

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

Date and Time of Call: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 - 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 new call-in number and call procedure, the call will not be answered by an operator, but by an automated attendant.*

*Also please be advised that the call will be recorded.*

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. Agha Afgan, Safety Officer, Jackson Hospital
3. Teresa Akins, University of South Alabama (USA) Medical Center
4. Joyce Altsman, Compliance Officer, Alabama Board of Pharmacy
5. Zoe Baker, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
6. Stanley Batchelor, Human Services Branch Director, Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)
7. Beth Beck, Springhill Medical Center
8. Ann Brantley, Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) Nurse Coordinator, Asst. CEP Healthcare Sector Liaison, ADPH, Center for Emergency Preparedness (CEP)
9. Dr. John Campbell, State Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Medical Director, ADPH
10. Valerie Cochran, Asst. State Nursing Director, ADPH
11. Shay Cooks, Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency
12. Charlie Crawford, Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP)/Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Coordinator, ADPH, CEP
13. Carolyn Dean, Infection Control Coordinator, Jackson Hospital & Clinic
14. Joseph Decker II, Executive Director, Alabama State Nurses Association
15. Jim Easter, Mitchell Cancer Center at the University of South Alabama
16. Labridgette Ellis, Chief Operating Officer/HIPAA Privacy Officer, Whatley Health Services, Inc.
17. Carter English, Indigent Drug Program Pharmacist, Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) & Mental Retardation
18. Dr. John G. Fisher, Director, Alabama Poison Center
19. Linda Freeman, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
20. Jonathan Gaddy, Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Planner, Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency
21. Dr. Tom Geary, Medical Director for Bureau of Health Provider Standards & ADPH Leader Healthcare Sector Committee, ADPH
22. Dr. Wesley Granger, Associate Professor and Program Director, UAB, Respiratory Therapy Program
23. Barbara Harrold, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
24. Ashley Hayes, Director, North Alabama MRC
25. Heather Hogue, Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Jefferson County Department of Health
26. Karen Holland, Director of Quality and Regulatory Compliance, Jackson Hospital & Clinic
27. Sharon Howard, Chapman Healthcare Center
28. Tina Howell, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
29. Angela Huntley
30. Lisa Hutchinson, Redstone Federal Credit Union
31. Tricia Jackson, Wellness Program Manager, State Employees' Insurance Board
32. Seratia Johnson, Quality Improvement, ADPH, Division of Epidemiology
33. Jonathan Kirby, Redstone Federal Credit Union

34. Acquanetta Knight, Coordinator of Planning and New Initiatives, State of AL Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
35. Dr. Karen Landers, PH Area 1 Health Officer, ADPH
36. John Lowery, CDC Grant Coordinator, ADPH/CEP
37. Mary Hooks, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
38. John Matson, Director of Communications, Alabama Nursing Home Association
39. Dr. Robert Moon, Medical Director, Office of Health Policy, Alabama Medicaid Agency
40. Dereck Morrison, Emergency Management Coordinator, Bryan Whitfield Memorial Hospital
41. Sondra Nassetta, Surveillance Nurse Coordinator, ADPH, Area 2
42. Valeria Patton, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)/Countermeasure Response Administration System (CRA) Coordinator, ADPH/CEP
43. Al Pizzato, Alabama Public Television
44. Dr. Richard Powers, Medical Director, ADMH & Mental Retardation
45. Benjamin P. Rackley, Director, Black Belt Medical Reserve Corps
46. Donna Rhone, ADPH, Area 7
47. Royce Sawyer, United States Attorneys' Office
48. Sallie Shipman, HVA Nurse Coordinator, Asst. CEP Healthcare Sector Liaison, ADPH, CEP
49. Pat Spiller, Infection Preventionist, Walker Baptist Medical Center
50. Karen Sullivan, Surveillance Nurse Coordinator, ADPH, Area 5
51. Scott Taylor, USA Medical Center
52. Charles Thomas, State Pharmacy Director, ADPH
53. Jora White, Training Coordinator, ADPH, Bureau of Professional and Support Services
54. Joyce Thomas, Education Specialist/ Emergency Preparedness, Huntsville Hospital Emergency Department
55. Rita Tidwell, Chapman Healthcare Center
56. Tom Tucker, Finance Director, Alabama Primary Health Care Association, Inc.
57. Diana Underwood
58. John Wible, General Counsel, Alabama Department of Public Health
59. Dr. Mark Williams, Consulting Medical Director for Alabama Power and Chief Medical Officer of the North Mississippi Health System

2. Review and approval of minutes from March 24, 2009 Healthcare Sector Meeting (Sallie Shipman)

**Minutes were accepted as presented.**

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

Discussion Items:

**A. Subcommittee Updates-**

**Healthcare Coordination/Operational Planning – Ann Brantley**

**Next Meeting Date – Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.**

- An update was given on the recent Volunteer Symposiums that were held on 6-23/Dothan, 6-25/Huntsville, and 6-26/Montgomery.
- The ventilator triage document is in the final stages. The draft ventilator triage document has been finalized and is available at: <http://www.adph.org/CEP/assets/VENTTRIAGE.pdf> . The initial presentation of the document was piloted to the Alabama Society of Healthcare Engineering on May 15, 2009. Further presentations to the six hospital regions will be scheduled. The presentations will include ADPH environmental roles, legal and ethical issues, CEP assessments and tools, and the ventilator triage document explanation. These tools will serve to assist hospitals in emergency planning efforts.

