

**Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
Emergency Preparedness (EP) Advisory Council
Healthcare Sector Conference Call Minutes**

Date and Time of Call: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 - 0930 to 1030

Call Number: **1-888-776-3766**

Call Room Number: **3251726 press the star (*) key before and after the room number**

Please note this is a call-in number and call procedure, the call will not be answered by an operator, but by an automated attendant.

1. Welcome, Identification of committee members in alphabetical order, Review of Agenda
(Ann Brantley)

1. Paul Abel, Emergency Preparedness/Safety Officer, DCH System
2. Steve Anderson, Baptist World Mission
3. Zoe Baker, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
4. Stanley Batchelor, Human Services Branch Director, Alabama Emergency Management Agency
5. Beth Beck, Springhill Medical Center
6. Ann Brantley, HVA Nurse Coordinator, Asst. CEP Healthcare Sector Liaison, ADPH, CEP
7. Julie Cobb, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Jefferson County Health Department
8. Charlie Crawford, ESAR-VHP/MRC Coordinator, ADPH, CEP
9. Jeff Crews, Jacksonville Medical Center
10. Carolyn Dean, Infection Control Coordinator, Jackson Hospital & Clinic
11. Joseph Decker II, Executive Director, Alabama State Nurses Association
12. Carter English, Indigent Drug Program Pharmacist, ADMH & Mental Retardation
13. Dr. John G. Fisher, Director, Alabama Poison Center
14. Alice Floyd, CEP Nurse Manager, ADPH, CEP
15. Kathy Headley, Safety Director, Medical West, an affiliate of the UAB Health System
16. Michael Henderson, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
17. Mary Hooks, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
18. Betty Jowers, Surveillance Nurse Coordinator, ADPH, Area 7
19. Monica Knight, Director of Disease Control, Mobile County Health Department
20. Joe Lynch, Alabama Fire College
21. Shila McKinney, Disease Intervention Specialist, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Jefferson County Health Department
22. Benjamin P., Rackley, Director, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
23. Jane Reeves, CEP Nurse Manager, CEP Healthcare Sector Liaison, ADPH, CEP
24. Sallie Shipman, HVA Nurse Coordinator, Asst. CEP Healthcare Sector Liaison, ADPH, CEP
25. Michael Smith, Coffee Co. EMA
26. Joyce Thomas, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Huntsville Hospital Emergency Preparedness
27. Pam Toney, Medical Reserve Corps, North Alabama MRC
28. Dr. David Wallace, Director Bioterrorism Preparedness Training, University of South Alabama Center for Strategic Health Innovation
29. John Wible, Retired General Counsel, ADPH

2. Review and approval of minutes from April 26, 2011 Healthcare Sector Meeting
(Ann Brantley)

The minutes were approved as sent to the committee.

3. Old Business (Subcommittee Co-chair or designee)

Discussion Items:

A. Subcommittee Updates-

Faith Based/Community and Other Volunteers Sector – Charlie Crawford, ESAR-VHP/MRC Coordinator, ADPH CEP

The new ADPH volunteer registry went live on June 30, 2011. The registration page can be accessed through the ADPH Volunteer Webpages at www.adph.org/volunteer or directly at

<https://www.alresponds.adph.alabama.gov>

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) funding RFP was sent out to the Alabama MRCs for the new current year funding through ADPH and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Hospital Preparedness Program.

The 2012 Volunteer Symposium planning committee has conducted preliminary planning for the next symposium.

Healthcare Coordination/Operational Planning/Pharmacy Issues – Sallie Shipman, HVA Nurse Coordinator, ADPH CEP

Improved Communication Methods; CDC recommended that we look at the issue of communications from a State and local perspective. Betty Jowers talked to Becky Booker who is the Executive Director of United Way. 211 works with Department of Human Resources (DHR), American Red Cross (ARC), and faith based organizations and any others in order to obtain and offer names and places of available resources. 211 was very active during the Tuscaloosa disaster. They were present in the EOC with many of our workers. When dialing 211, you speak with an actual person who offers a world of information from directing people to local shelters to where they can get all types of assistance. 211 is divided up in regions like most emergency services and a regional map is available at:

<http://www.211connectsalabama.org/ContactUs.aspx> Becky also provided Betty with the map of regions. The link to information regarding United Way of Alabama 211 and resources is located at:

<http://www.unitedwaysofalabama.org/>

Betty wanted to ask everyone to please take a minute to look at this web site just to know how to get there in case they should need to tell others about it for help. Stanley noted that AEMA partners with 211 and sits in the state EOC in the Joint Information Center.

