



Franklin • Gadsden • Gulf
Jefferson • Leon • Madison
Taylor • Wakulla Counties

Big Bend Healthcare Coalition Quarterly Meeting

September 17, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Eastern
Capital Area Chapter of the Red Cross
1115 Easterwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Meeting Summary

The quarterly meeting of the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition was held at the American Red Cross in Tallahassee, Florida at 10:00 am on Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

Welcome, and Introductions

Philip Doyle, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Phillip Doyle, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and the following Board members were present:

- *Chad Abrams – Leon County EMS*
- *Holly Kirsch – Department of Health, Leon County*
- *Kevin Peters – Leon County Emergency Management*
- *Gabriel Otuonye, Bond Community Health Center*

Mr. Doyle introduced staff from the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC), who will serve as staff for the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition:

- *Zach Annett - ARPC*
- *Elise Fisher – ARPC*
- *Denise Imbler – ARPC*

Ms. Imbler further introduced ARPC staff stating that she will be working with the executive committee and board on updating the by-laws and other BBHCC planning documents. Mr. Annett will be working with membership and on setting up trainings and exercises. Ms. Fisher will be working on planning, special projects, and contract management. Ms. Stewart will be working on the website and communications.

Hepatitis-A

Commander Aaron Otis, Bureau of Preparedness and Response, Florida Department of Health

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Mr. Doyle introduced Commander Aaron Otis, who presented on the Hepatitis-A outbreak. In the past year, there have been over 2,500 reported cases and 40 deaths, which led to a declared Public Health Emergency in August. Hepatitis-A is a preventable disease and efforts are being made to vaccinate high risk and vulnerable populations. These include homeless, drug users, men having sex with men, people with liver diseases, and individuals over 60. The Florida Department of Health is encouraging counties to expand vaccination activities and individuals without insurance may visit their local county health department to receive the vaccine at no cost.

2019 Hurricane Season and Regional Preparedness

Mark Wool, National Weather Service, Tallahassee Office

Mr. Doyle introduced Mark Wool from the National Weather Service, Tallahassee Office. The Tallahassee forecast area covers 48 counties in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida and provides forecasts for aviation, hydrology, fire, marine, tropical, 7-day forecasts, and decision support services. Mr. Wool presented information about the NWS, how to get forecasts and warnings, the 2019 hurricane season updated outlook, concerns, and preparedness information. Forecasts can be reviewed on the NWS website. The presentation will be shared with the BBHCC membership.

Annual Project Funding Process

Holly Kirsch, Immediate Past Chair

Elise Fisher, Big Bend HCC Staff

Ms. Kirsch addressed the group on the annual project funding process. A new application has been created and will be distributed with the guidelines. Applications need to justify the project and explain why county or state funding isn't being used. When applications are received, the executive board will review them and may follow-up to ask additional questions. Projects are typically reimbursed after the purchase is made. For example, the BBHCC funded a project submitted by Gadsden county to update their radios. The county was reimbursed for the radios after they were purchased. Any previously submitted projects not funded need to be resubmitted.

Training and Exercise Plan

Zach Annett, Big Bend HCC Staff

Mr. Annett presented on the findings from a survey completed by general members regarding training interests and needs. There was high interest in participating in an active shooter and/or weather event exercise to fulfill the CMS exercise requirement. Mr. Annett stated that a tabletop exercise can be designed and brought to any member that is interested. Additionally, Mr. Annett discussed training courses that were of interest to members and will work on bringing them to the region. Another item of interest was Plan Development Workshops. These workshops would be held to assist members with writing emergency plans.

The Surge Tool Exercise will take place in January or February 2020 with Capital Regional

Medical Center, Seven Hills and Rehab Center, and Heritage Healthcare Center participating.

Coalition Partner Updates

Mr. Doyle made a call to the room to brief on any updates. The following members stated:

- *Karla, AHCA: If any nursing home providers are having troubles with generators, she can help.*
- *Tiffany, Medical Examiner – District 2: they have moved into new facility. There is an upcoming FEMORs training on October 28-29.*
- *Kristina, FDLE: There is a RDSTF meeting on October 1st. If you want to be on the distribution list, contact Mr. Annett.*
- *Behavioral Health: Opened a 12 bed children's unit at Apalachee Center. This is for children ages 6-18.*
- *Kevin, Leon County EM: Introduced the new Jefferson County emergency manager Paula Carroll. He also stated that Madison County has an interim director and Wakulla County has a new director, Jennifer Nagy. Mr. Peters shared several training opportunities offered through the Florida Division of Emergency Management's SERT Trac.*
 - *November 5-6, Medical Management of CBRNE Events training in Tallahassee.*
 - *January 7-8, Management of Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents training in Tallahassee.*

Mr. Peters also shared upcoming conferences:

- *FEPA annual conference – February 3-7 in Daytona. FEPA has an EM certificate program.*
 - *National Hurricane Conference April 6-9 in Orlando.*
 - *Governor's Hurricane Conference May 17-20 in West Palm Beach.*
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- *County Public Health Planners – the regularly scheduled meeting for the region's health preparedness planners was held recently. If there is anything the county planners can do to assist the members of the BBHCC, reach out to them for more information.*
 - *Dialysis – DaVita has seven outpatient facilities in the region. The partnerships through the BBHCC are extremely vital for dialysis centers during emergencies because of their reliance on water, power, and transportation.*
 - *Nursing Homes – Florida Healthcare Association is embedded in ESF 8 during response and can be contacted directly there.*

Closing Comments

Philip Doyle, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Chair

BBHCC members were encouraged to stay for lunch and network with other members and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting – December 4, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.