

## Program Update

### Office of Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR)

### Washington State Department of Health (DOH)

### June 2015

The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program News Update is provided by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) as a way to share current information about the preparedness program. This News Update is intended to be shared with local, regional, and tribal partners; please forward it to others who may be interested. We are currently in Budget Period 3 of a five-year cooperative agreement. Our fiscal period is July 1 – June 30 each year.

#### State and National Updates – Michael Loehr

- 2015 Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference  
The conference last week was a great opportunity to collaborate with tribes, federal partners and partners from other states.
- ASPR Ebola grant Part B – Regional Treatment Facility  
We were notified our application was approved for Washington state, and Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children’s Hospital in Spokane will be our Region X facility (for Wash., Ore., Idaho).

Cate Burgess is our newly-appointed Healthcare (HPP) Ebola Program Coordinator and will be working with hospitals, HCCs, EMS and other partners to advance this capability forward. Cate has been our Cascadia Rising lead, and we will be working to re-allocate some of her duties. Contact Cate: [cate.burgess@doh.wa.gov](mailto:cate.burgess@doh.wa.gov), 360-236-4037.

- Update from PHEP and HPP meeting in D.C. – CDC response platform  
I attended a meeting last week with CDC and ASPR to discuss the future of healthcare and public health preparedness in the U.S., what we should emphasize, and how we should present our case to elected leaders.

CDC presented their concept of a “response platform” – a set of core, foundational capabilities which CDC is emphasizing over others (not necessarily to the exclusion of others), since these are the ones we bring to every response. They will focus on measuring these capabilities:

- Incident Management (#3 EOC Operations)
  - Information Sharing (#6)
  - Disease surveillance/Lab (#12/#13)
  - Risk Communications (#4)
  - Medical Countermeasures (#8)
  - Non-pharmaceutical interventions (#11)
  - Coordination of response with Healthcare partners
  - Emergency administrative, legal, and spending authorities
- State budget update  
We request you **do not** start contract work July 1 **\*if\*** Washington state lawmakers fail to pass a budget by June 30. In that scenario, DOH employees will be furloughed (temporarily laid off) and our offices closed.

If that happens, here's what will happen with your contracts:

The period of performance will begin – you can start work – when the budget is passed and DOH employees return to work. Because your funding is from a federal grant, your amount of funding will remain the same. The time period you have to complete it will be a bit shorter.

Although your DOH Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response staff are also federally funded, the program would be impacted since the agency wouldn't be open to administer the grant.

We do expect them to pass a budget, as has happened in previous years. However, we should be **prepared**.

- **Incident Response**

Fires are underway in Washington. The State EOC (at Camp Murray) activated to a low level last week. Incidents can occur at any time. We must be prepared to support each other if needed. If we need to deploy state response teams this year we are very interested in having local public health, healthcare coalitions, and tribal members – who have attended the appropriate ICS training – deploy with us.

We will send a statewide SECURES alert each time we activate ICS. We want LHJs and HCCs to notify us every time they activate ICS as well, so we can track how often we respond to a public health or medical emergency in Washington. We request tribes do as well. This information helps us, our funders, and our elected leaders understand the value and the critical importance of the capabilities we've developed. The CDC is very interested in capturing this data – to tell stories of the good work we do, and lobby on our behalf for additional funding.

\*Special note: please continue to follow your agency protocols when activated, prioritizing life safety. We would still like to know when you are activated, just use your discretion.

DOH 24/7 Duty Officer: 360-888-0838.

## **Program Updates**

### **1135 Waiver Webinar – Erika Henry**

There will be a webinar where you can learn more, Sep. 11 at 9 a.m. I will work with HCC leads to distribute specifics about registering for the webinar when it's available.

CMS waivers have long been a confusing topic for many healthcare providers, and getting clarity at the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) level hasn't been easy. When I received a call from a hospital asking for details on the process works, I reached out to our HHS partner for clarity. From that grew an ongoing discussion among several agencies. The more we talked, the more it felt like a game of Telephone. I requested a webinar from HHS, they turned it over to CMS, and it's now a multi-state affair. Hopefully we'll all come away with a solid understanding of this resource!

1135 Waivers may be used by healthcare providers during declared emergencies to temporarily release some of the guidelines around *how* and *where* they deliver care.

