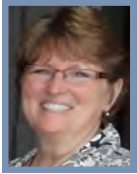




MDH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE NEWS

JANUARY 2016



From the Director

Happy New Year! Wishing each and every one of you a year filled with good health, happiness and peace.

In our Emergency Preparedness and Response Section we continue to grow, change and make progress in our work and staffing. On the staffing front, in 2016 Cindy Borgen has changed roles to an Ebola and other projects Planner working in the Bemidji district office, Laura Andersen has moved over to St Paul/Ramsey County, we have hired Rachel Schulman who will begin work on February 1st as our new CRI coordinator, and Whitney Koester has joined us as a planner working under my direction. Please watch for and share any future openings with people who would like to join our team. On the programmatic side of things, in 2016, EPR will continue to build on past initiatives and will be spearheading some new endeavors to help ensure that the public health and healthcare systems in Minnesota are ready for any emergency. We look forward to expanding and strengthening relationships, plans, and critical resources to meet the challenges ahead.

Cheryl

MN HOSA and MDH EPR: A Unique Partnership

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is a nationwide organization for high school and college students interested in health-related fields. It provides students with opportunities for leadership development and building knowledge and skills through trainings, projects, and competitions. MN HOSA and MDH EPR have a unique partnership going back over nine years. MDH helped form the state-wide MN HOSA Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), which allows students under 18 to volunteer and train for disaster response. MDH EPR staff have also acted as liaisons, judged at competitions, and provided education, training, and mentoring through presentations at HOSA conferences and camps. Annual MN HOSA MRC Camps provide education and train students in skills necessary to be a HOSA MRC volunteer.

In December 2015, four EPR staff (Nancy Carlson, Bill Schmidt, Chad Ostlund, and Katie Haugen) helped plan, organize, and lead the 3rd annual MN HOSA MRC Camp at Camp Ripley by providing organizational and logistical support and creating and providing drills, trainings, and presentations. Trainings by EPR staff included: tactical communications, Psychological First Aid and Disaster Readiness Actions for Teens, a discussion of stigma, discrimination, and empathy, and talks about past disaster response experiences. This 3-day camp was a great success, with around 60 students learning new skills, engaging in trainings and drills, and further developing their leadership abilities and interest in emergency preparedness. MDH and HOSA look forward to continuing work together in educating, mentoring, and developing the next generation of leaders in health care, public health, and emergency preparedness!

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2016 HPP & PHEP Statewide Full Scale Exercise

On March 29, 2016, MDH is coordinating a statewide full-scale exercise (FSE) designed to demonstrate a multi-jurisdictional, integrated response to a high impact natural disaster scenario. Participants include the Minnesota Department of Health, the eight healthcare coalitions, all hospitals that are members of a healthcare coalition, and all community health boards and tribal health departments that receive the base amount of PHEP grant funding.

During this exercise, players will demonstrate their ability to perform: regional healthcare coordination, information sharing and situational awareness among and between the eight healthcare coalitions, public health agencies, EMS and other community partners, emergency operations coordination, medical surge within and across the eight health coalitions and with MDH, and notification of pre-incident registered volunteers for a public health emergency.

Full-scale exercises involve multiple agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions and validate many facets of preparedness. Events are projected through an exercise scenario with event updates that drive activity at the operational level. FSEs are usually conducted in a real-time, stressful environment that is intended to mirror a real incident. In this exercise, not all players will be involved at the same level of play; however, the combined activity of all the players demonstrates the components of a FSE.

For more information about the March 29th FSE, please contact Janice Maine at janice.maine@state.mn.us or 651-201-5715.



Preparedness Apps for Mobile Devices

Monster Guard

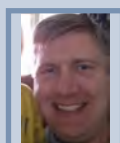
The Monster Guard app, which was created by the American Red Cross, and sponsored by Disney, helps teach kids (aged 7-11) how to prepare for real-life emergencies at home and in other environments.

With the help of Maya, Chad, Olivia, and all the monsters, kids learn how to stay safe and have the chance to practice what they have learned in a fun and engaging game. This free app is available for iOS and Android mobile devices and tablet devices.

Download this app today:

<http://www.redcross.org/monsterguard>

Meet the Staff



Pat McQuillan—Healthcare Ebola Planner

Pat McQuillan is the new Public Health and Healthcare Ebola & Emerging Infections Planner. He is a Minnesota native who has spent the last decade working in Washington, DC including several years in both homeland security and emergency management positions. Most recently, he served as the staff director for the emergency management subcommittee in the Senate overseeing FEMA. Prior to that, he served in the Obama Administration leading advisory committees of senior officials for the DHS Secretary.



Whitney Koester—Readiness Systems Planner

Whitney is the new cross-sectional planner in Emergency Preparedness and Response. She comes to MDH from the University of Minnesota Medical School, where she was involved in project coordination and research of pediatric genetic disorders. After graduating, Whitney received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English for a year at a federal university in Recife, Brazil. She has also held roles with the American Red Cross, focusing on community preparedness, and the health department for the city of Brooklyn Park, where she conducted health inspections of local establishments.

Important Dates

Feb. 9-11, 2016----2016 Governor's HSEM Conference <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/training/Pages/governors-conference.aspx>

Feb. 24, 2016 -----2016 Preparedness Practicum -----<http://www.metrohealthready.org/training/2016-preparedness-practicum/>

Mar. 29, 2016-----HPP-PHEP Statewide Full Scale Exercise ----- For information, contact: janice.maine@state.mn.us