

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

Date and Time of Call: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 - 0830 to 0930

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  
(Sallie Shipman)

1. Paul Abel, Emergency Preparedness Manager/Safety Officer, DCH System
2. Stanley Batchelor, Human Services Branch Director, AEMA
3. Ann Brantley, HVA Nurse Coordinator, Asst. CEP Healthcare Sector Liaison, ADPH, CEP
4. Sharon Bradford, Surveillance Nurse Coordinator, ADPH, Area 3
5. Dr. John Campbell, State EMS Medical Director, ADPH
6. Jeff Crews, Jacksonville Medical Center
7. Carolyn Dean, Infection Control Coordinator, Jackson Hospital & Clinic
8. Tommy Dockery, EP Coordinator, ADPH, Area 3
9. Linda Egglar, AEMA
10. Labridgette Ellis, Chief Operating Officer/HIPAA Privacy Officer, Whatley Health Services, Inc.
11. Karen Faircloth, Trinity Medical Center
12. Jonathan Gaddy, CSEPP Planner, Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency
13. Tina Givens, UAB
14. Dr. Wesley Granger, Associate Professor and Program Director, UAB, Respiratory Therapy Program
15. Ashley Hayes, Director, North Alabama MRC
16. Karen Holland, Director of Quality and Regulatory Compliance, Jackson Hospital & Clinic
17. Betty Jowers, Surveillance Nurse Coordinator, ADPH, Area 7
18. Seratia Johnson, Quality Improvement, ADPH, Division of Epidemiology
19. Donna Keith, President, Birmingham Area Safety Officers, and Safety Manager ,St. Vincent's Birmingham
20. Acquanetta Knight, Coordinator of Planning and New Initiatives, State of AL Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
21. Rita Maynard, COOP Liaison, ADPH, CEP
22. Teresa Porter, EP Coordinator, ADPH, Area 9
23. Diana Ruzicka, Alabama State Nurse Liaison & Chair, Disaster Health Services, Madison/Marshall County Chapter, American Red Cross

24. Sallie Shipman, HVA Nurse Coordinator, Asst. CEP Healthcare Sector Liaison, ADPH, CEP
25. Pat Spiller, Infection Preventionist, Walker Baptist Medical Center
26. Cindy Tereszkiwicz, EP Environmentalist, ADPH, Area 10
27. Dr. Albert White, Public Health Officer, ADPH, Area 3

2. Review and approval of minutes from January 26, 2010 Healthcare Sector Meeting  
(Sallie Shipman)

The minutes were approved without change and are available at:

<http://www.adph.org/CEP/assets/MinutesHCS1-26-10.pdf>

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

Discussion Items:

**A. Subcommittee Updates-**

**Healthcare Coordination/Operational Planning –  
Teresa Porter**

**Next meeting - Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.**

- Alternate Care sites will be the next issue that ADPH will be working on in collaboration with the healthcare facilities. As a starting point, ADPH is working with the Alabama Hospital Association to identify one hospital in each region and review their existing alternate care plan. According to Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) guidance, there are several issues that must be addressed in alternate care site plans. If any healthcare facility has a plan that ADPH could review and “make generic” to serve as a template, please forward it to Sallie Shipman ([sallie.shipman@adph.state.al.us](mailto:sallie.shipman@adph.state.al.us)) or Ann Brantley ([ann.brantley@adph.state.al.us](mailto:ann.brantley@adph.state.al.us)).
- ADPH responded to a water crisis in Clarke and Wilcox Counties by sending two water filtration units to the area. The week of February 22-26, 2010 the CDC experts from their National Center for Environmental Health went to Clarke and Wilcox Counties to conduct an environmental health assessment pertaining to the severe water outage in early January 2010. They worked with state, area, and local environmental staff to gather data on the effects

of the water shortage on the citizens, water quality, and food supplies (personal, retail, processors, and wholesale). Following the January freeze and water shortage in Clarke and Wilcox Counties, Dr. Woernle requested Epi-Aid from CDC to determine the overall impact that the water shortage had on those areas affected. CDC has accommodated the request and a survey form has been constructed to not only assess the environmental impact, but also to determine what subsequent health issues occurred related to the water shortage. The surveys collected data regarding how communication was received by the public during the water crisis. The data could be utilized to improve communication methods.

- N95 respirators still available, however the numbers of requests have dropped significantly.
- Tina Givens spoke with an oxygen supply company (Linde's) Emergency Planning Coordinator, Kevin Phillips, who says that they have an Emergency Plan in place. They have 24 Hour operation and use telemetry to monitor the bulk systems oxygen levels constantly. They did participate in the Katrina disaster and also have portable units in certain districts in the US that are ready to be dispatched to alternate sites if needed. Tina and Dr. Wesley Granger will be working to help update the Alabama Healthcare Planning Guide's "Ventilators and Oxygen" section.

### **Training and Exercise Planning – Ann Brantley**

**Next meeting - Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.**

- Ann Brantley spoke for DeeAnn White and Val Patton. Six **Closed POD Trainings** remain scheduled at the time of this meeting. Alabama is currently working towards establishing Closed PODs as an alternate method of dispensing medications in emergency event situations. A Closed POD is a business that has its own medical staff, including a licensed physician who will give the order for the medical staff to dispense to the employees of the

facility. Examples of potential Closed PODs are hospitals, military installations, universities, pharmacies, large businesses that have self contained medical staff, etc. The alternate points of distribution, (closed POD), are extremely important to planning for distribution of medications to the community in a timely manner. Planning has been ongoing with Hyundai, Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBOE), and other agencies within the state. Templates from agencies/businesses that have developed plans for a closed POD could be utilized for others throughout the state. The dates of the training are as follows:

