

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

SAC Minutes – June 2, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Ed Haak, Chair.
General announcements / introductions.

Members present: (Asterisk indicates State Employee)

Bucknell, Andrew	Hazelton, Steve	O’Neil, Mike	Shriver, Mary
Cobb, Peter	Lavallee, Michelle *	Olson, Jill	Stetson, Tim
Destito, Chris	LeBaron, Dawn	Peterson, Jean	Winters, Stephanie
Gordon, Gary	Leene, Jim	Reinfurt, Chris *	
Haak, Ed.	Lewis, Valerie	Rinker, Marilyn	

VDH Staff present:

Bronson, Mary *	Crist, Larry *	McAdoo, Deb *
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General Meeting:

OPHP Director’s Report - Larry Crist

Rating improvements: SNS score improved to 93/100; CRI went from 40’s to 70/100.

Exercises:

- The Vermont Yankee exercise focused on transportation and how long it takes to move people should an evacuation be necessary.
- Statewide Hospital surge exercise June 11: hospitals and the state government will test incident command systems and multiple pandemic response plans in this simulated statewide outbreak of pandemic influenza. The Health Operations Center at VDH in Burlington and the State Emergency Operations Center in Waterbury will coordinate the emergency response of hospitals to handle a surge of patients up to 30% above the average daily census.
- List of exercises: Larry showed SAC a long list of the exercises required to meet the objectives of the Hospital Preparedness Program and the CDC’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement. Larry has estimated the cost to be approximately \$1.5M and stated that because of lack of resources (time and money) Vermont would not be able to do all the exercises on the list.
- Regional meeting with Federal representatives: Larry will be going to Rhode Island in July to meet with other states and federal representatives to iron out exercise requirements.
- Questions were raised about collaboration and blending of requirements for exercises, and how to collaborate more. The general feeling is that OPHP has maximized those efforts.

Other announcements:

- Staff recently attended a very successful multi-day, bi-lingual cross-border surveillance initiative in Canada.
- Some district office staff time will be increased from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE to improve local preparedness.

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Business Meeting

Minutes from April 21 were accepted as written (MMS, unanimous approval).

Homework Review: A majority of committee members read the assignments

Committee:

- **Organization:** Reviewed and voted on attendance requirements. Committee members are expected to attend at least 2/3rds of all meetings. A specified “designee” or alternate may attend if member unable to attend. Members are responsible for briefing their alternates.
- **Membership Directory:** A proposal to include photos of committee members in a directory was again made, but voted down. Mary B to send each committee member a request for information that can be compiled into a directory. Suggested information to request: group/organization represented, name & title of representative, contact info. Members should watch for this request in a separate email.
- **Composition:** New members Valerie Lewis (Vermont Medical Society) and Marilyn Rinker (VT Professional Nurses Association) were welcomed.

As a reminder, the following is the list of potential members carried forward from 4/21:

- Chamber of Commerce – **Larry Crist to ask**
- Local Emergency Management representative – there’s one in every town. VEM would do that search and make recommendation: **Ross Nagy to ask**
- Pharmacy rep – *Mary has asked Anthony Otis, who then sent the request to his pharmacists to see if someone could represent pharmacies on the SAC.*
- Town Health Officer – **Kevin Geiger to ask**
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns – **Larry to ask.**
- Media – **Larry to talk to Nancy Erickson**
- School Crisis Management Committee – **Ross to follow up**

In addition, Deb Lisi-Baker will be invited by Deb McAdoo.

Senior Advisory Committee Mission/Vision/Objectives: As adopted 6/2/08

SAC MISSION:

To review and understand preparedness programs, to ensure the efficient use of resources, and enhance Vermont’s preparedness through advisory oversight to the Department of Health.

SAC VISION:

Vermont and its citizens will be prepared to respond to public health emergencies.

SAC OBJECTIVES:

- To provide advice to the Vermont Department of Health in making priority decisions on Emergency Preparedness policy and resources.
- To coordinate related emergency preparedness planning efforts
- To ensure public education and awareness are integral parts of public health emergency preparedness.

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Grant Guidances Overviews – Deb McAdoo (HPP) and Mary Bronson (CDC)

- **HPP:** See the SAC web page for the HPP Guidance Overview. Note that the document is an updated version from what was distributed at the meeting. The HPP grant is due 6/18.

Recommendation to HPP from the SAC: Cut back on the proposed funding to establish new Alternate Care Centers from 2 to 1 until there is the medical staff to support the ACCs.

Tim Stetson clarified that the Red Cross is looking at mass care, not med surge in the shelters that they are responsible for across the state.

Chris Reinfurt clarified that the 8 ACC sites (2 in each public safety district) are going up, with auxiliary power/generators.

- **CDC:** See SAC web page for the CDC Guidance Overview used by Mary to update the committee. Note that the grant application deadline to CDC is July 3, but due to vacation schedules the grant will need to be submitted on Friday, June 27. Committee members are expected to be able to review a draft of the application.

Preparedness Mid-Year Report Review – tabled for lack of time.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2008

Adjourned: at noon.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Bronson*

SAC web page, for documents, minutes, agendas, etc:

<http://healthvermont.gov/emerg/sac.aspx>

Meeting Schedule:

September 8, 2008 (Monday)

November 10, 2008 (Monday)

January 12, 2009 (Monday)