



**Department of Health
Emergency Preparedness Senior Advisory Committee**

**Minutes / January 25, 2010
HAZMAT Offices, Berlin, VT**

SAC members Present: (* indicates Alternate; ^{VT} indicates State Employee)		
Haak, Ed – Chair	Keeler, Fran ^{VT}	Herrick, Chris ^{VT}
Earley, Steve	Leene, Jim	Stanovich, Mark*
Gordon, Gary	Malone, Patrick	Emily Trantum ^{VT*} backup
Gougelet, Rob	Miller, Wes*	
Hausler, Carl	Peterson, Jean	

SAC members absent/unable to attend:		
Berger-Wabuti, Gretchen ^{VT}	LeBaron, Dawn	Reinfurt, Chris ^{VT}
Bushnell, Andrew	LePore, Liz ^{VT}	Severance, David
Farr, Barb ^{VT*}	Mireault, Maria ^{VT}	Skeels, Heather
Callahan, Sherry	Nagy, Ross ^{VT}	Wilcke, Burt
Cobb, Peter	Olson, Jill	Stetson, Tim
Destito, Chris	O'Neil, Mike	Winters, Stephanie
Lavalee, Michelle ^{VT}	Phelps, Chris	Roberts, Mark*

VDH Staff present:	
Mary Bronson ^{VT}	Brant Goode ^{VT/CDC}

Notes: Freezing rain/ I89 closed; meeting starting late. Also - Emily Trantum attended again for the VT Commission on National and Community Service as neither member nor alternate could attend.

Meeting: Called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Ed Haak, Chair. Ed distributed 4 handouts about H1N1 planning: expectations/responsibilities: “Customers”; “Customer Needs”; “Providers”; and a composite “Customer /Needs/Providers”.

Minutes Review/ Approval: M/M/S – Minutes from Nov 16, 2009 meeting accepted as written

OPHP Director’s Report: Larry Crist unable to attend. Brant Goode, CDC CEFO, reported on his behalf. Flu activity has declined to ‘sporadic’ status statewide. State lab has not detected H1N1 in several weeks. 40.5% of targeted health care workers (including EMS) have been vaccinated. Some hospitals up to 70% staff vax’d. Have vaccinated greater than 50% of pregnant women and for young children; HOC for H1N1 now active 3x/wk, likely to be reduced more. HOC for Vermont Yankee issues is open as of today.

HPP Report: Steve Salengo unable to attend. Mark Stanovich reported on recent grant activities.

CDC Report: VDH is assessing whether to apply for additional H1N1 (PHER 4) funds. All “implementation” funds must be expended by July 30, 2010.

Altered Standards: Dan Manz unable to attend. ASC mtg next week to review submissions to legal. Expect to identify several legal strategies by which Altered Standards could be authorized. Will have more information at next mtg. Mark Stanovich reported that California leaves decision to individual hospitals to make the decision whether to implement Altered Standards of Care. Mark will recommend that indemnification of the hospital be addressed in statute.

Side discussion (Ed & Mark) – Ed and the ED Director’s group will contact Dennis at VAHHS to get on the agenda for one of the upcoming EPC meetings.

H1N1 Report: Brant distributed two charts showing geographic location of H1N1 clinics which have occurred &/or are planned, and the geographic distribution of vaccine doses shipped as % of population. Request was made for H1N1 clinic in Waterbury. CVMC has been approached, and will be meeting later this week. Jean Peterson will propose that CVMC hold an H1N1 public clinic in Waterbury area.

Committee Organization: Ed asked Mary to distribute the attendance record to all members of the Senior Advisory Committee, for discussion at next meeting.



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\$\$ Match: States are now required to provide a % match to Federal funds. VDH receives \$5M from CDC in a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement (PHEPCA) subject to the match requirement. This year (2009-2010) VDH is required to show a 5% match of approx'ly \$250,000. Next year will increase to 10%. Those SAC members who are supported in full or in part by other Federal funds (ie: FBI) can not be used as match. SAC members present estimated \$65/hr base pay for \$/hr could be used as match. Count one full day per each eligible member when attending a meeting, and 2 days for the chair. Generally this should cover prep time as well as travel and meeting time. Time spent attending sub-committee meetings is additional. VDH 'assesses' +/-30% for fringe, and 60% for indirect from grants received. Thus, total \$/hr match for SAC members is $\$65 \times 1.9 = \$123/\text{hr}$. Will need documentation of this decision and documentation of total calculations for potential audit. Attendance roster & minutes will be used to support the # of people who have attended meetings.

HAITI update: Rob Gougelet / Dartmouth. Partners in Health was co-founded by Dartmouth's current President. To date, Dartmouth College has deployed 2 medical teams to Haiti, and 5 planes of equipment and supplies from DC and other hospitals – going directly to Partners in Health.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION on the Big Picture re: H1N1: Discussion focused upon EMS, as it was first on the list. Issues: EMS volunteers, fit-testing, respiratory protection, infection control, and who has "ownership" to make sure that EMS workers are fit-tested, have proper guidance, etc. Hospitals offered H1N1 to EMS but generally had low turnout by EMS due in part to early concerns about nasal vaccine safety and efficacy, as well as vaccine shortage. Importance of effective/improved communication was discussed, with emphasis that EMS members are volunteers and many work for small employers and do not get email. Recommendation made that VDH EMS send reps to LEPC meetings as a way to improve communication. Chris Herrick noted that VDH no longer sends reps to the LEPC meetings in his area and requested that VDH reconsider.

Further discussion centered on identifying "who has ownership" and is it VDH EMS? It depends on the issue at hand. "Ownership" may or may not be held by a single entity. Example: responsibility for fit-testing/respiratory protection programs lie with employers and employees per legal environment. Dan Manz (not present at meeting, but conferred with subsequently) notes that VDH EMS facilitates respiratory protection programs for EMS with training materials and subject matter expertise, but that final responsibility lies with parties noted above. VDH doesn't enforce these requirements, but VOSHA could.

Summary / Next Meeting Planning: Next meeting of the Senior Advisory Committee will be held on March 29th, at HAZMAT offices.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm, for lunch and networking. *Thanks to all who helped clean up and re-set the room.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Bronson*

2010 SAC Meeting Schedule

Jan. 25 Mar. 29 Jun 28 Sept. 13 Nov. 15.
Continental Breakfast and Networking at 8:15 a.m.; Meetings start promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Vermont HAZMAT Offices; c/o Dep't of Public Safety; 1311 US Route 302 - Ste 600, Berlin, VT 05641
Directions: I89, Exit 7 to 302 West /Montpelier. Then go right/East on 302 for .4 mile. HAZMAT offices are on the right, behind Vermont Lottery. Park & enter at the back. (Landmarks: McDonald's is directly across the street, and Burger King is next door. Enter as if going to BK, but continue straight back.)