- The County Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 All-Hazards Assessment tool was developed by ADPH to aid each County Health Department in assessments of their ESF 8, healthcare, capabilities for pandemic and other all hazard situations and is located at <http://www.adph.org/CEP/assets/CountyESF8AllHazardsAssess3-09.pdf> . This will be used by the County Health Departments to obtain baseline county information that will be used to assist the counties in completing an initial gap assessment of their own ESF 8 healthcare response capabilities and shortfalls. ADPH is in the process of conducting these initial assessments. The first assessments for each county will be entered into the Learning Content Management System (LCMS) by July 31, 2009.
- Discuss/develop improved communication methods to get out messages to the public, especially in rural areas, during an event.
- There was discussion on the call regarding the planning needs for upcoming flu season vaccinations.
- The free personal protective equipment (PPE) and Comfort Care Centers (CCC) were discussed. Thus far, 42 organizations have participated in the PPE program; totaling supplies for 16,184 staff. There are currently two CCC's pending.

#### **Training and Exercise Planning – Valeria Patton**

**Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.**

The Emergency Preparedness (EP) Coordinators meeting was held on July 27, 2009. Exercise requirements for the 2010 grant year will include the following:

- One Full Scale Exercise – Planning for this exercise is in the preliminary stages for Bibb County (ADPH Area 3). This exercise will include a “shelter in place” component.
- Table Top Exercise – Based on a flood scenario and will be conducted in Chambers County (ADPH Area 6).
- Three Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Drills – These will be coordinated through DeeAnn White, ADPH SNS Coordinator, and John Hooper, ADPH, Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Coordinator. A meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2009 to discuss these drills.
- Six Table Top Exercises – These will be held tentatively during February-March 2010 in the six Coroner Districts and will include a fatality management component.
- HSEEP Training – Sam Guerrera will conduct this training in Dothan on September 14-18, 2009. Please contact Valeria Patton at 334-206-3394 or [valeria.patton@adph.state.al.us](mailto:valeria.patton@adph.state.al.us) for more information.

#### **Pharmacy Issues – Charlie Thomas**

**Next Meeting Date – Monday, September 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.**

- The Jefferson County Health Department (JCHD) is working on a pilot study with CVS to develop mass dispensing plans.
- Caremark is a leading provider of prescription drug management programs. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in progress with Caremark to pre-fill prescriptions and label the medication minus

the patient's name. This will help to expedite distribution during a mass dispensing event.

- Mass Dispensing: 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. CRA has components for submission of adverse events resulting from pharmaceutical distribution during an event; discussion over how all support agencies will report this data is ongoing. 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. Val Patton is the new CRA Coordinator for ADPH.
- MOU's are in place with Hyundai to be a designated alternate distribution site (closed POD). The next step is to exercise (tabletop) the MOU. Hyundai may be a role model for other alternate dispensing sites for a "Closed POD". This MOU can be utilized as a template for other businesses that have a health clinic within their facility.

#### **Faith Based/Community and Other Volunteers Sector – Charlie Crawford**

- The 2009 volunteer symposia had approximately 400 attendees for the three venues. The evaluations were reviewed and volunteers requested more “hands on” and practical training on what ADPH will need volunteers to do in an emergency response. Planning has already started for the upcoming volunteers symposia. The Volunteer Symposia will reintroduce the ADPH Mobile Medical Stations. These stations are assets that ADPH has available at the central level as well as being pre staged throughout the state. The volunteer symposia would allow volunteers the opportunity to learn about the capabilities of the mobile medical stations and get a firsthand look at the facility. Also, the volunteer symposia would offer training to the Amateur Radio Volunteer Operators that will be utilized in a response. ADPH has been working with the hospital in Alabama to provide funding through the Hospital Preparedness Programs interoperable communications element. ADPH and the Alabama Hospital Association, and the American Amateur Radio Club have joined forces with the Hospital Amateur Radio (HAM) Program which provided funding for the purchase and the installation of HAM radios in most hospitals in the state. The symposia would help hospitals recruit licensed HAM radio operators to operate the radios. A final part of the first year’s volunteer symposia would introduce the Family Assistance Centers that will be created in response to a mass fatality event. Continuity of Care and Post Disaster Care to families that have lost a family member to a mass fatality event is critical for the surviving family members. The volunteer symposia will provide training that will give volunteers the tools to help people get through the disaster.
- We had a meeting with the Governor’s Office of Community and Faith-based Initiatives to discuss the utilization of Faith-based and Community Organizations with the planning process of forming

Family Assistance Centers that would be deployed in response to a mass fatality event. We also had a meeting with AARP, in which AARP introduced their new volunteer database and offered the system to any volunteer need that ADPH may have. We could post requests for volunteers and coordinate deployment and volunteer management with their association. The site was set up to help other underfunded partner agencies and organizations post volunteer needs.