Federal website with more information on 1135 waivers: <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/Pages/1135-waivers.aspx>

### **Disaster Medical Coordination Center (DMCC) Meeting – Erika Henry**

We've been working hard this year on a Statewide DMCC plan. A solid draft is nearing completion, after having been vetted by a few hospitals and EMS partners. The next step is to bring this to all DMCC hospitals for additional feedback, then continue to work with MPDs, EMS providers, HCCs and other partners. It's a living document that we expect will change in the upcoming months. At this DMCC hospital meeting, we'll review the Statewide DMCC plan and share information about best practices and challenges among DMCC hospitals. Attendance is intended for staff of DMCC hospitals who are familiar with the DMCC role. Travel for one DMCC representative for each region can be supported by DOH.

For more information, contact Erika Henry, [erika.henry@doh.wa.gov](mailto:erika.henry@doh.wa.gov).

### **Update from recent Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference – Kristen Baird Romero**

- This year's conference took place June 9-10 in Ocean Shores, hosted by the Quinault Tribe
- Approx. 135 participants;
- 27 northwest tribes represented from the geographic areas of Wash., Ore., Idaho
- Some conference highlights:
  - Rosie Carpenter-Reed of the Quinault Tribe gave an interesting demonstration on how to make Pemmican, an ancient survival food
  - A panel gave an overview of the Olympic Region (Reg. 2) tribal public health mutual aid agreement, between the following tribes and counties:
    - Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Quileute, Suquamish, and Clallam, Kitsap, and Jefferson
  - Sharing emergency response messages through traditional storytelling by Gordon James of the Skokomish Tribe, emphasizing the essential elements of communication, relationships, and cooperation
  - Traditional salmon feast, provided by the Colville tribes, followed by a Fireside Chat for tribal leaders and health emergency preparedness leaders to discuss priority public health and medical preparedness issues

### **Invitation: People with All Abilities Conference – Kristen Baird Romero**

The Dept. of Health (DOH) and the Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) are partnering to put on the People with All Abilities Conference, June 29-30 at the Yakima Convention Center.

Come learn about the communication needs, medical concerns, safety, and transportation concerns of people with different kinds of disabilities in disasters. [Register here](#), or contact Kristen for more information, [kristen.baird@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kristen.baird@doh.wa.gov), or 360-236-4057.

## **Grant Updates**

*--Summaries of each grant or full grant guidance available on request--*

### **HPP Ebola Status Update – Erika Henry**

Work is already underway on HPP(healthcare)-related planning for Ebola. Much of the work is prescribed in Part A of the grant, but the first step is a gap analysis that will help frame much of the work for the next 5 years. There is much to consider in *how* and *by whom* work gets done, and we appreciate everybody's understanding as we work through these considerations, particularly as we straddle two grant periods at the moment. At the

very least, we can assure you that the gap analysis will be a collective effort with input from all whom choose to engage in its development. Stay tuned for more!

### **Tribal Contracts Status Update – Kristen Baird Romero**

Thanks to all tribal partners who submitted their contract activities by the end of May. This improves the chance of having the contracts in place by the time the next period begins, July 1.

So far, we received a total of 10 statements of work. We still have funding set aside for the remaining 19 tribes. If you are reading this and your tribe would like to explore options for using this funding, please contact Kristen, [kristen.baird@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kristen.baird@doh.wa.gov), or 360-236-4057.

### **PHEP Ebola Special Projects – Dianna Lahmann for Kari McDonald**

PHEP Ebola special project requests were due Mon., June 8. We received a total of 12 requests. We are currently working with the project representatives on those requests where further clarification is necessary. Final decisions will be communicated to the project representatives within the next couple of weeks.

### **Contract Closeout for BP3, June 30 – Rachel Paris**

- A-19s with a live signature are due, with backup documentation, **within 45 days** of the contract closing date (June 30)
  - The A-19 which must be original, however we are happy to receive scanned copies of deliverables and backup documentation via email, at [concondeliverables@doh.wa.gov](mailto:concondeliverables@doh.wa.gov)
- The state legislature's ability to pass (or not pass) a budget this year will **not** affect your reimbursement for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 (our BP3)
- Contact Rachel (or your contract manager listed on the SOW) if you have any questions about the contract closeout process; [rachel.paris@doh.wa.gov](mailto:rachel.paris@doh.wa.gov), or 360-236-4056

*If you have any information you would like to share with the public health preparedness community during a monthly update call please feel free to share your ideas with Dianna Lahmann ([dianna.lahmann@doh.wa.gov](mailto:dianna.lahmann@doh.wa.gov) or 360-236-4079).*

*EPR Program Update Calls are held the third Monday of each month from 2-3 p.m.*