

EPR Committee 7/31/19
Meeting began: 9:02
Meeting End: 10:04

In attendance

Dan Durkee	Warren County Public Health
J'nelle Oxford	Warren County Public Health
Laura Stebbins	Glens Falls Hospital
Ginelle Jones	Warren County Public Health
Christina Mastrianni	Warren County DSS
Wesley Killingsworth	Finch Paper
Sandy LeBarron	Finch Paper
Timothy Carota	The Pines at Glens Falls
Chris Belden	Warren County Planning
Dan Connor	DHSES
Tammie DeLorenzo	Warren County Administrator's Office
Ann Marie Mason	Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Kristina Santiago	Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Rocky Girard	Warren County Sheriff's Office
Betsy Kagey	Community Representative
Erin Boland	The Pines at Glens Falls
Jill Guillet	NGIEC
Roger Ellis	NYSDAM
Kathleen Moore	Post Star
Gregg Reynolds	NYSDOH – Glens Falls District Office
Corey DiLorenzo	NYSDOH – Glens Falls District Office

Dan Durkee, Co-Chair, begins the meeting and makes mention that we will be altering the agenda and having Laura Stebbins from Glens Falls Hospital go through her presentations first as she needs to leave for another meeting.

Laura Stebbins – Glens Falls Hospital – All PowerPoint slides will be at the back of minutes
Presentation 1: Discussion in regards to their Pediatric workgroup and pediatric emergency response, goals, plans for the future, etc.

Presentation 2: Discussion for the need for consistent color codes or plain language with hospitals. Color codes vs. plain language, vs. combination of both

Presentation 3: Survey results for the used codes within the region – results show it is not consistent within the region

Other notes: Laura mentions that August 12-16 the State will be conducting an IOC drill. The IOC drill is a low-no notice drill so all we know at this time is it will happen on one of those dates in August. No other specifics are known.

Dan mentioned that we don't know what they are looking for or will be asking so that will determine who will be contacted and not from an agency stand point.

Laura has also been doing a lot of chemical exposure training at the hospital. Monthly training topics have included (or will be including in future training) decontamination of equipment, staging, decontamination of children, chemical suicide, radiation exposure, white powder. This year's Chempack drill is September 17th - no time has been set yet but there will be a planning meeting coming up to set those details on August 21st following the monthly tabletop exercise.

Dr. Ellis asks in regards to the color codes if there is anyone considering other venues as we standardize codes vs plain language for example venues - the Washington county fair - it would be beneficial if all population knew the standard codes, not just hospitals for consistency.

Laura will bring it up at her regional meeting.

Dan Durkee – Warren County Public Health + Co Chair for Committee: Dan wanted to go over measles outbreak from a Public Health standpoint - with us being a tourist destination and the changes with regulations from the State.

CDC: 1,164 cases in US, NY is still leading with their number of measles cases, with many of the cases coming from downstate, and we know a lot of our tourist population comes from those areas. For anyone who works in our health centers with people who may show up sick, CDC has released new information for front line staff as well to help keep it contained if there is any type of suspected. Measles is considered contagious in a room for up to 2 hours; it can become a big problem in a hurry and is still on going, 16 new cases as of last week so it has not stopped, still active.

Next, in regards to immunization and measles, NYS has passed a law that there is no longer a religious or moral exemption to immunizations - only way a child cannot be immunized now is if they have an actual medical exemption. New guidelines online for when children need to be immunized by - this is the PH response to an emergency at a state level, this has occupied a huge amount of time.

Ginelle Jones – Warren County Public Health - with measles there is the potential to spread the disease widely as there is a 21 day incubation period. Big thing is if someone isn't vaccinated and they are exposed you are looking at having to pull out a susceptible person from working for 21 days minimum, which raises other concerns as well. Ginelle also attended the EMS advisory in regards to measles because if they have a suspected patient the potential is there that EMS may need to knock an ambulance out of commission as well.

Anecdotally, on an outbreak note, WC got a call yesterday that a 3 year old showed up at a Glens Falls clinic site (not Warren County) and the diagnosis came back pertussis. It was an entire family of anti - vaccinators and due to traveling around, the kids in that family potentially infected 5 states, 4 counties, and 4 pregnant women. They all were symptomatic at time and having the potential to expose people. Through all this, a lot of people can be potentially exposed - it creates a lot of work. Thankfully pertussis isn't as serious as measles – however, points to ponder about disease spread. We have had a few ruled out measles cases in WC - good news is no measles but it did also provide a good opportunity to collaborate with agencies for the “what if” it had been real - we are as prepared as we can be but still learning more.

