



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

**Minutes / March 29, 2010  
HAZMAT Offices, Berlin, VT**

<b>SAC members Present:</b> (* indicates Alternate; <sup>VT</sup> indicates State Employee)		
Haak, Ed – Chair	Keeler, Fran <sup>VT</sup>	Stanovich, Mark*
Bushnell, Andrew	LeBaron, Dawn	Stetson, Tim
Earley, Steve	Leene, Jim	Wilcke, Burt
Farley, Lisa for Rob Gougelet	LePore, Liz <sup>VT</sup>	Winters, Stephanie
Hausler, Carl	Malone, Patrick	
Herrick, Chris <sup>VT</sup>	Nagy, Ross <sup>VT</sup>	
<b>SAC members absent/unable to attend:</b>		
Berger-Wabuti, Gretchen <sup>VT</sup>	Cobb, Peter	Reinfurt, Chris <sup>VT</sup>
Destito, Chris	Lavalee, Michelle <sup>VT</sup>	Phelps, Chris
Gordon, Gary	Peterson, Jean	O'Neil, Mike
Gougelet, Rob	Miller, Wes*	Severance, David
Farr, Barb <sup>VT*</sup>	Mireault, Maria <sup>VT</sup>	Skeels, Heather
Callahan, Sherry	Olson, Jill	Roberts, Mark*
<b>VDH Staff present:</b>		
Larry Crist <sup>VT</sup>	Mary Bronson <sup>VT</sup>	Dan Manz <sup>VT</sup>

**Meeting:** Called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Ed Haak, Chair. Meeting materials were distributed.

**Presentation/Discussion:** Altered Standards of Care – Dan Manz  
*Example of the tool used by ASC task force to identify steps to adopting ASC.*

Goal	Who	Individual license authority	Facility License Authority	Applicable Laws/Legis.	Goal Authorized by current law/Rule?	Gap	Suggested resolution	Other suggested participants
Expanding the scope of practice	Physicians, nurses, EMS personnel, etc. institutions they work for.	Medical practice board, board of nursing, VDH EMS office.	VDH, DAIL	VSA #	Y/N	?	Waiver ammend?	??
Cancel Elective procedures	Physician, hospital, PCPs			None	Yes? – no law prohibiting it	None	None necessary	
Expand bed capacity beyond current license level.					No		Fed'l/State?	??

Goal of ASC task force – to identify what is in place and doesn't need to be fixed, and to ID what isn't in place and what needs to happen (ie) Governor's Declaration. Need policy in place prior to a decision needing to be made. It's a slower and far more complex challenge than originally envisioned. Discussions on ASC occurring on weekly basis. Mark Stanovich reminded group that hospitals are concerned about liability if ASC implemented. If there's an emergency declaration at state level, unless it's specifically stated under emergency powers and authority, there is no authorization to alter standards, or waive requirements/provisions. ASC task force recognizes the sensitivity and complexity. SAC members affirmed support of process in determining ASC, and appreciated that framework for moving forward is in place. Discussion on how best to keep SAC apprised of work: Not ready for public comment at this point. Still at sub-committee level.



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**Minutes Review/ Approval: Jan. 25, 2010** – Motion made and seconded. Duly noted that Steve Early was erroneously recorded as both absent & present. Minutes will be corrected. Approved as amended.

**OPHP Director's Report** – Larry Crist

Vermont Yankee – HOC has been fully operational for 7 months (first H1N1, now VY). VY Tritium has involved about 50 individuals; field teams, fully staffed HOC, daily briefings and planning meetings; increased testing of water and soil samples by VDH lab . Working on a heightened surveillance plan.

H1N1 – After Action Report. VDH has list of +/- 150 contacts, and will send request for more contacts. Will likely use a survey monkey tool for gathering additional information for AAR.

OPHP – Many changes in CDC/HPP liaisons at Federal level: New HPP Project officer; new CDC project officer; new CDC SNS liaison. Steve Salengo has resigned as HPP coordinator. VDH will recruit to fill position. VDH has requested a "Direct Assistance" Public Health Advisor from CDC.

MRC – Medical Reserve Corps is moving from VEM to VDH.

**Old Business**

PHEP "Matching Funds". SAC committee members "continue to contribute time to EP.

