

**Region 4B**  
**Emergency Preparedness Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2006**  
**Wellesley Gateway Center**  
**9:30am to 12:30pm**

**Present:**

**Arlington** - Christine Connolly; **Belmont** - Donna Moultrup; **Braintree** - Sean Collins; **Brookline** - Dawn Sibor; Barbara Westley; Andrea Haye Lewis  
**Cambridge** - Charlie Ishikawa, Lynn Schoeff, Courtney Weimert, Garrett Simonsen; **Everett** - Dina McCarron; **Hanover** - Jeanmarie Joyce; **Hingham** - Kathy Crowley; **Milton** - Michael Blanchard; **Needham** - Janice Berns; **Newton** - David Naparstek; Ellen Humphries; **Norwood** - Stacey Lane; **Quincy** - Drew Scheele; **Revere** - Carol Donovan; **Scituate** - Jennifer Sullivan; **Somerville** - Noreen Burke, Liz Quaratiello; **Watertown** - Gerard Cody, Steven Ward, Joyce Cheng; **Wellesley** - Janice Tellier, Mary Suresh; **Weymouth** - Richard Marino; **Winthrop** - Paul Frazier, Jeanne Maggio; **ICH** - Justeen Hyde, Basil Kim, Bryan Hall; **BPHC** - John Jacob, Liam Seward; **Region 4B** - Alison Minkoff, Bryan Eustis; Kerry Dunnell, Angela Li, Kristy Kade, Shaina Zamaitis, Teresa Wood **MDPH** - Bela Matyas; Judy Bernice

**Opening Remarks/ Minutes**

The minutes for the December 21, 2006 meeting, were reviewed and approved with corrections to the list of attendees.

**Regional Updates**

*Infectious Disease Update*-Bela Matyas presented the update, noting that this has been a very mild flu season. He stated that there have only been 140 flu cases reported this year compared to the 5,000 cases reported at this time last year. He explained that Avian Influenza is still being monitored, and that currently health officials are finding some cases in Turkeys. To date, cases of Avian flu have reached the borders of Europe but are still rare.

*FY06 Funding*- Mary updated the region on FY06 funding, noting that the money should be received by Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>. Mary will send out the draft spending guide for this year, and explained that this year there will be tighter timelines for some expenditures. The agreement, which each community is required to sign, will be sent out after the draft spending guide is approved by the Executive Committee. In addition, three issues were raised by region members that urge the Executive Office of Public Safety and Massachusetts Department of Public Health to work more closely together. First, region members would like there to be some uniform system of identification and credentialing. Second, members would like local and regional public health to be included in the emergency planning processes

coordinated through MEMA. Lastly, region members would like to see a revision of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) which would integrate the public health component rather than relegating it to the status of an annex. Mary will clarify these issues and send a list out to the region before drafting a letter to EOPS and MDPH.

*Regional Liaisons, MRC Updates-* Alison introduced the Regional Liaisons: Shaina Zamaitis will be working with sub-region one; Teresa Wood will be working with sub-region two; Angela Li will be working with sub-region three; and Kristy Kade will be working with sub-region four. Alison clarified that the liaisons would be working 20hours/week and would need to spend time at all the communities with-in their designated sub-region.

Alison also provided the region with an MRC update. She announced that she registered the “Region 4b MRC” on the Office of Homeland Security’s website and is waiting for approval. Registration was done to ensure funding should it become available at the federal or state level. Currently, federal funding is exhausted but she noted that she heard that The State may provide some funding in the future. Alison asked for volunteers for a MRC workgroup: Linda Shea, Christine Connolly, Dawn Sibor, Gerry Cody, Barbara Westley, and Ellen Humphries all volunteered to be in the group.

*Mutual Aid-*Kerry provided the region with a mutual aid update. Kerry asked to be contacted if people start getting requests to alter the agreement. She noted that she has heard issues from outside the region regarding the fact that the Cambridge letter head has been used on the document and she has also heard that some people think that DPH is “forcing’ them into mutual aid agreements. These issues will be addressed in the future. However, things in the region look good and warrant articles have been accepted in Scituate and Wellesley. Kerry stated that she would be in Needham that evening to talk to their board and would be willing to help out the other communities when asked.

*Operation Poseidon-* Garrett Simonsen presented an update on Operation Poseidon. He stated that the operation will consist of three components, a functional exercise in March, an executive session in April, and a full scale drill in June. He noted that the regional coordinators will use a similar scenario to drill the remaining communities (those not in the UASI region) and this will help meet the criteria for Project Public Health Ready (PPHR). (Note: Section amended per latest information made available following the meeting).

*Watertown EDS Exercise-*Gerry Cody and Joyce Cheng presented a PowerPoint on the EDS exercise they did in November. They were able to reach their goal and successfully vaccinated 147 people in 20 minutes. In the interest of time, Gerry asked that he be contacted with any questions and stated that he would be willing to share the PowerPoint slides with anyone who was interested.

## **Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)**

John Jacob Presented a PowerPoint on Boston's experience with CRI. He explained that CRI is a federally sponsored project to develop plans to distribute oral medications to the entire population within 48 hours. He discussed the lessons learned and spoke about the fundamentals of Boston's Plan. John is willing to distribute his PowerPoint slides to anyone who is interested.

## **EDS Exercise**

Region members moved into their sub-regional groupings to go through the second part of the EDS exercise/training. Each group was assigned 1 question from the homework to discuss, and was allowed to select a second question for additional discussion. Each group was facilitated, and provided with a recorder to keep track of discussion points. Following this small group discussion, there was a short time allocated for a full group discussion. Further discussion may take place at a future meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 10:30 to 12:30