

# EPRNews

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## April 2014

### From our director

As most of you know, we received our Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) funding continuation notifications last week for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015).

While we received a modest increase in the PHEP (5.58 percent) and CRI (4.2 percent) grants, we did receive a significant decrease of 39.8 percent in the HPP grant. There is no question that this decrease in funds will impact some of our programs. However, I want you to know that the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response still will be here to serve you. Changes in grant funding are unfortunately a part of our business, and like all good emergency preparedness personnel, we have been considering, and will continue to consider, our continuity of operations.

Below is our plan for moving forward with the situation at hand:

Week 1) We are going to re-evaluate and prioritize our capabilities using previous surveys and assessments, and partner advice in order to target the direction and future of our HPP program and work out in the community. We know we will need to make hard decisions about where we direct our efforts and funding as we cannot realistically continue to operate at the same level we have when the funding just doesn't support it.

Week 2) The information gained through week one will be used to determine the specific project and funding levels awarded to our contractors. Our contractors were forewarned about the potential of a possible 30% cut, so understand this situation, however, they may not yet be fully aware of the actual 40% funding reduction. Natalie and the HPP team will be circling back to work with our contractors to create realistic SOWs that will reflect the direction outlined from week one and based on funding levels. In some instances, this may mean that we not continue on with a current contractor.

Week 3) Working from week one and week two, OEPR will work on our internal portion of the funding reduction. This chosen direction, matched with what contracts will be maintained, will determine our overall work loads. Based on the fact that our funding was reduced, creating less program demands, will result in decreased staff responsibilities and work load. This means the OEPR will have to go through a re-organization that will be based on the work needed to support our programs. The OEPR management team will work diligently on minimizing the impact to staff as much as possible, while still focusing on maintaining an appropriate level of program support. This information will be provided to HR, who in turn creates the layoff plan.

We thank you for your efforts and your patience. We will continue to keep you updated as information becomes available. In the interim, don't hesitate to contact us with questions.

Lyle Moore, Jr.

### Announcements and updates

## In this edition

This month we are sharing announcements and updates, SNS updates, the Colorado Hospital Association update and training announcements. If you received this email, but do NOT wish to receive the newsletter, email [sarah.werner@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.werner@state.co.us) to be removed from the list.

## Drennen featured on CNN.com

Dr. Curt Drennen, the Disaster Behavioral Health Program Manager, was recently featured in a CNN.com Op Ed about how families of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 can cope with the tragedy. While the article was written for this particular incident, it offers great information about coping with any disaster situation. Check it out [here](#).

## OEPR and DCEED collaborate with LPHAs for vaccination exercises



CDPHE's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response and the Immunization Program in the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division are collaborating with local public health agencies to provide Section 317 vaccines free of charge for use in public health preparedness exercises. These vaccines may be used for anyone, regardless of age, when conducting these exercises. For information on requesting vaccines for an exercise, click [here](#). For a list of available adult vaccines, click [here](#). For a list of available pediatric vaccines, click [here](#).

Regional EPR staff have conducted, or will conduct nine Point of Distribution (POD) exercises using Section 317 vaccine since the program began. They are:

A patient gets a shot at a recent exercise in San Juan County

- Cheyenne County, Sept. 2013
- Kit Carson County, Sept. 2013
- Adams County, Oct. 2013
- Arapahoe County, Oct. 2013
- Mesa County, Oct. 2013
- Otero County, Jan. 2014
- Delta County, May 2014
- San Juan County, Jan. 2014

For more information on this program, please contact [melanie.simons@state.co.us](mailto:melanie.simons@state.co.us).

## Behavioral Health Team receives thank you from Pueblo City-County Health Department

The OEPR Behavioral Health Team received the following note of thanks from Jean Borrego with the Pueblo City-County Health Department following its recent active shooter training:

We wanted to thank for your assistance with our recent active shooter training at the Pueblo City-County Health Department. The Pueblo County "Recovery in the Aftermath of Community Violence" handouts that were provided by your office were well received by staff at the Pueblo City-County Health Department (PCCHD) for the Active Shooter Training we had in February. Also, the assistance Jonathan Gunderson provided to South Region EPR Staff in creating appropriate questions to administer to PCCHD staff was very helpful.

Some participants said that your handout helped them feel more comfortable talking about their feelings and reactions in relation to the active shooter activities on February 17. The training was part of our annual Workforce Development Day, which 75 public health employees attended.

