

**Region 4B**  
**Emergency Preparedness Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2006**  
**Wellesley Gateway Center**  
**9:30am to 12:30pm**

**Present:**

**Arlington** - Christine Connolly, Diane Coste; **Belmont** - Donna Moultrup;  
**Braintree** - Marybeth McGrath, Mary Mulready **Brookline** - Dawn Sibor, Alan Balsam, Audrey Perlow, Andrea Hayelewis, Barbara Westley; **Cambridge** - Harold Cox, Charlie Ishikawa, Lynn Schoeff, Courtney Weimert, Garrett Simonsen, Kerry Dunnell, Andy Ellingson, Susan Kilroy-Ames **Canton** - Terri Khoury; **Cohasset**- Joe Godzik; **Dedham** - Cathy Cardinale; **Everett**- Sandra Pasquerella, Dina McCarron **Hanover** -Jeanmarie Joyce; **Hingham** - Bruce Capman, Kathy Crowley; **Hull** - Joyce Sullivan; **Milton** -Michael Blanchard; **Needham** - Janice Berns; **Newton** - Ellen Humphries, David Naparstek; **Norwell** - Brian Flynn; **Norwood** - Stacey Lane, Phyllis Boucher; **Quincy** - Drew Scheele; **Revere** -Carol Donovan, Nick Catinazzo; **Scituate** - Jennifer Sullivan; **Somerville** - Noreen Burke, Liz Quaratiello; **Watertown** - Gerard Cody, Steven Ward, Joyce Cheng; **Wellesley** - Janice Tellier; **Westwood** - Linda Shea; **Weymouth** - Richard Marino; **ICH** - Justeen Hyde, Basil Kim; **MDPH** -Dan church, Bela Matyas, Joe Conidi, Judy Bernice; **Harvard** - Gilbert Nick **BPHC** - John Jacob, Liam Seward; **Region 4B** -Mary Clark, Alison Minkoff, Bryan Eustis; **Regional Liaisons** - Shaina Zamaitis (Sub-region 1), Teresa Wood (sub-region 2), Angela Li (sub-region 3), Kristy Kade (Sub-region 4).

**Opening Remarks/ Minutes/Announcements**

The minutes for the January 15, 2006 meeting, were reviewed and approved.

Judy Bernice announced that on Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> Lisa Stone will be giving a presentation on surge capacity for Region 4A/B. The presentation will be at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in the Allen-Riddle building. Local health is invited and Mary will distribute the information to the region.

**Infectious Disease/Avian Flu update**

Bela Matyas presented the infectious disease update from MDPH. He noted that there has been no major activity in the state. However, Avian flu is spreading and has now been found in swans. Cases have been reported in Greece, Italy and Nigeria. Bela announced that so far there have been 169 human cases with 99 fatalities. Thus, the spread of Avian Flu continues to be an issue.

## Regional Update

*Spending Plans-* Mary announced that the region is currently in the process of approving plans and that Alison is keeping track of the spending plans and will be contacting communities. She stated that some plans may need to be run by MDPH or the executive committee before they are approved.

*Continuity of Operations (COOP)-*Mary noted that the COOP is the next deliverable from MDPH, due in March. She noted that when preparing the COOP, health departments, in an emergency, may be able to pull staff from other departments depending on their needs. Mary also noted that the priority for the regional liaisons will be to help communities with their COOP. She passed out hard copies of a condensed version of the State's COOP to the Region. This document is an acceptable substitute, and can be added to communities' larger All-Hazards Plans. She stated that people should contact her with any questions.

*Mutual Aid-*Kerry provided a brief progress update on Mutual Aid, and opened the floor for questions. A question about Boston signing on to the agreement was raised. Kerry confirmed that Boston was approached about joining in Region 4b's mutual aid group. As a result, Boston is currently conducting their internal legal review, and do anticipate signing the agreement. Alan Balsam of Brookline indicated that because of Brookline's proximity to Boston, it will be difficult to move on mutual aid in Brookline before Boston has committed. John Jacob of Boston indicated that BPHC is pursuing this, and the agreement is being reviewed by their General Counsel. Kerry reiterated that each community has a different process and different concerns, but that it is important for all communities to pursue adoption of the mutual aid agreement.

*MRC Activities-* Alison announced that the Region 4b MRC has been approved by the Surgeon General and can now start recruiting volunteers. A working group has been started to discuss MRC activities. She noted that this is a great opportunity to pool ideas and resources together and for the communities and the Region to work together. She will email or distribute a FAQ sheet to the region as soon as it is available. While there were several questions about how this will work regionally, she stated to contact her with any questions.

*Local Emergency Notification System (LENS)-*Charlie Ishikawa and Basil Kim provided information on the results of the first portion of the Local Emergency Notification System. They presented on the protocol, findings and lessons learned. The program has been successful so far, with the majority of drills finishing well within the allotted time.

## **Sub-Regional Regional Epidemiology Discussion**

Mary introduced the new Regional Epidemiologist, Susan Kilroy-Ames. The local health officials then split up in their sub-regional groups for a regional epidemiology discussion.

**Next Meeting Date: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006**