



Department of Health
Emergency Preparedness Senior Advisory Committee

Senior Advisory Committee

December 6, 2010

Hazmat Offices, Berlin, VT

SAC members Present: (* indicates Alternate; ^{VT} indicates State Employee)

Haak, Ed	Manning, Mike – for HSU	Stetson, Timothy
Keeler ^{VT} , Fran	Miller, Wes	Peterson, Jean
LeBaron, Dawn	Natvig*, Nancy	
Leene, Jim	Olson, Jill (via phone)	

SAC members absent/unable to attend:

Callahan, Sherry	Lavallee ^{VT} , Michelle	Roberts*, Mark
Cobb, Peter	LePore ^{VT} , Liz	Severance, David
Destito, Chris	Malone, Patrick	Skeels, Heather
Earley, Stephen	Mongan*, Madeleine	Tousignant*, Scott
Gordon*, Gary	Nagy ^{VT} , Ross	VanDyke*, Neil
Gougelet*, Rob	O'Neil, Mike	Wilcke, Burt
Hausler, Carl	Phelps, Christian	Winters, Stephanie
Herrick ^{VT} , Chris	Reinfurt, Chris	

VDH & other Staff present:

Charles (Chip) Deasy ^{VT}	Brant Goode ^{CDC}
Mary Bronson ^{VT}	Mike Leyden ^{YNH-CEPDR}

Chair Ed Haak called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and distributed rank-ordered priorities from 2009, and possibilities for 2011 priorities. Chair led a general discussion about prioritizing SAC focus for next year so that the committee can work on it during the meeting. Committee was asked to submit their rank ordering after the meeting, or send in to Mary, by end of December.

Minutes from September: MMS (Jean Peterson/ Wes Miller) to accept the minutes as written. Vote was unanimous.

OPHP director's report – Chip Deasy

On Sept 27th Chip was appointed to interim director; charged with maintaining the functionality of the division; fill vacancy of HPP Coordinator; help fill vacancy of Director position OPHP & EMS. Chip now overseeing OPHP and EMS with exception of Rad Health. Bill Irwin in charge of Rad Health.

Grants & Contracts: Closing out 2009 grants to hospitals, grant to Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS), H1N1 contract to VT Assembly of Home

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Health Agencies (VAHHA); New England Center for Emergency Preparedness (NECEP). Kicked off the 2010-2011 Contract with YNH – Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (CEPDR). CEPDR won the bid to work with hospitals for assessment of hosp emergency preparedness and readiness, and help fill gaps. Will provide training and exercise assistance for hospitals, similar to what VAHHS did last year. CEPDR is also providing free access to on-line trainings to participating hospitals.

OPHP participated in state CATEX as SSF8, and at the Barre Med Surge Center. Successfully tested VERV to query system for available volunteers during CATEX. Also participated in VY 2-day ingestion plume pathway exercise in preparation for other exercises to take place in 2011. EMS has been very busy with rewriting the EMS Rules. Rules in public comment phase now. (Act 142) Will hold 5 mtgs through next summer for public comment. SNS earned a grade of 95 out of 100.

Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP): SOV will participate in financial audit of FY09 HPP funds at end of January 2011, FAHC participating. Gifford hospital has pulled out of program. Another considering. VDH & hospitals working to learn more about issues. Mary has recently been asked to help write the FY10 HPP grants.

OPHP Director's position has been re-written, to include all of OPHP, EMS, and Rad Health. Has been posted in all major newspapers in VT, and sent to FEMA Region 1 partners. Also posted on web sites at ASTHO, NACCHO, etc. Selection process to be managed by Deputy Commissioner.

HPP position description has been reclassified, requiring more collaboration with CDC, and to take on the 'flex' program for small hospitals. Flex program is small grant, ED centers, EMS, etc. Position will remain open until filled. Jill Olson, VAHHS, requested that a quality person be on interview team for HPP (for Flex). Hospitals, EPC, etc.

Business Manager, OPHP: Joan Haslett (part time business manager, who assisted with HPP) has been transferred back to her home division to provide full attention to that division. Thus, OPHP has a business Manager vacancy. In addition to CDC responsibilities, Mary will now be covering all HPP, and much of business manager role, although the Business Office has promised to 'loan' OPHP an interim business mgr.

Old Business: SAC PRIORITIES:

- A. ASC Update: Report will be provided at next meeting. Ed voiced frustration of committee and SAC's "inability to get updates". Ed questioned role of SAC if SAC not able to get updates. SAC needs to be informed in order to advise. Chair Ed Haak requested that Mary send list of ASC task force under separate cover, and request Status of ASC meetings and an update on ASC progress. Request needs to go to VDH Legal, as that is where ASC activities currently reside.
- B. Pan Flu / H1N1: AAR was submitted in July. Updated IP was submitted in November. Hospital concerns: Distribution of vaccine, documentation, start calls earlier, send nasal mist to schools first, send more injectable vaccine to hospitals

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where there are elderly who cannot take nasal. Feedback about survey monkey – distribution list was ‘strange’ so it went to everybody in a contact list, rather than a coordinated effort. Questioned the resulting perspective. Continued pandemic planning with hospitals and VDH is important.