As community partners, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, Southern Colorado Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) Coordinator and the Coworkers' Assistance Team (CAT) from the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo (CMHIP) provided training to PCCHD employees and assisted us with evaluating the event. Community partner training sessions took place along with an event briefing. Staff went back to their regular work areas from the training room and blanks from three different types of firearms were fired on the different floors of our three story facility at the Health Department. All community sector partners made valuable observations and recommendations in their evaluations of the day's activity.

The CAT team's presence proved to be invaluable. They served to address immediate behavioral health needs of the staff and to educate facilitators and participants depending on the needs in the areas they were designated to oversee. We found that even though staff members were briefed on the active shooter activity and knew to anticipate the sound of blanks being fired, that the smell and the actual sound of the blanks were largely noted by staff as unexpected or not what they thought it would be. There was a dissonance between the "idea" and the "reality" of the experience of the activity. Some people said they reacted and felt differently than they had expected to. Participants reported feeling surprised, excited, nauseous, scared and anxious. The behavioral health professionals on site helped PCCHD staff validate and deal with their feelings and emotions as they arose. The team also assisted PCCHD in identifying those that needed follow up afterward and shared valuable feedback.

No one on staff at PCCHD could have performed the specialized services that your office and our partners from the CAT team did. We simply don't have the background, experience or training that Behavioral Health professionals possess in-house at the Health Department. This is one of the many reasons why community integrated emergency preparedness and response planning, training and exercising is so vital. There were great lessons learned and we were thankful for the materials you provided and for your support of the Behavioral Health professionals that volunteered their time to participate in our Public Health Active Shooter Training.

### **Tri-County Health Department announces Health Care Coalition dates for 2014**

The Tri County Health Department has announced the 2014 dates for their [Health Care Coalition](#) and [Alternate Treatment Center Health Care Coalition](#). If you are in Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas or Elbert County and interested in participating, call 720-200-1477 or email [oepr@tchd.org](mailto:oepr@tchd.org).

### **Project EPIC analyzes Jefferson County's social media communications during the 2013 floods**

We hear a lot about using social media during disasters, but how does it really work? Check out this [analysis](#) by the University of Colorado Boulder's Project EPIC of the Jefferson County Type III Incident Management Team's use of Facebook, Twitter and blogging during the 2013 Colorado floods.

### **Systems Integration Team updates**

- **Planning:** The System Integration Team (SIT) is working on updating its strategic plan. Part of this process will include creating a survey to collect feedback on all CDPHE OEPR systems to help guide goals, projects, trainings, drills and exercises involving CDPHE OEPR systems. This information all will be included in the SIT strategic plan and distributed to partners once finished. The survey to collect feedback is scheduled to be distributed by mid-May.
- **Notifications:** Last year CDPHE OEPR had some issues with one of its vendors, Cassidian Communications, which provides hosting and support for the emergency notification system called Dialogic Communicator. Over the last year CDPHE OEPR, with input from several regional and local partners, evaluated various proposals for a new emergency notification system and a new vendor has been selected. Everbridge is the new vendor and CDPHE OEPR is in negotiations with this vendor. The tentative contract start date is July 1, 2014.
- **Drill:** Next month there will be an unannounced SNS/HAN notification drill. This drill for LPHAs will test work, cell,

email, text, fax and EMResource responses.