The County and Area Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 All-Hazards Assessment Review Improvement Plan Report from October 2010 Submission of the County and Area ESF 8 All-Hazards including area percentages was sent to each Area

Administrator, Emergency Preparedness (EP) Coordinator, and EP Team. Please contact your local EP Team to work with them on planning improvements for the next submission. Due to the recent response to the Severe Weather Outbreak, it was decided that the submission scheduled for June 2011 would be postponed until after the improvement process. The improved assessments will remain by and large the same; however, clarifications and additional grant requirements will be added. It is imperative that the EP Teams continue work on the MSWord version of the assessment and provide input during this improvement process. The improvements will link the ESF 8 Assessments to the Alabama Healthcare Disaster Planning Guide. Ann Brantley, John Lowery, and Kuma Girdner will lead the updates of the Alabama Healthcare Disaster Planning Guide and the ESF 8 All-Hazards Assessments.

All information on how to begin process for setting up a **Closed POD** is on the ADPH/CEP/SNS website at:

<http://www.adph.org/CEP/index.asp?id=3711>

Included on the site is guidance, a template and tutorial. If an organization is interested, they will work through their EP Coordinator and DeeAnn White will review Closed POD plans to present to ADPH Legal Division. DeeAnn is presently in the process of developing a Letter of Intent and will add it to the website as soon as it is complete. Heather reported that JCHD is working with several agencies that want to serve as a Closed POD. More information to follow.

State Emergency Operations Plan update has been delayed due to the tornado response. Jane Reeves and Dr. Geary will be working in regard to emergency plans that will be developed for the present governor's administration. More information will follow.

Training and Exercise Planning – Ann Brantley, HVA Nurse Coordinator, ADPH CEP

Recent training activities and exercises included:

Strategic National Stockpile Regional Distribution Sites

Training- A Tabletop/Functional exercise involving the Regional Distribution Site was held on June 20 in Robertsedale, for Public Health Areas 7 through 11. The exercise was well attended and included effective discussions on how they would receive, apportion and distribute the medicines received from the SNS. Participants included law enforcement, state and local emergency

management and public health. The exercise tested the communication capabilities between all agencies involved in this portion of SNS. Several strengths as well as suggestions were brought up in the hot wash. This included allowing Public Health access to EMITS. (AL EMA's online emergency tracking system). RDS training for PHA 1 through 6 is scheduled for August 3rd at the Water Course (Alabama Power's Conference Center) in Clanton from 9 AM to 4 PM.

The CRI Functional Exercise was held on **July 12, 2011** in Shelby County at the Shelby RDS Facility. The exercise tested all the non-point of dispensing (POD) aspects of SNS along with the procedure from the initial request of SNS from the locals through re-supply request. Over 60 participants with several agencies participated in the exercise including, ADPH, AEMA, Blount County Health Department, Chilton County EMA, Calhoun EMA, Jefferson County EMA, Jefferson Department of Health, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Shelby County EMA, Shelby County Health Department, South East Shelby Rescue, St. Clair County Health Department, Talladega EMA, PHA 3, PHA 5, PHA 6, PHA 8, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Montgomery EMA. In addition to the agencies mentioned above, several hospitals participated in the exercise by requesting SNS supplies from the RDS. The overall exercise was successful and it provided a couple of areas for improvement as well as several strengths. A need for additional Regional Distribution Site management training was recognized as well as a need for more role playing exercises where the RDS management receives, processes and handles requests they would normally receive during RDS operations. This could be done as a seminar or a tabletop exercise and would allow people to be more comfortable in their management roles. One of the strengths found was the actual receiving, storing, picking and shipping procedures in the exercise. Due to the recent tornado, the portion of the exercise regarding a simulation of the calls that would go to Samford, APC, and AU was postponed. John Hooper will be coordinating the efforts for this exercise to occur in the next 12 months.

The Medical Needs Shelter and Patient Tracking training was completed for all 11 PHA'S and was presented at the AIPHA (Alabama Public Health Association) Conference in May. Computers, scanners and name tags are being distributed to each area to support the patient tracking when the system goes live.

The State Mortuary Operations Response Team (SMORT)

participated in Family Assistance Center (FAC) training in February. The course was attended by the Disaster Chaplains and SMORT Team Leaders. National Transportation and Safety Board speakers conducted the two day session.

