



Iron County Emergency Management

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LEPC MINUTES

February 18th, 2015

12:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Meeting opened at 12:05 pm on February 18th, 2015

Jody Edwards welcomed everyone out to LEPC.

BUSINESS:

Jody welcomed everyone to LEPC. Thanked Scott Alvord for being here today.

Review of January 21st, 2015 Minutes.

Motion to accept by: John Higley, EM Coordinator

Seconded by: Rick Brown, SUU Police Chief

NO OPPOSED

No new business

PRESENTATION:

Paulette Valentine, Utah Department of Public Health: I am so glad to be here and I represent the Public Health Department to where I have worked for 10 years. We are going to be talking today about medical surge. The department has been planning and preparing for kind of a more all hazards approach to response, not just hazmat which it is supposed to be focused there, but they also do other response too. Coming up on March 18th at 9:30am there will a table top exercise held here at the Heritage Center before LEPC that day and then on June 4th is the functional exercise. In 2016 we are hoping to do a full scale, so we have been planning and preparing for disease emergencies for a long time and she feels that we need to take the next step. It has been 5 years since we had our mini H1-N1/Swine Flu Pandemic and this exercise will begin where that exercise has left off, meaning that we had a lot of people get sick, but not too many passed away. We are going to start both of these exercises where we have reached capacity.

PRESENTATION: (cont.)

On October 17th, 2009 I received a phone call from Dixie Regional Medical Center that they were at capacity with influenza, which happened again this year on January 17th, 2015. We have been really lucky with no deaths this year; however last year was an especially bad year with 20-25 deaths of influenza in our region. We are glad that things are getting better, but our hope is that a pandemic never comes. As I talk about the numbers today and we look at a real influenza pandemic that is similar to the Spanish flu of 1918, we all go home and pray that we really don't have to do any of these things we discuss.

The people who we want to participate in this exercise are policy groups, which are elected officials including school boards, emergency management, fire department, law enforcement, public information officers, dispatch and workers, EMS, hospitals, clinics, assisted living, long term care, rehab centers, home health, hospice, medical supply companies, community support center leads, funeral directors, medical investigators, medical examiners, faith face partners, medical reserve corps CERT, and other volunteer organizations. Some of the other people are private businesses, closed pod partners, mental health, daycares, schools, pharmacies, and public health. So you can tell it is going to take the whole community to respond to a pandemic. We cannot call in outside resources, national resources or state resources because they will all be in the same position as we are. This situation will not be a disease that is localized to one area, it will be affecting everyone.

Paulette showed a picture of how fast the influenza can spread by using graphics of the 1918 Spanish flu. Don't take anything for granted because it doesn't take long, even without airplanes, for a disease to take over a whole nation. Pandemic is worst of the worst so if we can deal with a pandemic, we are good to go with a lot of other things.

The scenario and exercise specific will deal with Iron County only so we are assuming that 2% of the population will be affected in a pandemic situation. Out of the 76,780 people who live in Iron County, 935 people are 2%. That is not including any tourists that are staying in the area at the time of the pandemic. The hospitals has a real good plan and takes care of people on a daily basis, and are good at what they do. Their licensed bed count for Valley View Medical Center is 48 beds. By law they are required to surge to 20% more than that. So within their hospital they are supposed to be able to take care of 57 people. We have got to remember that they are most likely always half full anyway with non-pandemic situations.

Should 30% of the population in Iron County get sick or 14,000 people, actually 30% of those go to the doctor. The rest stay home and try to get better on their own. Of the 4,210 people seeking medical attention, 30% of those actually get hospitalized (1,293). 15% of those need ICU care. Out of the 57 beds that we know we have at the hospital, we still have many people needing beds. Due to the fact that we do not have the resources available we are thinking about 350 will die. Our funeral directors have been part of a mass fatality planning for 4 years.

When a pandemic occurs we have to start thinking outside the box because we cannot meet the needs of everyone. Triage will be performed meaning we will have to determine who we can save and who can't. There are a lot of tools outside the hospital arena that can help us meet this need, such as other locations that the hospital can use for hospital services, like high school gymnasiums. Utah is in the middle of creating some crisis standards of care or alternate standards of care so that instead of having to follow the law currently which is so many beds per doctor, they could expand them. These alternate sites will be staffed by the hospital but it might be necessary for us to provide supplies for them.

PRESENTATION: (cont.)

So what the plan is and the ESF8 Coalition that meets quarterly before LEPC, is to off-load the hospital so they have more room internally to take care of the really sick people and make other lesser sick actually releasable to other locations. Some of the other locations in Iron County are Beehive Homes, Emerald Point, Cedar Surgical Center, Iron Mission Dialysis, Iron County Home Health, Essential Care, Parowan Medical Clinic, Iron County Nursing Home, and Kolob Regional Care Center.

Paulette brought up a document, Pandemic Triage Guidelines, created by the hospital association that consists of guidelines that direct certain people to certain areas during a pandemic. Such as people that are 90+ will be unable to access the hospital no matter what is wrong with you and 85+ will not get access if you have had other issues such as stroke, dementia, cancer, etc. You can Google Utah Pandemic Triage Guidelines; there is even one for pediatric, for more information about what has been decided in Utah and the reason why all the hospitals in the State of Utah have agreed on these guidelines. Just because one hospital has turned you or a family member away, doesn't mean that another one will take you.