Committee Organization: Attendance Record Review/ Recommendations.

- \* VT Nurses Association – need to re-request representation (Mary to do). *Email inquiry sent to VSNA, 4/31.*
- \* VT Health Care Association – Laura Pelosi is new ED (Mary to do) *Email invite issued to VHCA, 4/31.*
- \* Chris Destito – Jim Leene to check in with Chris.
- \* Maria Mireault – has resigned due to work load. Fran Keeler will represent all of DAIL
- \* Chris Phelps –citing MRC as an important partner, SAC asked to keep Chris on, and perhaps offer him conference call option if he can't attend in person.
- \* Chris Reinfurt – citing HSU as an important partner, SAC asked to keep Chris Reinfurt on as member.
- \* Gretchen Berger-Wabuti – has stepped down; Liz LePore is new primary contact for VT Commission on National and Community Service. Emily Trantum will serve as alternate.

**SAC Priority Projects**

Altered Standards of Care – Dan Manz provided update at beginning of mtg.

Pan Flu/ H1N1 Planning Update – Larry Crist provided in director's report

Alternate Care Sites – Community based sites, with medical oversight provided by hospitals.

- \* VEM working with Agency of Agriculture (pets are part of emergency care);
- \* NECEP has been representing VDH with ACS work.
- \* VEM wants to expand size/# of shelter trailer(s) with cots/blankets/etc for up to 300 individuals.
- \* Two established sites/regional facilities: Barre Auditorium, and St. Albans town education center.
- \* Two additional sites supported with auxiliary power and shelter trailers as needed: Hartford High School, and Champlain Valley HS.
- \* Three newly identified sites (facilities have been ID'd / walk throughs conducted): North Country Union HS in Newport; Springfield HS tech center; and Brattleboro HS.
- \* Two targeted facilities: Rutland HS tech center and Bennington Middle School.
- \* Other: St. Albans med surge/mass care committee has regrouped to begin discussions again. Original timeline reviewed and made more realistic. Lots of planning happening in Barre.



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**H1N1 Planning** (continued from January mtg)

"The Big Picture" Committee Discussion on Expectations/ Responsibilities

Chair Haak lead the SAC in review of January discussion of EMS as Customer, with Needs (expectations) and Providers (entities responsible for fulfilling the expectation). Clarifications were made on "ownership" of fit testing, infection control, purchase of PPE and Operations planning. The previously distributed working document should be amended to the following:

<b>Customer</b>	<b>Needs</b>	<b>Providers (*Ownership)</b>
EMS	Guidance	*VDH / Districts / EMS Squad. VDH assists in interpreting and distributing federal guidance received (ie: from CDC.) VDH drafts and distributes state-specific guidance as necessary. EMS Squad leaders have responsibility to assure the guidance gets to their team members.
	Communication	*VDH/ VEM / Hospitals / Districts / EMS Squad
	Vaccinations	*Hospitals/ Home Health agencies / Districts
	Fit Testing/ Inf Control	*EMS Squad (Not VDH). Fit-testing is OSHA requirement. An EMS agency as employer bears the responsibility to get that done. VT EMS puts out guidance to assist, but responsibility is with employer. Assuring medical screening (a requirement of fit testing) is responsibility of squad. Medical screening can be done by hospital, primary care doc, etc. VDH can provide fit test kits.
	PPE	*EMS Squad (Not VDH). Employers are required to provide, supply, and maintain appropriate PPE for employees. VDH tries to maintain a small cache of PPE for emergencies if supply chain is interrupted during an emergency.
	Operations Plan	*Town/Municipality. (Not VDH). Each entity is responsible for drafting their Ops plan. VDH has system oversight/coordination for the statewide health Ops plan, but individual entities are responsible for their plans as annexes to the State plan.
	Personnel	*Town/Municipality has primary responsibility to provide EMS services. Towns can request search of VERV data base; could turn to VEM for additional assistance in cases of emergency. Mutual aid agreements already exist for temporary re-assignment of EMS in cases of emergency.
Funding	*Town/Municipality has responsibility for funding their EMS operations unless the legislature provides an allocation to that town.	

Next meeting scheduled for June 28, at HAZMAT offices.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

*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.)