

EPRNews

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



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

May 2014

From our director

When the HPP funding reduction was announced, EPR was faced with the challenge of continuing to provide the same quality and quantity of service with reduced funding. Part of this challenge included restructuring our office to reflect this new reality. In order to continue to serve those we work with in the best way possible, and to take our part of the funding cuts rather than passing them all to the local level, we have eliminated 3.5 full-time positions. Fortunately, because of vacant positions already in our office, we were able to accomplish this without laying off any of our existing staff members. This did, however, necessitate moving some staff members into different positions and changing some tasks. These changes are below:

- Natalie Riggins will move from HPP Program Manager to Systems Integration Program Manager. Natalie's HPP duties will be moved to the Grants Branch under Judy Yockey.
- Kristen Campos will move to the SNS Section where she will continue her existing cache work, along with taking on some new SNS responsibilities.
- Greg Jones will be moving under Korey Bell, where he will continue his current work with Rural Health contracts.
- Matt Newman has decided to move to the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division within CDPHE. His workload will be redistributed among members of the Operations Branch.
- Emily Nunez will take on a new role as OEPR's Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Plans Coordinator. Emily also will continue to work with long-term care facilities.
- Barbara Beiser will take on a new role as OEPR's Business Development Coordinator, where she will seek funding opportunities to sustain public health emergency preparedness and response programs throughout Colorado. Barbara's communication duties will be transferred to Sarah Werner.

OEPR's management team spent many hours working on a plan to reorganize our office, not only to provide the best service to our customers now, but to keep our operations sustainable for the future as well. We feel that this new organization will provide our partners with the highest level of service and lowest level of impact.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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 to be removed from the list.

Colorado legislature honors MRC of El Paso County



On April 24, the Colorado Legislature presented a resolution to the volunteers of the Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County (MRCEPC) in recognition of their efforts during the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires. Mobilized during both fires, 144 volunteers provided more than 2,100 hours of volunteer medical and behavioral health support at shelters, disaster assistance centers, town hall meetings and as residents returned to their devastated neighborhoods.

A delegation from MRCEPC, the El Paso County Medical Society (EPCMS) and the Colorado Medical Society (CMS) sat on the House floor and were introduced by the co-prime sponsors, Reps. Bob Gardner and Janak Joshi.

“We have a great community in Colorado Springs,” Gardner said after the resolution was read. “We take care of each other. It’s part of what makes Colorado Springs a great place to live and work. As we begin another fire season, one that’s expected to be drier than the past two years, the Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County will be ready if needed and will continue to serve as a model for the rest of the country.”

MRCEPC prepares and trains continually for disasters such as the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest Fires. As a fully integrated component of the Colorado Springs area emergency response system, MRCEPC’s nearly 200 credentialed and trained volunteers serve as a force multiplier. Public health officials have estimated that it would cost local agencies at least \$1.5 million annually to do what MRCEPC does on less than \$10,000 a year.

“We are proud to honor the selfless work of the Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County,” said Colorado Medical Society President John L. Bender, M.D. “The commitment of these volunteer physicians to meet the physical, mental and emotional needs of their neighbors in times of crisis is a true inspiration to us all.”

MRCEPC was created on Sept. 12, 2001, in response to the 9/11 terror attacks. EPCMS, whose Foundation houses MRCEPC, recognized immediately the need for our community to integrate all parts of our local health care community in disaster. Disaster Response for Health in El Paso County joined the national Medical Reserve Corps program in 2003, thus renaming MRCEPC.

“MRCEPC is an extremely professional organization that serves as a force multiplier both during disasters as well as during

'normal' day-to-day preparedness activities," said Frankie Gales, MRCEPC program director. "The city, county, and public health emergency managers rely heavily on MRCEPC for numerous capabilities that are generally not available from any other agency."

Mesa County achieves Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recognition



The Mesa County Health Department received its PPHR re-recognition at the Preparedness Summit in Atlanta in April. OEPR Grants Branch Manager Judy Yockey accepted the original award for the group and then presented it to the Mesa County Regional Staff at the OEPR Regional staff meeting in Salida. Congratulations to Mesa County on its achievement!