- SATool Archive: All data from SATool has been transferred over to the new Google system called CO-SHARE. Unless specifically requested, the data on SATool was transferred over to an archival section of the site. The SATool archive pages are linked from CO-SHARE under the navigation options on the left side of the home page. Folders and files easily can be moved from the SATool archive site to CO-SHARE. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact [chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us](mailto:chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us).
- Conference Call: The scheduled quarterly conference call will include updates on CDPHE OEPR systems. If you have anything you would like to add to the discussion, please let [chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us](mailto:chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us) know so she can add it to the agenda. This replaces the quarterly conference call formerly referred to as the HAN conference call.
  - Time and Date: April 17, 2014 @ 10:30 a.m.
  - Audience: All Partners
  - Tentative Discussion Items:
    - System Integration Team Updates
    - New Alerting System
    - SIT Strategic Plan
    - SNS/HAN Drill
- CO-SHARE Trainings: CO-SHARE collaborator and administrator trainings are scheduled and posted on [www.co.train.org](http://www.co.train.org) for the Colorado Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CDPHE OEPR) partners. Course IDs and descriptions are as follows:
  - CO-SHARE Collaborator Training:
    - Course ID: 1044407
    - Course Description: CO-SHARE is a new Google system for public health emergency preparedness. The system is for public health, medical and emergency preparedness partners in the State of Colorado. The site has 3 key components: 1) Collaboration and preparedness page for partners to share various documents, trainings, after-action reports and other tools to assist with emergency planning and preparedness; 2) Integration of CDPHE's health alert and emergency notification systems so partners can search and alert key stakeholders during events that threaten public health; and 3) A grant/contract progress reporting page for CDPHE OEPR contractors to report progress on the completion of work plan deliverables as well as communication with CDPHE OEPR program and fiscal staff for assistance.
  - CO-SHARE Administrator Training:
    - Course ID: 1047119
    - Course Description: CO-SHARE is a new Google system for public health emergency preparedness. The system is for public health, medical and emergency preparedness partners in the State of Colorado. The site has 3 key components: 1) Collaboration and preparedness page for partners to share various documents, trainings, after-action reports and other tools to assist with emergency planning and preparedness; 2) Integration with CDPHE's health alert and emergency notification systems so partners can search and alert key stakeholders during events that threaten public health; and 3) A grant/contract progress reporting page for CDPHE OEPR contractors to report progress on the completion of work plan deliverables as well as communication with CDPHE OEPR program and fiscal staff for assistance.

## Colorado Hospital Association Update

For more information, contact [deborah.french@cha.com](mailto:deborah.french@cha.com)



### Upcoming Peer-to-Peer Webinars announced

- East Peak Fire Webinar  
Evacuation Response by Colorado State Veterans Home Nursing Department  
April 2, 2014, Noon – 1 p.m.  
To register, [Click Here](#)  
This FREE one-hour webinar will describe how the long-term care (LTC) nursing department at Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center and the Colorado State Veterans Home responded to the threat of the evacuation of 105 residents and staff from the East Peak Fire. Risa Berry, Assistant Administrator at the Colorado State Veterans Home, will discuss how the planning and preparation that was done in advance of the encroaching fire helped to prepare the staff and residents for a potential evacuation.
- 2-1-1 Webinar

Where to Turn for Help - Every Day and During Emergencies

April 15, 2014, Noon – 1 p.m.

To register, [Click Here](#)

This FREE one-hour webinar will demonstrate Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 and discuss how health care and county emergency managers can benefit from this resource. In April of 2003, 2-1-1 went live providing Colorado with free, multilingual, confidential, 24/7 service that refers callers to programs and community resources. 2-1-1 Colorado's resource database holds information on more than 11,000 services supported by more than 4,500 agencies.

- To submit a Peer-to-Peer presentation proposal, [click here](#).

### **Colorado Hospital Association Emergency Code Implementation Guide now available**

The CHA Hospital Emergency Preparedness (HEP) program, in collaboration with the quality and patient safety department, recently developed an Emergency Code Implementation Guide for member hospitals and health systems. This guide provides in-depth recommendations, tools and resources on standardized codes for facility, medical, weather and security alerts. Its purpose is to reduce variations of emergency codes among Colorado hospitals; increase competency-based skills of health care staff working across multiple facilities; and improve staff, patient and public safety. The guide includes a sample policy and timeline, employee training and staff education competency assessment in both Spanish and English, as well as other valuable resources.

CHA encourages member hospitals and health systems to consider adopting the recommended standardized codes and guidelines for the most commonly used overhead pages. To access the CHA Emergency Code Implementation Guide, [click here](#). For more information, contact Deb French, CHA director of HEP at 720.330.6043 or [deborah.french@cha.com](mailto:deborah.french@cha.com).

### **ASHP and the University of Utah Drug Information Service create intravenous solution conservation strategies document**

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the University of Utah Drug Information Service developed a document entitled "[Intravenous Solution Conservation Strategies](#)." This document is a very helpful resource for healthcare facilities developing coping strategies for spot shortages.

The fact sheet summarizes the status of the current acute shortage of certain large-volume intravenous solutions and provides conservation and inventory control strategies for organizations to consider while managing the current situation. It is important to note that healthcare professionals should use their professional judgment in deciding how to use this information, taking into account the needs and resources of their individual organizations.