SMORT deployed to Rainsville for the tornados of April 27. No SMORT family assistance center was needed although a small FAC center was stood up in Tuscaloosa under Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS) jurisdiction.

On May 26, 2011, SMORT Family Assistance Center volunteers participated in an exercise at the State EOC. The drill was to test the team's capability to collect antemortem and postmortem data for victim identification. The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences participated. Identification for all simulated victims was successful. The Federal partner who helped with planning could not attend the exercise because he deployed with Disaster Mortuary Operations Team (DMORT) to Joplin, Missouri.

The Public Health Area 6 Response Team members participated in a Tallapoosa County exercise on **June 14, 2011**. Tallapoosa County holds a functional exercise annually so that all agencies that desire to participate are able to fulfill grant requirements. This was the 5th of the 6 year exercise history that Public Health Area 6 Emergency Preparedness Team has participated.

There were two scenarios, one involving a "gas leak" at Chapman Nursing Home in Alexander City which required the Nursing Home to exercise evacuation. Students simulated as patients and Chapman used the Mobile Medical Station as an Alternate Care Site for those patients evacuated. Patients were transported by ambulance, transport buses and a school bus with simulation of a bus conversion kit. The Alternate Care Site was located off site in a nearby church parking lot. The 2nd scenario was a "shooter" in Russell Medical Center. Local public health personnel were present in the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in both scenarios.

Ironically, Brown Nursing Home, also located in Alex City, faced very real events on July 20th as they had to evacuate due to flash flooding. The residents had to be transported through the water to other facilities in Tallapoosa and Coosa counties. Link to recent article: <http://www.alexcityoutlook.com/2011/07/20/flash-flood/>

4. New Business (Ann Brantley)

Discussion Items:

A. Summary of After Action Reports April 27, 2011 Severe Weather Outbreak Response – David Wallace, Director, Bioterrorism Preparedness Training, USA College of Medicine

Following the tornadoes of April 27, 2011, CSHI/University of South Alabama, CEP/ADPH and ALAHA agreed to conduct five after action reviews for the hospitals in Alabama impacted by the storms. The following hospitals hosted the sessions:

DCH RMC Tuscaloosa, June 21

Lawrence Medical Center Moulton, June 22

Cullman Regional Cullman, June 23

Huntsville Hospital Huntsville, June 27

Elmore Community Hospital Wetumpka, June 28

The After Action sessions were designed to do the following:

- The discussion period is of short duration
- It will be a facilitated discussion format
- There will be constructive comments only – no blame for errors or deficiencies – Praise will be accepted!
- The discussion will identify things that went well
- The discussion will identify things that did not go well
- Differences of opinions will be evident and should be valued equally
- The end-point is to collect the experiences and observations of hundreds of people responding to the tornadoes, compiling their stories, and sharing them with everyone else

Discussions were focused around six categories of topics:

1. Weather Awareness
2. Disaster Plan
3. Personnel
4. Supplies
5. Patient Care
6. Communications

Approximately 75 hospitals participated and almost 150 individuals attended the five sessions. Even though the same topics were discussed, each session was unique because of conditions in the communities, specifically the severity of damage in the area and near the hospitals, the medical capabilities of the facilities, the number of

patients received and treated, and the ability of each facility to respond based on their size and capacity.

CSHI is in the early stages of reviewing and compiling the information collected at the five sessions. In the near future CSHI will produce a summary report of the response activities, and will make it available to all participants, as well as any appropriate agency and/or stakeholder in the state of Alabama.

5. New Business, not identified on the agenda (Ann Brantley)

Stanley Batchelor informed the committee that FEMA and The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) are hosting a [Webinar](#) August 10th. This is to roll out a new web based training program to encourages hospitals and other medical facilities to coordinate their disaster planning with their local Emergency Management Agencies and other community partners who would respond to assist them during an emergency or disaster. An email [Template](#) is provided to assist you in encouraging participation. Stanley asked that this information be forwarded to all who might be interested in the program. For more information click [here](#).

6. Review date and time of next call, **Tuesday, October 25, 2011** then to be held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. (Ann Brantley)

7. Other topics and announcements (All): Recognition of Sallie Shipman, who will be leaving ADPH to begin a teaching career at the University Of Alabama Capstone School Of Nursing. Many thanks to Sallie for her 18 years of service to the Department and Best Wishes in her new endeavor! Her new email address is sjshipman@crimson.ua.edu

8. Adjourn