on all-hazards planning, addressing key elements in planning, testing plans and conducting training exercises, and an expectation for collaboration and effective communication.

The HPP Grant has its own requirements for “readiness” as deliverables of the program. The Capability Planning Guidelines (CPGs) were reviewed. A discussion was held about how these CPGs are broken down into measurable levels of preparedness at the State level, the Regional/Coalition level, all the way down to the Hospitals and EMS provider levels. Through these defined CPGs and accompanying activities, hospitals and EMS providers are able to meet many of the regulatory compliance requirements by participating in Regional and State level exercises and planning activities. Louisiana has been nationally recognized by multiple sources as having a well-defined ESF-8 structure that supports the health and medical systems planning and response functions.

All Hazards Preparedness

This is a systematic approach to identify hazards/threats to an organization in order to evaluate the risk level and prioritize planning and mitigation efforts. Hospitals are not the only entities to use this method in approaching emergency preparedness. In our state, Public Health uses a Jurisdictional Risk Assessment (JRA) and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security uses the THIRA tool to assess risks in various regions. The HVA can be considered a “starting-point” to drive planning efforts and ensure their effectiveness. A routine risk assessment is also a regulatory requirement for the Joint Commission and CMS’s proposed conditions of participation. The ESF-8 Network has a new HVA tool that can be accessed through the ESF-8 Portal to assist hospitals in developing a facility specific HVA. The tool was designed with input from the Designated Regional Coordinators along with some of the front-line hospitals in order to capture necessary components of an HVA using a consistent rating scale that is user friendly. The new tool will allow for Regional and State level analysis to be used in planning. A review of common threats ranked by the 2013 HVA analysis – includes the percentage of hospitals who scored severe weather, mass casualty incidents, and epidemics as top threats. The group was asked to think about how the scores for these threats may change year-to-year based on the most current events experienced. This is why it’s important to give serious consideration when conducting the HVA based on actual events experienced by a facility, frequency, as well as the anticipated community reaction.

The concept of Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) was introduced to the coalitions in 2014. Most hospitals include the various elements of COOP in their standard Emergency Operations Plan. A slide was presented showing a diagram of where COOP falls in a disaster timeline – right after the initial response but right before the short term recovery. While it is important for hospitals to continue to develop, maintain, and test the various components of COOP

at the facility level, it is a priority for our coalition leaders to develop Regional COOPs. The key components of COOP are effectively assessing risks, determining what is “mission essential” and identifying leadership and decision authority. The state already has a COOP plan that focuses on ensuring the ongoing viability of the ESF-8 Network in community-wide events, supports the ESF8 network with a virtual structure, and supports coalition members to begin recovery efforts for their organization. The Regional COOPs should support the State COOP and should be used by coalition members as a reference for facility based COOP efforts. The DRC will review the components of the Regional COOP, where it can be accessed, and how it applies to individual facilities and EMS providers once its final draft is published.

Resource Assessments

The Hospital Preparedness Program helps to fund the various State and Regional Response Resources. They are broken down by the systems, plans, tools, and materials. The group was presented with thorough examples of what falls into each of these categories. An overview of the resources at the facility level was provided to the group based on the previous grant year’s Needs Assessment Survey data in the categories of pharmaceuticals and PPE. A flow chart of the resource request process was reviewed with emphasis on the importance of the DRC role in assisting hospitals with requesting resources when they are unable to resolve issues within their facility or system as written in plans.

What’s next in Hospital Readiness: Future HPP and Ebola funding?

A slide with pre-identified state priorities for the future of funding hospital readiness was presented. A sample survey was taken from some of the designated regional hospital representatives and hospital preparedness program board members outlining the priorities of the program under the constraints of reduced federal funding. The group ranked the following; 1) ESF-8 Infrastructure – DRCs, 2) ESF-8 Information Systems, 3) Training/Education, and 4) Develop/Maintain PPE and Pharmaceuticals. The group expressed a level of agreement with this ranking despite the recent Ebola scare which might influence and alter the priorities.

HPP Grant funding opportunity for the FY 2015-2016 grant has been published and the state will experience a slight reduction, by about 4% from the FY 2014-2015 grant. The state DHH leadership is in the midst of researching options for distributing the Ebola funds, Part B to the hospitals across our state. Currently no facility has stepped forward and identified as being an Ebola Assessment Hospital. The group was briefed on the Part “A” funds and the regional treatment center for our region, FEMA Region 6.

Announcements

Hurricane Season 2015 To Do’s: Review and update facility contact information in the ESF-8 Portal, assess plans and resources, and participate in the state-wide bed during the MIEP exercise the week of April 14-18, 2015 (Slide #58). More information to come on the bed poll reporting requirements.

HPP Grant, Phase 2 Submitting Documentation for Reimbursement: Same process as last year. The first deadline for early reimbursement is March 31, 2015 and the final deadline is May 29, 2015. Must provide copies, show proof of payment, and include a 10% match as defined in the Participation Agreements (Slides #59-61). A Grant Summary Worksheet as well as the Needs Assessment Certificate of Completion must be submitted in the Grant Management System as well. All documentation, links, and user tools can be found on the new LHA-Research and Education Foundation website on the Emergency Preparedness page.

Facility and EMS Site Visits: Are to be conducted by the DRC for Hospitals and by BEMS for EMS. You should have already received notification from the HPP Grant office if you are due for a site visit this year. Your DRC or Liz with BEMS will be contacting you to schedule these visits. See the handouts provided for details of what to expect (Slide #62).

Needs Assessment Survey Deadline: March 31, 2015 all HPP grant fund recipients must complete a Needs Assessment Survey for their hospital or EMS provider. This is a requirement of HPP Grant participation. The Certificate of Completion should be saved with your grant documentation and uploaded into the Grant Management System along with your reimbursement documentation. All hospitals and EMS providers who do not accept grant funds are still strongly encouraged to complete the survey as it helps with Regional and State planning.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 1:30 PM.