### **Guide created for post-disaster reunification of children**

Post-Disaster Reunification of Children: A Nationwide Approach illustrates the significance of whole community collaboration and inclusive emergency planning by providing a comprehensive overview of the coordination processes necessary to reunify children separated from their parents or legal guardians in the event of a large-scale disaster. It reflects how the whole community—to include non-governmental organizations such as Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, faith-based and community organizations, disability and pediatric organizations, federal and private sector partners, and civic action committees—can work together to achieve one wide ranging mission. Check it out [here](#).

### **Northern New Mexico Health Care Coalition interested in working with Colorado**

Tim Gruber, New Mexico Region I HCC Lead, is in the US Public Health Service and has worked closely with Ron Pinheiro over the years. Tim's region encompasses all Northern counties in New Mexico and he expressed a strong interest in multi-state coordination and exercises. He would welcome the opportunity to work with the Colorado Health Care Coalitions in the lower part of the state. Contact Tim at [timothy.gruber@ihs.gov](mailto:timothy.gruber@ihs.gov).

## **Training announcements**

### **Upcoming trainings**

Access the CO.TRAIN calendar at <https://www.co.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx?tabId=143>.

### **Spokesperson training coming up April 22**

Do you serve as an agency spokesperson or train the people who do? If so, "[A reporter is calling - now what? A training](#)

[for public health and emergency spokespersons](#)” is for you. Join us for a FREE day-long training session covering media interviews, verbal/non-verbal communication, dealing with special events and more. The course will be led by Laura McConnell, a PIO with 25 years of training experience, and will include guest speakers Anastasyia Bolton (9News) and Lynn Kimbrough (Denver District Attorney’s Office). Check out the linked flyer for more information. The class is filling up fast, so register soon! If you have registered, but are unable to attend, please let [sarah.werner@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.werner@state.co.us) know as soon as possible.

### **CASCA to hold emergency preparedness tabletop exercises**

Has your facility been paying attention to the pending changes to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid’s Conditions for Coverage on Emergency Preparedness? Although these requirements have not been finalized, why not get ahead of the curve and take proactive steps to ensure your facility’s Emergency Operations Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan are useful and updated? CASCA, working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, has created interactive table top exercises along the Front Range, as well as an online tabletop exercise opportunity for those located elsewhere. Last year’s flooding and wildfires highlight the need for our facilities to be prepared. Get ready and keep your emergency planning top tier quality. We hope to see you there. For more information, click [here](#) or check out the training calendar below.

### **CASCA to hold half-day emergency preparedness seminar**

The Colorado Ambulatory Surgery Center Association will hold a half-day emergency preparedness seminar April 11, 2014, at the Denver Downtown Embassy Suites. The seminar includes best business practices for continuing business operations during and after an emergency, including perspectives from around the state on experiences connecting with the healthcare community to enhance disaster response. For more information, check out the [flyer](#).

### **Center for Domestic Preparedness has seat availability for courses through June 2014**

The Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala., has [openings](#) for trainings through June 2014. The programs highlighted in yellow are full; all others specify the number of seats available. Tab 2 of the spreadsheet is the current resident program list that explains acronyms. If you are a state, local or tribal government emergency responder, this training is completely funded by DHS at no cost to you or your jurisdiction. CDP flies you into the Atlanta airport, picks you up, transports you to the CDP and provides all meals and lodging.

To learn more about the specific training programs, please visit the CDP website at <http://cdp.dhs.gov/training/resident/> and search by program or by discipline to see recommended courses. To register for training, please follow the registration process outlined at <http://cdp.dhs.gov/register/registration-process/>.

| Training name  | Date(s)            | Time(s)                                     | Location         | Contact                        |
|--|--------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <a href="#">CHA Peer-to-Peer Webinar: East Peak Fire— The Evacuation Response by Colorado State Veterans Home Nursing Department</a> | April 2            | Noon - 1 p.m.                               | Webinar          | <a href="#">Danyel Stewart</a> |
| <a href="#">G775 - EOC Management and Operations</a>   | April 3-4          | 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.                          | Pueblo           | <a href="#">Michael Bean</a>   |
| <a href="#">Critical Infrastructure Symposium 2014</a>   | April 7<br>April 8 | 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.<br>7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Colorado Springs | <a href="#">Bill Anderson</a>  |
| <a href="#">MGT-341: Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare</a>  | April 10-11        | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.                             | Fort Collins     | <a href="#">Mike Gavin</a>     |

