

Florida Children's Preparedness Coalition Conference Call Minutes

April 10, 2014
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call - Attendees:

John Wilgis, Julie Bacon, John Lanza, Jeanine Posey, Scott Needle, Patricia Kitchens, Tonya Holloway, Mike Haney, Rex Northup, Tommy Schechtman, Andy Rucks, Donna Paquette, Shawn Hamm, Janet Collins, Victor Johnson, Gail LaRosa, Jacquelyn McCullough, and Stephanie Brown – Facilitator

Welcome

The meeting opened with a greeting from Dr. Mike Haney, the new chair for the coalition. He thanked everyone for their attendance and discussed the current status of the coalition and the development of workgroups to accomplish identified goals for children's preparedness around the state.

Children's Disaster Preparedness Program Update

Stephanie Brown provided an update on the Children's Disaster Preparedness Program by sharing the following:

- The program has been asked to present on children's health care coalitions at the Governor's Hurricane Conference. Stephanie is co-presenting with Dr. Rex Northup and their session will be a part of a daylong session on pediatric health care coalitions.
- A budget item for the new fiscal year was presented to the bureau for a face-to-face meeting for the coalition. If approved, the program is looking to schedule the day and a half long meeting before the end of the calendar year. The meeting will serve as a children's preparedness think-tank, and include team-building and workgroup breakout sessions. Once the bureau's final budget has been approved, Stephanie agreed to send the coalition an email to inform of the status of this proposal.
- The program is in the process of creating the Florida Children's Preparedness Coalition webpage specifically for the group, and those who are interested in the work of the group. It will feature a general overview section, annual meeting schedule, invitation to potential members, a listing of previous meeting minutes, information on the next meeting/conference call, and a workgroup center to keep the workgroups informed.

Steering Committee Update

Dr. Haney provided an update on each workgroup's leadership and asked coalition members to consider joining any of the workgroups to lend their expertise to an area. He also noted that he has reached out to others to ask them to consider a leadership role. Two of the workgroups are currently chaired by state staff, but it would be preferable to have the groups chaired by community partners. This would allow the state to get greater community input and provide better coordination as it builds guidance, policy and partnerships that benefit preparedness for children.

State and National Updates: Coalition members were asked to share children's preparedness information of interest from their respective groups around the state or nationally.

- Dr. Needle noted the American Academy of Pediatrics Advisory Council is meeting next week. The meeting is usually an intense day and a half of information and updates that also allows them to work with federal liaisons.
- Dr. Andy Rucks shared that the Southeastern Regional Pediatric Disaster Surge Network has two surveys going forward to identify pediatric coalitions, the nature of the coalitions, and how connected/interconnected they are with others. The first part of the survey has identified 14 different coalitions around the southeast. There is also the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE).
- John Wilgis provided information on the Governor's Hurricane Conference that's coming up in May and provided highlights on the health care coalition session. He asked members to share this information locally and noted that the conference is a great opportunity to network with others who share an interest in children's preparedness.

Coalition Workgroups Update & Discussion

State Guidance Workgroup

- The workgroup discussed the status of pediatric disaster plans statewide and the lack of information available. It was noted that a survey by the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) revealed that many do not have a pediatric plan or pediatric focus.
- A Gap Assessment was previously proposed as a way to help identify where the needs exist, among other things, before drafting state guidance.
- The draft Gap Assessment was presented at this meeting, reviewed and finalized by the workgroup to move on to the next step. Ways of distribution will be evaluated, as well as the availability of distribution lists to reach the targeted groups for valuable feedback. Once this information is obtained, it will be shared with the full coalition for feedback before distribution.
- The next meeting will be scheduled once all of these steps are completed.

Education & Awareness Workgroup

- Two Florida-specific brochures have been completed to raise community awareness. The first brochure is a school preparedness brochure with emphasis on children with special needs. The project was funded in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Improving the Health of People with Disabilities through State Based Public Health Program Grant #1U59DD00092-02. The second brochure is a children/family brochure that focuses on the need to prepare children early for all types of possible disasters or incidents.
- The workgroup lead has been talking to SMEs and is looking to find available resources that would fit the need of our communities, so as not to reinvent the wheel. The search to find readily available resources has not been successful, however research will continue.

Healthcare Coalition Involvement Workgroup

- The workgroup shared its focus to identify and encourage pediatric involvement in the local health care coalitions by contacting members of Children's Medical Services (CMS), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Florida's children's hospitals. Also, coalition members who are involved in these three groups were asked to reach out around the state to encourage involvement.
- A short list of expectations of these pediatric representatives was shared so the group could understand the anticipated level of involvement.

- Julie Bacon volunteered to reach out to the EMSC Committee members and encourage them to contact their local health care coalitions and become active.
- It was also suggested that the workgroup ask the local health care coalitions to reach out to their local pediatric community as well.

Coalition Feedback, Next Steps and Closing Comments

In closing, Dr. Haney asked the coalition for any closing comments, feedback and next steps.

- Tonya Holloway suggested the coalition reach out to the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to engage them on the functional needs of those with Autism. Dr. Haney agreed and noted that this was also an ESF 6 Mass Care function and possibly a meeting could be arranged to discuss possibilities.
- Shawn Hamm suggested visiting a shelter if the group is approved for the face-to-face meeting. Victor Johnson agreed to get with Michelle Sheffield, Special Needs Shelter (SpNS) Coordinator, to see if we can have a shelter director share with the group and provide a demonstration/overview of shelter activity during an event. Upon meeting with Michelle after the meeting, she shared that there are some newly-produced SpNS videos that would fit this need perfectly. This information will be shared at the next quarterly conference call.
- Dr. Rex Northup shared his continued concern about the lack of interstate agreements as some areas of the state, like the Panhandle and Pensacola, will have a specific need for these if an event occurred and they are cut off from the rest of the state again or they can get help quicker from their neighbors who are closer than assistance coming from central or south Florida. Dr. Haney agreed to keep this issue out front and share his concerns.

Dr. Haney thanked the group for providing feedback and let them know each of their comments would be looked into for follow up.

Next Quarterly Call Date

- July 17, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. (EST)
- There were no conflicts noted with this date by those on the call, so it will be calendared and reserved, along with the other remaining meeting date for the year which is October 23, 2014.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.