

Minutes of the Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness, December 11, 2007

<p>Mission Statement: The Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness will provide guidance and oversight to the planning and implementation of the public health, hospital and pre-hospital emergency preparedness programs. Members will work to ensure the engagement of local health departments and hospitals, EMS and their key partners in the program and will facilitate the integration of public health and hospital preparedness programs with other emergency preparedness efforts statewide.</p>	
<p>Members can access the minutes of the Public Health Council and its committees at http://publichealthcouncil.dhfs.wi.gov ⇒ indicates a follow-up action that needs to be taken</p>	
Agenda Item	Discussion
Weather	Several members were not able to participate due to the weather. The Committee agreed to close the meeting at Noon due to the weather.
Review of Minutes of 9/11/07	Minutes were approved as written.
PHC Update	<p>Terri Kramolis provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Council has drafted a proposal to increase GPR funding for state and local public health departments by requesting that a portion of the tobacco tax be allocated for this purpose. Wisconsin is a state with minimal GPR funding for public health. ➤ Dr Samadani requested that this committee move its meetings so that it meets prior to the full Council. If this is approved, the committee could then meet on the Thursdays prior to the Council meeting in the months of February, June and October. ➤ The Resolution on Emergency Preparedness was approved by the Council and forwarded to the Secretary. The status of this resolution is not known. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Dennis Tomczyk will follow-up with Sheri Johnson on the status of this Resolution.
Pandemic Influenza	<p>Lisa Pentony, the State Pandemic Influenza Coordinator, updated the Committee on pandemic preparedness. Key projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The establishment of triggers, based on the various World Health Organization levels of alert. The state will identify what actions will be triggered by each alert level. An exercise is being planned to test these triggers once they are developed. ➤ The CDC has recommended that the state do further work on its Continuity of Operations Plan with the assumption that 30% of the state workforce is not reporting to work due to illness. ➤ A State Expert Panel is developing procedures for the distribution of antiviral medications. The federal government is in the process of revising its guidelines on prioritization of who should receive these medications. DPH was not

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	<p>successful in obtaining funding from the Legislature in this biennium for the purchase of additional antiviral medications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The state pandemic web site is operational and can be found at http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/
Special Populations	<p>Sara Strell, Regional Coordinator, updated the committee on the work being done by public health for special populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A State Expert Panel to address this issue has been formed and will meet on January 18, 2008. ➤ The charge of this Panel is to establish standardization of communications to special populations at the local level. This will be based on the CDC Special Populations Workbook. ➤ The goal is to meet monthly through April 2008 with a recommendation ready for review in May 2008. <p>Several members stressed that it is important for the state to reach out to representatives from special populations and not just wait for their response. It was requested that the state ask local jurisdictions to identify special populations and contact persons for these groups within their jurisdictions.</p>
Membership and Role of Committee	<p>The Committee discussed declining membership. This is due in great part to members who have resigned or who have moved on to other positions. This raised a discussion regarding the role and purpose of this committee. Dennis Tomczyk mentioned that Terri Timmers, Interim Public Health Preparedness Director, requested a discussion on the role of the Senior Advisory Committee, which is required by both the public health and hospital preparedness grants. She felt that this role may be better served by the Homeland Security Council. It was pointed out that this PHC Committee was formed to fulfill these grant requirements.</p> <p>Members stated that there are multiple groups dealing with preparedness, none of which integrates all funding streams and all emergency responder organizations. In addition to the Homeland Security Council, there is the Legislative Committee chaired by Representative Ballweg, and also this Committee.</p> <p>Members were in agreement that there should be one group that integrates all preparedness funding streams and that provides a seat at the table for all emergency responders so that there can be a better integration of preparedness planning and response.</p> <p>The members felt that this PHC committee should serve this function, since this was the reason why this committee was formed. Members did, however, recognize that further enhancements would need to be made to this Committee to accomplish these goals. Thus, the PHC Committee is making the following recommendations:</p>

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Recommendation #1: The Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness is to continue to serve as the Senior Advisory Committee to the public health and hospital preparedness programs, focusing on strategy and policy issues related to preparedness.

Recommendation #2: The Office of Justice Assistance will be asked to serve on this committee as the distributor of funds from the Department of Homeland Security. In this regard it was recommended that two members from OJA sit on this committee in addition to two members from each of the following groups: law enforcement, fire departments, EMS and emergency management. This would thus necessitate a review of the existing members on this Committee.

Recommendation #3: This Committee will meet three times annually on the Thursday prior to the Public Health Council meeting in February, June and October.

Recommendation #4: This Committee is also to involve members from other preparedness grants such as the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) and others that receive federal preparedness funding.

Recommendation #5: Members of this committee that are not supported financially by their own organization should receive reimbursement for travel, food and lodging.

Recommendation #6: Although this committee is established as a requirement of the CDC, ASPR and DHS grants, this committee should not be identified as a grant requirement, but rather should be identified as the committee that focuses on strategy and policy for emergency preparedness for all emergency response disciplines in the state. In this regard the Mission Statement would need to be revised. The following is only an example of that revision:

Mission Statement: The Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness will provide strategy and policy oversight to the planning and implementation of state emergency preparedness programs. Members will work to ensure the engagement of all emergency response reorganizations toward the goal of integration and coordination of the emergency response plans of all emergency response organizations in the state.

⇒ Dennis Tomczyk will share these recommendations with Terri Timmers and then the results of this discussion will be shared with the members of this panel. If there is some urgency to move forward with a decision, a teleconference will be held with the PHC Committee members. Otherwise, this topic will be addressed at the March meeting in Stevens Point.

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Next Meeting	Meetings in CY 2008 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ March 11, 2008 (Stevens Point) ➤ June 10, 2008 (Wisconsin Dells) ➤ September 9, 2008 (Stevens Point) ➤ December 9, 2008 (Wisconsin Dells) 	
Committee Members In Attendance (BOLD)	Bevan Baker John Bartkowski Bill Bazan Christopher Fischer Gregg Gibbons Oren Hammes Stephanie Harrison/ Amanda Wilkins Terri Kramolis Loren Leshan Marge McFarlane	Doug Mormann Lawrence Reed Glen Safford Peggy Sivesind Ernest Stremski JoAnn Weidmann Thai Vue (Vacant – State Trauma Coordinator) (Vacant – Hospital Representative) (Vacant – PHC member)
Resource Staff	Thomas Anderson Lisa Pentony Sara Strell	Dennis Tomczyk Paul Wittkamp