For more photos from the regional staff meeting, check out our [Flickr gallery](#).

OEPR receives \$4 million federal grant for disaster counseling

Crisis counseling services will continue over the next nine months for survivors of the Colorado flooding disaster in September 2013 funded by a \$4 million federal grant. FEMA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration have awarded the \$4,058,060 grant to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through the 2014 Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP).

The new grant will allow counselors to continue door-to-door services and community outreach counseling programs. Since the disaster, Colorado Spirit crisis counselors have:

- Talked directly with 18,178 people and provided referrals and other helpful information to more than 88,000, and
- Met with nearly 1,200 individuals or families in their homes.

CCP was established by the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide mental health assistance and training activities in designated disaster areas. The program provides the following services:

- Individual crisis counseling and group crisis counseling to help survivors understand their reactions and improve

- coping strategies, review their options and connect with other individuals and agencies that may assist them;
- Development and distribution of education materials such as flyers, brochures and website information on disaster-related topics and resources; and
- Relationship building with community organizations, faith-based groups and local agencies.

Pandemic influenza information discussed at Preparedness Summit

During the pandemic influenza sessions at the Preparedness Summit in April, CDC presented two proposals to support a pandemic influenza outbreak in the United States:

1. Develop a national flu triage phone center to provide information on flu and possibly provide prescriptions for anti-virals as appropriate to callers. The project would use the 411 information system and poison control centers.
2. Allow pharmacists to provide anti-viral prescriptions to customers with the flu. This would be allowed under a Collaborative Practice Agreement with a local provider.

Additional information provided at these sessions is below. For questions about any of these presentations, or pandemic influenza information, please contact [Nancy Gilbert](#).

- [Broadening access to pandemic medical care](#)
- [Design and implementation of a statewide pandemic triage line](#)
- [Flu-On-Call project issue brief](#)
- [Flu-On-Call FAQ](#)
- [Partnerships between pharmacists and public health](#)
- [Pharmacy - leveraging partnerships](#)
- [Resources for collaborative practice agreement - pharmacists](#)
- [Satisfaction and public health cost - statewide triage line](#)

HPP and PHEP funding continuation guidance released

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have released the Budget Period Three continuation guidance for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP). For more information on these grants, check out the [fast facts](#) and [supplemental information](#) documents discussed at the recent Preparedness Summit.

ASPR requests public comment on 2015-2018 National Health Security Strategy

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is requesting public comments on a draft of the 2015-2018 National Health Security Strategy.

The purpose of the 2015-2018 NHSS is to provide strategic direction for health security system in the United States over the next four years. The draft contains a vision, goal, guiding principles, strategic objectives, priorities, and implementation activities to enhance national health security. The Implementation Plan (IP) will guide the nation and facilitate coordination among stakeholders. Reviewers are encouraged to provide suggestions on:

- Overall strategic direction of the NHSS;
- The focus of the strategic objectives and priorities; and
- Activities that various sectors can implement by 2018. Notional activities currently are placeholders in the IP. Activities should align with the NHSS strategic objectives and identify who should be involved.

Please visit <http://www.phe.gov/nhss> to submit comments by 3 p.m. MT on May 21, 2014. This draft document is for public comment purposes only and should not be quoted or referenced. For questions or technical issues, please contact ASPR through the [NHSS Contact Form](#).

Colorado Hospital Association Update

For more information, contact deborah.french@cha.com



Emergency Preparedness Newsletter for Hospital Administrators now available

The Colorado Hospital Association [Emergency Preparedness Newsletter for Hospital Administrators](#) is now available. Check out this edition for great information on the connection between emergency preparedness and population health.

Abstracts now being accepted for National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

Abstracts are now being accepted for the 3rd Annual National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference in Denver, Colorado on December 10-12, 2014. The Conference Planning Committee invites healthcare, public health, emergency medical services, emergency management, healthcare coalition and other professionals nationwide to showcase their best-practice training models, plans, tools and other resources that promote and advance development of healthcare coalitions and describe effective coalition work in preparedness and response. For more on abstract submission, go to <http://healthcarecoalitions.org/2014-call-for-abstracts/>.