- C. CATEX drill: update. Wes/ re: roles of municipalities & Improvement plan. State is making headway on ACCs. Opening Barre Auditorium – could have benefitted by a training ahead of time. Key is Incident Command. Need someone to manage volunteers on site, get them signed in, etc. City didn’t participate. Joint Incident Command center at the Barre Auditorium (City, Red Cross, hosp).

D. Alternate Care Sites:

1. Barre ACS: is doing training on med surge. Tabletop exercise in February, on Communications. CVMC has committed to provide medical oversight off-site
2. St. Albans – making progress
3. Rutland technical school – nice site
4. Hartford school – generators, walk thru, etc.
5. Newport, Springfield drop dead date is Dec 13th

Discussion – Brant – working on ACS, emphasizing importance of ie; generators, and how they can be used in other situations. FEMA contributions, Vermont Emergency Management, VDH. Concern voiced by Jean – about patients being sent to ACS, with lots of co-morbidities, not meeting the specific criteria. Low acuity, teams, clinicians, nurses.

- E. EMS – Update: See handout. Minutes from September read “**EMS licensing/Act 142: Report on process requested**”

Chair found the update to be “concerning and disappointing.” Update explained the process, but not anything about what is in the rules. ED Directors requested to be part of (EMS re-writing rules) committee. Sen Illuzzi was invited to last ED Director’s meeting – but sent his associate instead. Dr. Paul Newton, is Sen. Illuzzi’s neighbor and he was never contacted about the legislative changes. ED Cmte was assured a study committee would be convened. Paul Newton was to meet with Sen. Illuzzi, but that was cancelled. Chair Haak asked if there was going to be a cancellation of all medical advisors – will medical advisors be centralized, will paramedics run with whoever they want? ED Directors (involvement with EMS) was decentralized, but it was a coordinated effort as noted by Ed Haak, who serves as Medical Director for his district.

Chip Deasy was at last week’s EMS Consultation group meeting and explained that the EMS rules are being written to meet the new law and that the new law is very specific. VDH is doing its best to meet the law. Rules are in comment phase right now. Discussed at consultation meeting was draft that was submitted to AG’s office. Composition of Consultation group was specified in Act 142 – includes representation from hospitals, medical advisors, ambulance, EMS, hosp assoc, etc. Discussion materials on changes to EMS rules have been posted to web site: http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/ems/ems_index.aspx .

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Side discussions: Rumor squelched – No facts to support the rumor that EMS might be moving to DPS. Further discussion followed on how Act 142 could have been made into law without VDH input.

Chair Haak requested that Dan Manz put together a side-by-side executive summary of key changes to law, and submit within 10 days. NOTE: There is not a side by side of the key changes to the law. Legislative Council, which drafted the legislation does not have this either.

- F. HPP Update: Mary gave brief update on HPP work – grants have been written, are being reviewed by VDH business office before being assigned tracking numbers and being sent to hospitals for signature. EPC will go into exec session at next EPC meeting to discuss hospital participation in HPP and learn what the issues are.

Dawn LeBaron spoke of FAHC conversation re: possibly pulling out of HPP, and explained decision to stay involved. Voiced frustration about inconsistency, how every report is a new format. Amendments, changes are hard to keep track of. Hospitals feel that they have to start over each time. Wes requested a one page summary on all funding that VDH gets, and associated restrictions (if any).

- G. CDC Update: The new cooperative agreement will require that we address the needs of older population, increase involvement with radiological health, and will be designed so that specific target capabilities must be met. Draft guidance from CDC, with more detail, is expected out in January.

NEW Business:

A. Committee organization.

1. Add Silvia Davis, Admin Assistant for Home Health Agencies to email distribution list. Assists Peter Cobb, VAHHAdavis@comcast.net
2. Andrew Bushnell no longer in his role NNEMMRS role –has resigned from SAC.
3. Bring attendance record to January Mtg.
4. Ed Haak is now director of NMC Hospitalist program. Wes thanked Ed for all his hard work as Chair of SAC. Asked Ed to put together list of how he spent his time organizing the committee. What is the Chair's role from the Chair's point of view.
5. Jean - Ask members what their organizational needs are – what do you need from VDH?

B. Official call for nominations: Chair of Senior Advisory Committee

1. Jean Peterson – nominated by Dawn LeBaron; Seconded by Nancy Natvig.
2. Further nominations and election of committee Chair tabled until January meeting due to low attendance.

C. Goals for next year. Mary to send prioritization list out to members not in attendance and request response within two weeks.

1. Next meeting – January 31st

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2. Committee meeting wrap up ... Food for Thought:
 - a. Tim Stetson – what’s the role of SAC? Are we asking to department to give us too many reports? We don’t do anything on the advising side.
 - b. Jean – we should review mission statement. How we’re going to do it.
 - c. Jim Leene - Share internal documents.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Bronson

Next meeting: January 31, 2011 – at **Central VT Medical Center, Berlin.**

Find SAC information at
<http://healthvermont.gov/emerg/sac.aspx>

2011 Meeting Schedule

- **Jan 31, 2011 – at CVMC**
Other dates to be determined at the January mtg.