- A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 28, 2009 with AEMA to discuss the clause in the Emergency Management Act that permits the AEMA to form "CORPS". The thought is to bring volunteers under this umbrella so that liability and workers compensation coverage could be extended to volunteers. John Wible discovered this possibility and will work with the AEMA legal staff to hopefully have this as a viable option.
- Work orders and system updates to the ESAR-VHP volunteer database continue to be implemented. The volunteer deployment module is close to being launched—this module will allow complete tracking of volunteer activities during a deployment.
- An email is being drafted to send out to ADPH volunteers to update their information in the Learning Content Management System (LCMS). At this time, we are not requesting volunteers, but we do want volunteers to update their contact information.

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

##### Discussion Items:

##### **A. Introduction of Dr. Tom Geary as the new Healthcare Sector Leader and Committee Membership Review Progress – Sallie Shipman**

Dr. Jack Hataway retired in June 2009. He was an integral part of this committee and will be missed. This committee started in December 2006 and has made many strides toward improving the health and medical emergency response for the state. There is a long way to go in planning and we appreciate Dr. Geary, ADPH Medical Director for Bureau of Health Provider Standards, graciously agreeing to lead us in Dr. Hataway's absence. We look forward to working with Dr. Geary. Dr. Geary was introduced on the call and shared his professional experience with the group.

We are in the process of updating our database and membership of the Alabama Department of Public Health's Healthcare Sector Committee. An email was sent to each committee member individually to see if they would like to continue their service with the committee. **If any committee member has not responded to my emails yet, please reply to [sallie.shipman@adph.state.al.us](mailto:sallie.shipman@adph.state.al.us) with your yes or no decision.**

Also, the Review Board will also be transformed into the ADPH Ethics Committee. More information will follow.

**B. Update on Novel H1N1 Pandemic – Cindy Lesinger, Pandemic Influenza and Smallpox Coordinator**

**Please note that information regarding H1N1 is continuously updated. For the latest information please visit**

**<http://www.adph.org/H1N1Flu/index.asp?id=3571> or <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.**

Novel H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” at its inception) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. Novel H1N1 influenza virus was first detected in the United States in April 2009.

CDC has determined novel H1N1 virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread, although it remains unknown how easily this novel H1N1 virus spreads.

Cindy discussed the following regarding H1N1 on the call:

- Four Committees have been meeting within ADPH including:
  - Data Collection
  - Logistics
  - Administration
  - Outreach and Education
    - DVD Loop
    - Two workplace flyers
    - “DO 10” (coming soon)
    - “GET 10” available at: <http://www.adph.org/get10/>
    - Healthcare worker handbook mailing
    - Infection Control
    - Public Service Announcements (PSA)
    - Joint Press Conference to be held on 8/7/09 including the Governor’s Office, Department of Education, ADPH, and AEMA
    - Printed materials (Fax Back Order Form is located at:  
<http://www.adph.org/pandemicflu/assets/EP.FaxbackOrderForm.0808.DD.pdf> )
    - “Mimi Mouse Learns Healthy Habits” for daycares
    - Educational CD programs - “Preventing Colds and Flu” for K-3, 4-6, Junior High School, and Individuals and Families
    - Stakeholders Help, Advice, and Recommendations Exchange (SHARE) was created to facilitate pandemic influenza and all-hazards planning for the healthcare, business, first responders, education, government, faith-based/community, and communications sectors in Alabama. Emergency planners from all sectors will collaborate on innovative solutions to all-hazards including a potentially overwhelming event, such as a pandemic influenza outbreak. All emergency plans created will ensure the citizens of Alabama are better

prepared for any disaster in the future. For more information, please visit [SHARE](#) for instructions or call (334) 206-3394.

- Antivirals
    - Resistance
    - Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) – Charlie Thomas provided an information document regarding the use of Tamiflu with H1N1. The document will be sent out on SHARE with the Healthcare Sector minutes. CDC’s “Interim Guidance on Antiviral Recommendations for Patients with Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection and Their Close Contacts” located at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>
    - Website for physician’s to order
  - Volunteers
    - Discussed by Charlie Crawford earlier in the meeting
    - Liability for all H1N1 vaccine activities
  - Seasonal Vaccine
    - Start vaccinations as soon as the shipments are received.
  - H1N1 Vaccine will not be given without a consent
  - Lab Testing
  - Adverse Events
5. New Business, not identified on the agenda (Sallie Shipman)
- Dr. Campbell and Cindy will meet regarding EMS pre-hospital protocols including dispatch. Under state law, paramedics cannot administer vaccine unless the Governor declares an emergency.
  - Agha Afgan recommended that healthcare facilities consider N-95 fit testing in their H1N1 planning efforts. Valerie Cochran mentioned that the Alabama Board of Nursing decided that licensed practical nurses (LPN) will not be approved to perform fit testing. ADPH will not perform fit testing for outside agencies.
6. Review date and time of next call, **Tuesday, October 27, 2009** then to be held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. (Sallie Shipman)
7. Other topics and announcements (All)
8. Adjourn