Registration for this year's conference will open mid-July 2014. The pricing structure is:

- Early Bird Registration (First 100 registrants to pay by credit card): \$365
- Regular Registration (credit card only): \$465
- Check/PO Registration: \$480

CMS Issues Proposed Fire Safety Rules

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a proposed rule on the adoption of updated life safety code (LSC) that CMS would use in its ongoing work to ensure the health and safety of all patients, family and staff in every provider and supplier setting. The updated code contains new provisions that are vital to the health and safety of all patients and staff.

This proposed rule would impact hospitals, critical access hospitals (CAHs), long-term care facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICFID), ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), hospices that provide inpatient services, religious non-medical health care institutions (RNHCIs) and programs of all-inclusive care for PACE facilities for the elderly.

Further, this proposed rule would adopt the 2012 edition of the Life Safety Code (LSC) and eliminate references in our regulations to all earlier editions. It also would adopt the 2012 edition of the Health Care Facilities Code, with some exceptions.

The proposed rule currently is on display at <http://ofr.gov/inspection.aspx> and was published in the April 16, 2014, Federal Register. The deadline to submit comments is June 16, 2014.

Yale New Haven Health releases quick guide to FEMA reimbursement for Acute Care Hospitals

With fire and flood season fast approaching, check out this quick guide from Yale New Haven Health on [FEMA reimbursement for Acute Care Hospitals](#).

President's Climate Action Plan presented at National Hospital Association meeting

The President's Climate Action Plan was presented at the National Hospital Association Meeting on April 18. Among other topics, this plan talks about the impact of climate change on natural disasters. Check it out [here](#).

Joint Committee to Create a National Policy to Enhance Survivability From Mass-Casualty Shooting Events releases call to action

The Joint Committee to Create a National Policy to Enhance Survivability From Mass-Casualty Shooting Events issued [this call to action](#) on July 11, 2013. It is the second report from the committee, which the American College of Surgeons (ACS) played a leadership role in forming. The committee has representation from the ACS Board of Regents, the ACS Committee on Trauma, the PreHospital Trauma Life Support program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the emergency medical services (EMS) section of International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care.

A risk management framework improves the resilience of healthcare facilities and services to high-impact weather

According to a new study by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Policy Program, a risk management framework can improve the resilience of healthcare facilities and services to high-impact weather such as tornadoes and hurricanes. The report is based on a recent AMS Policy Program workshop, A Prescription for the 21st Century: Improving Resilience to High-Impact Weather for Healthcare Facilities and Services, held in Washington, D.C. in October 2013.

The purpose of the study was to explore methods for improving the resilience of the health system. The report outlines a process for reducing the structural and operational risks that healthcare facilities often face. The study presents a systematic strategy for improving resilience through a three-step process that first seeks to understand risks, then addresses the vulnerabilities of health facilities and, finally, prepares for the continuity of health services in the event of disruptions.

The full report is available at the AMS Policy Program website at www.ametsoc.org/hfs.

The AMS Policy Program conducts research, analysis and studies designed to help ground societal decisions in the best available knowledge and understanding. These efforts help the nation, and the world, avoid risks and realize opportunities associated with the earth system. To see additional studies, visit www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy.

Training announcements

Upcoming trainings

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

NACCHO University courses now available on COTRAIN

NACCHO University now is offering its online training courses through CO.TRAIN (www.co.train.org):

- Climate Change and Public Health – Course ID 1050176
- Community Environmental Health Assessments – Course ID 1050177
- Environmental Public Health (EPH) Primer Overview – Course ID 1050175
- Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS) – Course ID 1050178
- Key functions of Public Health Financial Management – Course ID 1050172
- Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills: What is Strategic Planning and How Do I Prepare? – Course ID 1050173
- Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP): Organize for Success/Partnership Development and Four Assessments Phases – Course ID 1050170
- Opportunities for Hospital and Local Health Department Collaboration for Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning – Course ID 1050171
- Public Health and the Law: An Emergency Preparedness Training Kit – Course ID 1050167
- Working with the Media – Course ID 1050181

OEPR to host BNICE training

The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response will provide a Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical and Explosives (BNICE) training, conducted by Dr. Peter Pons, for CVM volunteers and others. The class is May 30 at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with lunch on your own. Registration is on CO.TRAIN course number 1050524.

