Region H Coalition Meeting Minutes

In person May 16, 2024

**Megan Craft welcomed everyone to the meeting. Did housekeeping and run down for the day.**

**Everyone introduced themselves.**

**State and Partner Updates:**

**EMA:** Bill Laird- Coming up on the end of the cycle. Check dates of all plans to get signed off on. EMPG is in the works. Area 3 is still looking for candidates to replace Colin Hopf. Chuck and Kerry are filling his shoes right now, if you need anything please reach out to them or call your local EMA to get in touch with them.

Waynes Place in Baldwin County- Emergency Management Are 3 meeting May 23rd 10:00A. 1095 Orchard Hill Rd. Milledgeville, GA 31061 (953 Barrells Ferry Rd. Milledgeville, GA 31061)

**EMS:** No report today.

**DPH:** Jennifer Stokes- State meeting last week mentioned the bird flu. We have only had 2 human cases in the whole country (still hasn’t changed). The CDC is being proactive about it, and they have activated the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Because SNS has been activated states have to request something from the SNS- State level is looking at PPE, whatever we need to handle an avian flu response. A lot of our counties have Chicken or dairy farms, so we are looking at PPE for those workers if this is something that hits our area. Just be aware and stay mindful. The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency on this. All guidance will come down from them if something else happens.

District public health is hosting a training on May 30th for shelter training. We haven’t had to do shelters in several years, but we will do training to prepare. Preparing for Drive Thru Flu exercises in Bleckley and Johnson counties that will be in the fall this year. If you want to participate or observe, please let us know.

Several of our counties were hit with tornadoes last week. We have tornado shelters at all our county health departments and 3 were used last week during the tornadoes. We did have damage to our Montgomery County Health Department.

We are hosting a Lithium-Ion Battery Training for First Responders on June 11 at City Hall. Starts at 9:00 for First Responders and public training starts at 1:00. Jared has flyers for this if you need one. Please sign up on TRS if you want to attend and receive credit.

**EPI:** Jill Bracewell- Seeing a lot in the news avian flu (bird flu), because it is so high on the CDC radar. But for the general public and healthcare facilities it is low. Poultry industries or cattle or dairy, have been following 9,000 close contacts and out of all of those close contacts only 2 were reported and NONE in Georgia. No positive cattle herds in Georgia.

Measles outbreaks are also in the news, because we have a younger population who haven’t been vaccinated. The current outbreak started with a teenager who went on an international trip- on going outbreak and Georgia is one of the states.

We only have one facility in COVID outbreak right now.

Flu index on a scale of 1-13 for Georgia is 1 right now so that is great to start the summer.

**Hospital:** None.

**GPFL:** Lynn Grant on behalf of Whitney Smith- We had 1 person become certified and 5 currently working towards it. Whitney has purchased books for training. More conferences and classes by APIC online. If you are from IP and not receiving emails please let Lynn know today so we can get you added to the list.

**LTC:** None

**State Partners:** Lakieva- MRC meeting was yesterday. Grant Georgia received was 2.1 million dollars to strengthen our volunteers and MRC teams to help. Not an existing unit in this area but there can be. Kieva sent out an email yesterday with all details on what MRC is if your facility is looking for help and volunteers. ServGA.gov is a great resource for volunteers as well.

Frank Daniell: TRC announcements, Hospital first receiver DECON training will be hosting the annual train the trainer course June 12-14 at CHOAA in Atlanta in their new ED. If your facility needs someone to be the trainer for DECON please have them sign up to attend on the TRS website.

EMAG: Record attendance, over 1,100 people from all over the country. A record number of abstracts submitted as well. It was a great conference. Next year’s EMAG Conference is April 8-10, 2025 in Jekyll Island, GA at the conference center.

If you are a hospital, on June 1 (first day of hurricane season). We will be launching a brand new board on WEBEOC- the healthcare operating status board. This will give hospitals the ability to update their status in regards to physical infrastructure. This will let the state know if we need to facilitate with Georgia Power or other providers to make for a quicker recovery. Out of 165 hospitals we had 155 responses to update emergency management contacts. 3 different training days on May 29, 30 and 31 will be training on the board- you only have to attend one day.

If you have a login to WebEOC- the first time a person logs in after June 1 they will be required to update their password. For Facilities that have shared facility logins, the first person that uses will have to update their password then share with the other people in your facility. If you have an individual log in just change it for yourself.

**GHA**: Seliyah Williams- If you have any issues with Everbridge or GHC911 or WebEOC please let her know.

**NWS Hurricane Season Update:** Dave Nadler from NWS reported for Hurricane Season. Slides are available on GHC911.

**EMAG Report outs:** Michelle Bryan- Multiverse exercise was the best, got you out of your comfort zone and changing roles, fun and interactive. Family Preparedness class was a little over the top but did help you get your family prepared, we can’t expect our staff to help in an emergency if our family isn’t prepared and safe.

Bill Laird- A lot of great training opportunities that are not available anywhere else. Also attended the Hurricane Conference for Region H. Multiverse was great and we had more participants in two sessions than we ever have.

Megan- Multiverse was the best, Lynn and Kristal did a great job. This course can be hosted at your own facility and in your county as well! It can be formed to be fitted to what your facility needs.

Kieva- a lot of standing room only sessions. Great networking and planning with other.

**Lunch was catered by Your Pie.**

**Megan ended with Coalition updates**:Megan Craft updated everyone on the budget year. This is the last year of the 5 year grant cycle, the focus was Chemical. All funds have been spent on carryover and current budget that needed to be spent by the end of the year (June 30). We still do not have guidance for the next 5 years as of today. We are hoping our grant guidance will be here soon but we have nothing to update you on as of now. We do know a few key areas that have been told to us that will be our focus is- Extended Downtime, Cyber Security, Patient Placement, Mental Health, Healthcare Workforce and more. The MRSE and Communication Drills will still be annual requirements.

Burn Kits are still available for pick up for any EMS partners that did not receive them, all hospitals have received. IV fluid warmer adapters were available for pick up as well. Emergency Lighting Kits for SNFs are also still available for pickup for those facilities that did not pick them up.

All PAPRS and DECON go Kits were ordered and are in our storage for all Hospital partners to pick up. EMS some kits are available for you as well! Please set up a time with me to pick up. The two hospitals left to pick up are Dodge and Washington.

All trainings and upcoming meetings are provided on PowerPoint. Megan shared updated contact information for the Executive Committee and new EMA partners.

**Next Coalition Meeting is August 22, 2024 at OFTC.**