|  |                      |                                       |             |                                    |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Organizations within the Community Infrastructure</a>  |                      |                                       |             |                                    |
| <a href="#">CASCA Emergency Preparedness Half Day Seminar</a>  | April 11             | 9 a.m.                                | Denver      | <a href="#">Chris Skagen</a>       |
| <a href="#">First Responder Resiliency Train the Trainer Workshop</a>                                      | April 11-12          | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.                       | Rifle       | <a href="#">Jonathan Gunderson</a> |
| <a href="#">CHA Peer-to-Peer Webinar: 2-1-1: Where to Turn for Help - Everyday and During Emergencies</a>  | April 15             | Noon - 1 p.m.                         | Webinar     | <a href="#">Danyel Stewart</a>     |
| <a href="#">Long-Term and Residential Care Disaster Preparedness conference</a>                            | April 15<br>April 16 | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.<br>8 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Omaha, Neb. | <a href="#">Kristine Sanger</a>    |
| <a href="#">MCICS 400</a>  | April 18-19          | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.                       | Denver      | <a href="#">John Putt</a>          |
| <a href="#">A reporter is calling - now what? A training for public health and emergency spokespersons</a> | April 22             | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.                       | Centennial  | <a href="#">Sarah Werner</a>       |
| <a href="#">First Responder Resiliency Train-the-Trainer Workshop</a>                                      | April 24-25          | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.                       | Frederick   | <a href="#">Jonathan Gunderson</a> |
| <a href="#">MCICS 100</a>  | April 24-25          | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.                       | Alamosa     | <a href="#">John Putt</a>          |
| <a href="#">FBI First Responder Training</a>   | April 29             | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.                       | Denver      | <a href="#">David Autrey</a>       |
| <a href="#">eICS external showcase</a>   | April 29             | 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.                       | Webinar     | <a href="#">Aubrey Kukral</a>      |
| <a href="#">FBI Public Information Officer Training</a>  | April 30             | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.                       | Denver      | <a href="#">David Autrey</a>       |
| <a href="#">MCICS 200</a>  | May 2-3              | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.                       | Alamosa     | <a href="#">John Putt</a>          |
| <a href="#">CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise</a>   | May 27               | 5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.                 | Ft. Collins | <a href="#">Kristen Campos</a>     |
| <a href="#">CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise</a>   | May 28               | 5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.                 | Boulder     | <a href="#">Kristen Campos</a>     |

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|--|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <a href="#">CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise</a>   | May 29           | 5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. | Colorado Springs                    | <a href="#">Kristen Campos</a> |
| <a href="#">MCICS 100</a>  | June 6-7         | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.       | Pueblo                              | <a href="#">John Putt</a>      |
| <a href="#">CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise</a><br>(Interactive online version)   | June 9           | 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.    | Link will be emailed prior to event | <a href="#">Kristen Campos</a> |
| <a href="#">MCICS 200</a>  | June 13-14       | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.       | Pueblo                              | <a href="#">John Putt</a>      |
| EMTrack webinar  | Third Wednesday  | 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.    | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Aubrey Kukral</a>  |
| EMResource webinar   | Fourth Wednesday | 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.    | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Aubrey Kukral</a>  |
| <a href="#">AWR-307-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster (awareness level)</a>   | Anytime          | Anytime               | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Bill Halstead</a>  |
| <a href="#">PER-302-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster (performance level)</a> | Anytime          | Anytime               | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Bill Halstead</a>  |
| <a href="#">Preparedness in Colorado: Environmental Health Aspects of Natural Disasters</a>  | Anytime          | Anytime               | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Nicole Roland</a>  |
| <a href="#">Preparedness in Colorado: Vulnerable Populations</a>   | Anytime          | Anytime               | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Nicole Roland</a>  |
| <a href="#">IS930 - Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) System: Leadership Training</a>                         | Anytime          | Anytime               | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Renée Funk</a>     |
| <a href="#">WB2254 - Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance</a>  | Anytime          | Anytime               | Webinar                             | <a href="#">Renée Funk</a>     |

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|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <a href="#">(ERHMS)</a> |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|

## Contact us

### Do you have information for this newsletter?

If you have information, questions or comments/suggestions, contact Sarah Werner at [sarah.werner@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.werner@state.co.us), 303-692-6359 or 720-387-5185. **Deadline for submission of articles for the May edition is Friday, April 25 at 5 p.m.**



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