April 27, 2010 – Talladega, Alabama

April 27, 2010 – Alexander City, Alabama

April 28, 2010 – Hanceville, Alabama

April 29, 2010 – Tanner, Alabama

May 5, 2010 – Alabaster, Alabama

May 6, 2010 – Tuscaloosa, Alabama

May 13, 2010 – Bay Minette, Alabama

- **Functional Exercise - Bibb County** was conducted on Thursday, April 22, 2010. Students from Bibb County High School and a local trade school were utilized as patients to test the point of dispensing (POD) functionality. Lessons learned from the exercise will be incorporated into the [Cities Readiness Initiative](#) (CRI) and [Strategic National Stockpile](#) (SNS) plans for the state.
- **Flood Tabletop Exercise - Chambers County** was conducted with over 30 people in attendance. The target audience was well represented. A finding from the exercise was the need for additional Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) training. ADPH is evaluating if additional funds can be utilized to meet the need for COOP training.
- **Fatality Management Tabletop Exercises** have been completed. These exercises were developed to assess the level of preparedness for a mass fatality event resulting from a tornado or pandemic influenza. ADPH is currently working on the after action report,

which will note in detail the lessons learned. The statewide participation total was over 250 people.

### **Pharmacy Issues – Sallie Shipman**

**Next meeting - Monday, June 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

- The County and Area Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 All Hazards Assessments are in final stages for approval.
- The modeling software developed for SNS programs by the CDC is called Real Opt. Real Opt is designed to assist states in developing an alternate means of medication delivery to Regional Distribution Sites (RDS) and PODs. Jim Barrett of Montgomery EMA is the Receiving Staging and Storage (RSS) Manager for ADPH during SNS activation. Mr. Barrett has discussed Real Opt with CDC SNS Consultant Deb Loveys, and plans to look further into Real Opt.
- Medications will have labels that will route the caller to either Auburn (AU) or Samford drug information centers, or the Alabama Poison Control Center (APC). Countermeasure Response Administration (CRA) system is the data submitted to CDC during an event. The 800 number distributed on the medications will be answered by ADPH and partner agencies. There will need to be further coordination regarding the specifics on who, what, how, when, etc. of the data. Discussions are underway to include an exercise testing this system in the August 2010 grant cycle. The major component to testing the system is volunteers to make calls. The exercise facility would need at least six phone lines and scripts simulating questions regarding the medications distributed. Also, John Fisher is in the process of writing a grant for new hardware and phone system and hopes to secure funding for this exercise. More information will follow.
- The Caremark MOU for repackaging of medications during an SNS event has been signed. Caremark would be contracted to repackage bulk medications into units of use for dispensing to citizens of

Alabama. Per the ADPH SNS Consultant Deb Loveys, it is highly unlikely the SNS would ever ship bulk medications to states.

**Faith Based/Community and Other Volunteers Sector -  
Ann Brantley**

- Volunteer Symposia have been well attended. These symposia addressed the need for responding volunteers to be familiar with their role as an ADPH Volunteer. The presentations will be available on the [CEP Presentations](#) webpage soon after the conferences are completed.

**4. New Business (Sallie Shipman)**

Discussion Items:

**A. Approval of the "Criteria for Mechanical Ventilator Triage following Proclamation of Mass-Casualty Respiratory Emergency" - Sallie Shipman**

The Criteria for Mechanical Ventilator Triage has been approved by the State Committee of Public Health (SCPH) on April 8, 2010. The final approved version is available at:

<http://www.adph.org/CEP/assets/VENTTRIAGE.pdf>

Discussions are underway with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) regarding incorporation of the approved protocol into the Alabama Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The ventilator triage conferences are available on-demand at: <http://www.adph.org/ALPHTN/index.asp?id=3949>. More information will follow.

**A. [COOP10](#) - Rita Maynard – COOP Liaison, ADPH CEP**

ADPH, in partnership with AEMA, recommends all public and private organizations plan and prepare in the case of an emergency, including a pandemic. The purpose of a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is to ensure that each organization's essential services continue, assets are protected and rapid recovery after an emergency event. The [COOP10](#) campaign was developed to help County Commissioners and County/Local Governments. Sonny Brasfield, Director of County Commissioners Association, wanted a campaign to promote

COOP development among the commissioners. [COOP10](#) was rolled out at a workshop and reception in February 2010. There was good attendance. The campaign is meant to introduce “baby steps” in the creation of COOP. The steps are as follows:

<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Teamwork</b>
<b>Research</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Submit</b>	<b>Educate</b>
<b>Communicate</b>	<b>Identify</b>
<b>Improve</b>	<b>Maintain</b>

The [COOP10](#) flyer can be displayed in county offices to get clients and constituents interested and educated. CEP and AEMA are available to help. COOP planning was referenced in the Governor’s directive to State Agencies in February 2009. The [Resources for Alabama State Department\\* Continuity of Operations Plans \(COOP\)](#) webpage has a template and other documents to assist organizations in COOP planning. Also organizations can visit [www.adph.org/coop10](http://www.adph.org/coop10) for creation of an office emergency plan. ADPH is also working in collaboration with AEMA to assist County Commissioners and community leaders to support the county EMAs in the completion of complete Continuity of Government (COG). Each county should develop a COG which is a compilation of multiple county agencies’ COOPs specific for the county operations.

5. **New Business**, not identified on the agenda (Sallie Shipman)  
Sallie Shipman proposed the quarterly meeting time be changed to 9:30 a.m. There were no objections and starting in July 2010 the time will be changed to 9:30 a.m.
6. Review date and time of next call, **Tuesday, July 27, 2010** then to be held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of the month from **9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.** (Sallie Shipman)
7. Other topics and announcements (All)  
None noted on the call.
8. Adjourn