Some of the other things you need to know are that if the hospital is full and there is no place to take people, what the role is going to be of EMS. If you or a family member needs emergency care, and you already know that the hospital is not going to take you due to the triage guidelines, you are going to need to know what the role of EMS and dispatch. These kinds of things will be discussed in the exercise. There is a pandemic protocol #36, so should you be part of dispatch, EMS, fire, law enforcement, etc. it would not hurt for you to pull that out and look at it.

A second tool we have in our tool box is our Community Information and Support Center. This is a tool for all those that are turned away by the hospital so they are not left high and dry. These centers provide informational support materials as well as masks, gloves, tissues, hand sanitizers, etc. for those that are in need of them. The following locations have been determined.

- Enoch > Enoch City Library
- Parowan > Parowan City Library
- Cedar City > Cedar and Canyon View High Schools
- Kanarrville > Unknown at this time, most likely the Town Hall

NO MEDICAL CARE IS GIVEN AT THESE LOCATIONS!

Information will be broadcasted that hospitals are full and requests will be made to stay home, stay home, stay home. Should you find yourself at one of the Community Information and Support Centers, they will take your contact information and you will be asked you someone can take care of you. Should you have no one, your faith based relationship will be questioned, which your palliative care will be turned over to your congregation. Should you not be affiliated with any faith based organization, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have agreed to take care of everyone else.

Some of the other things that will be discussed at the exercise are how we are going to take care of the decedents. The funeral directors will have a huge role in this. Funerals may not be performed right away and due to the fact that we do not have a morgue in Iron County, we need to make a plan as to where these decedents will go.

Everybody gets crazy with disease because it is a disaster you cannot see. We are going to have people that are upset if this occurs.

PRESENTATION: (cont.)

If the medical community is taking care of all the people who are symptomatic, what is the role of the Public Health Department? We are responsible for trying to keep the people that are not sick healthy. In the exercise we will be discussing the ways that we can do that, such as surveillance, quarantine and isolation as well as medication and vaccine. We have Open Pod locations set up at SUU and many of the faith based organizations have been trained on how to vaccinate and medicate in an emergency. Pharmacies may be another avenue for us to distribute medications because the federal government is thinking about pushing supplies to them. The biggest concern is if they will provide it for free or not. Government agencies are required to provide it for free. Would pharmacies be able to do that also?

Closed Pods are really an avenue where instead of people going to the health department to get vaccinated, they would provide what is necessary, and you yourselves would administer appropriately. The Iron County Closed Pod Partners are, Alliance Home Health, Brown Dental Office, Cedar City Fire Department, Cedar City Institute of Women's Health, Cedar City Public Works, Cedar City Orthopedic Surgical Center, Cedar Ridge Family Medicine, Cedar Surgical Associates, Color County Pediatrics, Emeritus @ Emerald Pointe, Enoch City(staff only), Horizon Home Health, IHC Canyon View Clinic, IHC Cedar City Business Office, IHC Cedar City Clinic, IHC Instacare, IHC WorkMed, IHC Southern Utah Clinical Associates, Iron County Emergency Services, Iron County Jail, Iron County Nursing Home, Iron County School District(teachers & families and administration & families), Iron County Sheriff's Department, Kanarrville Dark Skies Association, Kolob Regional Care & Rehab, Parowan City(staff only), Parowan Drug, Parowan Medical Clinic, Laura Hansen's Office, Southern Utah Home Care & Hospice, Southern Utah University(staff/residential students), Southern Utah Community Health, Southwest Behavioral Health, Southern Utah Public Health, Southwest Utah Youth Center, Valley View Medical Center, and Wal-Mart Pharmacy.

Should you find yourself not on this list and would like to become a closed pod partner, all you have to do is sign an agreement with Paulette, which she passed around a form to fill out and return to her. Half-hour training is included. **You have to have a licensed vaccinator to perform vaccinations.**

Social distancing plans are 3 months so let's just hope that we do not have a pandemic any time soon, but if we do and Health Officer says to Pease not leave your house for 3 month. Will you be able to do that? The biggest burden will be the financial burden it will take on you if you are out of work for that long. These plans are under the authority of the Health Officer will be the contact between the area elected official.

The best thing about this exercise is that we are all going to be on the same page as to what is going to happen and that we will know how to act. If you plan to attend, please register on U-TRAIN (www.utah.train.org) under course numbers is 1055324 and pick Iron County for multiple counties are having the same exercise.

REPORTS:

- **STATE:** Scott just wanted to remind everyone about the Shake-Out coming up in April on the 16th. If you signed up last year you should be receiving a reminder notice by email to sign-up this year. If you did not, we would like as many people as possible to sign-up for that exercise. Go to shakeout.org/Utah to register. Would like to get our big participation back up, fell off a little last year, and would really like to get those numbers back up.
- **NO OTHER REPORTS**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next meeting April 15th, 2015, same time and place

CLOSING REMARKS:

Remember LEPC needs to be geared around hazardous materials so if any of you have any concerns about that, John Higley and Chief Mike Phillips will be on point.

Motion to Adjourn at 1:30p

1st: Glade Hamilton, Kolob Regional

2nd: Neil Forsyth, ICRD