Dan Durkee - it doesn't take a whole lot for this to become a large matter; one family with one child can make a huge impact. Continuing on with flu, not that we are into flu yet but CDC has released guidance they have reformulated the vaccine for the upcoming season. There was a delay in formulation because they were concerned with the influenza B strain (that is the strain that seems to be very difficult and transforms very quickly). Right now they are not sure how long that delay in formulation may delay delivery of vaccination. Not anticipating issues but doesn't mean we may not hear of issues in August that there may be more production delays. Just things to consider as we start looking at the upcoming season

Oct 24th will be a County staging site exercise – we will be receiving assets from state (anthrax exercise) and we will be responsible for actually transporting this year. We may have to employ the services of DPW, fork lifts, pallet jacks, and if we can't get them from our own inventories, where can we get them, who do we contact etc. - may reach out to some partners around the table.

Amy Drexel – not in attendance but asked Dan to mention there are no new updates to LEPC, no new chemicals within the county, etc. As a reminder the hazmat plan review is due by Friday (August 2nd) - please agree / disagree and make any changes to her by Friday. General plan itself has not gone through many major revisions at the point.

J'nelle Oxford – Warren County Public Health – nothing more from the Public Health side, however from the Home Care side mentions that there has been a new pamphlet added to admission packets in regards to patients plans and discussing their emergency plan with them as well as the services offered such as the Voluntary Registry for Access and Functional needs for those on oxygen, electric needs etc.

Ginelle Jones – Warren County Public Health – nothing further to report

Christina Mastrianni – Warren County DSS – nothing to report

Wesley Killingsworth – Finch Paper – nothing to report

Sandy LeBarron – Finch Paper – nothing to report

Timothy Carota – The Pines at Glens Falls – nothing to report

Chris Belden – Warren County Planning – nothing to report

Dan Connor – DHSES – nothing to report

Tammie DeLorenzo – Warren County Administrator's Office – nothing to report

Ann Marie Mason – Hudson Headwaters Health Network – nothing to report

Kristina Santiago – Hudson Headwaters Health Network – nothing to report

Rocky Girard – Warren County Sherriff's Office – nothing to report

Betsy Kagey – Community Representative – she is returning back to Glens Falls, she comes back from the Georgia State Health Department she has been in EPR for 13/14 years and is interested in what's going on the area in regards.

Erin Boland – The Pines at Glens Falls – nothing to report

Jill Guillet – NGIEC - yesterday she learned Saratoga hospital is anticipating a PPD shortage so they are changing policy for testing and was curious if anyone else had heard that or was doing the same.

Ginelle Jones – Warren County Public Health – mentions that there was guidance released in regards to the shortage and it will be included at the back of the minutes.

Jill Guillet – NGIEC – mentions that Shawn Lamouree did an active shooter activity with their facility and it was much appreciated.

Dr. Roger Ellis – NYSDAM – Wondering if anyone has heard of African swine fever – currently it is not in United States but is becoming a concern because it has begun to spread from Africa to other countries such as Russia and Asia. It is very resistant virus that has been decimating the pork supply in china – their total herd size is down 50%. We don't want it to spread here and it can survive the processing of meats such as ham and sausage, so please spread the word that there is a concern with travelers bringing meat back into the State. It does not affect humans but it kills pigs and there is no vaccine - you can't imagine how it would get here but at the same time, it can.

Another disease spreading that is spreading (and in the United States) is vesicular stomatitis. It affects almost all species of animals (horse however is the classic). People who work close with animals also susceptible and can get a form of dermatitis, in rare cases, flu like symptoms as well. It started in Colorado a few weeks ago and now we are seeing confirmed cases in Texas, New Mexico as well as new confirmed in Wyoming and Oklahoma. While we don't have many animals that come here from such distances, we may, (ex. painted pony), facilities may need to have a statement for animal owners that their animals have not been within 10 miles of any of these facilities with confirmed cases within 30 days.

Ginelle Jones – Warren County Public Health – is there any kind of reporting system with the vets or is there education with vets in regards to this?

Dr. Roger Ellis – NYSDAM – very much so, especially those doing farm vet - there are alerts going out of NYSDAM office.

Further conversation ensued in regards to reporting and small vs. large animal vets being made aware.

Kathleen Moore – The Post Star

Gregg Reynolds – NYSDOH Glens Falls District Office – nothing to report

Corey DiLorenzo – NYSDOH Glens Falls District Office – nothing to report

Dan Durkee – before we wrap up, just a reference, there is a regional training calendar with trainings that are free and open to agencies, he can send the link for it to the group. As well, if you have an event coming up you can also have your event put on that calendar if it meets training requirements (such as holding an ICS training). Dan will share calendar link with meeting minutes.

Dan Durkee closes the meeting wishing everyone a nice remaining to their summer and our final meeting for the year will be October 30th. The date is on the agenda.

Submitted By

J'nelle Oxford
Public Health Program Planner
7/31/2019