The BNICE program trains citizens and healthcare providers of all levels to initiate the correct response and initial treatment actions in a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) terrorist incident, natural disaster or other mass casualty events.

Please see the [flyer](#) for additional information. If you have questions, contact [Koral O'Brien](mailto:Koral.O'Brien).

Spokesperson training coming up June 2

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 in Rifle 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. Check out the linked flyer for more information. Space is limited, so register soon! If you have registered, but are unable to attend, please let sarah.werner@state.co.us know as soon as possible.

Long Term Care Disaster Preparedness Conference coming in June

The CDPHE Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, in coordination with local and state partners is hosting a [Long Term Care Disaster Preparedness Conference](#) in order to enhance the ability of health care organizations throughout Colorado to respond to emergencies.

The conference will be held June 2-3, 2014, with a Welcome Reception on Sunday, June 1, from 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The conference will be held at the Colorado Springs Marriott, located at 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919.

Due to limited space, priority registration will be given to Long Term Care facilities, Assisted Living residences, Home Health providers, and other health organizations serving vulnerable community members. We ask local public health agencies, emergency managers and first responders to wait to register after May 1, 2014.

Training name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Location	Contact
COVOAD Disaster Operations Training	May 2	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Centennial	Robyn Knappe
MCICS 200	May 2-3	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Alamosa	John Putt
Utilizing Social Media during a Crisis	May 6	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Greenwood Village	Clinton Anderson
ICS 400	May 7-8	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Commerce City	Michael Bean
G290 - Basic Public Information Officer	May 8-9	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Greeley	Michael Bean
ICS 300	May 12-13	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Aspen	Beth Roome
G-290 - Basic Public Information Officer	May 14-15	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Parker	Michael Bean
ICS 300	May 14-15	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Centennial	Michael Bean
G202 - Debris Management	May 19-20	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Denver	Michael Bean
CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise	May 27	5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Ft. Collins	Kristen Campos
CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise	May 28	5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Boulder	Kristen Campos
CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise	May 29	5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Colorado Springs	Kristen Campos
BNICE training	May 30	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Denver	Koral O'Brien
A reporter is calling - now what? A training for public health and emergency spokespersons	June 2	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Rifle	Sarah Werner
Long Term Care Disaster Preparedness Conference	June 2-3	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Colorado Springs	Emily Nuñez

Colorado Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy	June 2-8	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	New Castle	info@cwfima.com
PER275 - Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response (LASER)	June 3-5	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Pagosa Springs	Michael Bean
G290 - Basic Public Information Officer	June 5-6	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Hugo	Michael Bean
MCICS 100	June 6-7	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Pueblo	John Putt
CASCA Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise (Interactive online version)	June 9	4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Link will be emailed prior to event	Kristen Campos
L364 & L362 - Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools	June 9-10	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Loveland & Golden	Michael Bean
MCICS 200	June 13-14	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Pueblo	John Putt
L557 - Mission Essential Functions Workshop	June 17-18	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Centennial	Michael Bean
G290 - Basic Public Information Officer	June 8-9	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Granby	Beth Roome
G290 - Basic Public Information Officer	October 14-15	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Alamosa	Michael Bean
EMTrack webinar	Third Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
EMResource webinar	Fourth Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
AWR-307-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster (awareness level)	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Bill Halstead
PER-302-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Bill Halstead

(performance level)				
Preparedness in Colorado: Environmental Health Aspects of Natural Disasters	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Nicole Roland
Preparedness in Colorado: Vulnerable Populations	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Nicole Roland
IS930 - Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) System: Leadership Training	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Renée Funk
WB2254 - Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS)	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Renée Funk

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, 303-692-6359 or 720-387-5185. **Deadline for submission of articles for the June edition is Tuesday, May 27 at 5 p.m.**



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