

New Jersey Healthcare Coalition (NJHCC)

March Statewide HCC Virtual Meeting

Date: 3.19.25

Microsoft Teams

Anthony Sokolowski opened the meeting up at 10:00am

Opening Remarks were delivered by Anthony

- Welcomed members
- Asked attendees to utilize the Virtual Sign-In Sheet

Spotlight Speaker was introduced by Anthony

- Tatyana Kelly – Facing Helene – Understanding the All-Hazards
 - Tatyana explained that there is still an on-going recovery in North Carolina post-Helene
 - Tatyana reviewed the Timeline of events during Hurricane Helene
 - Sept 23, 2024 – Storm forms in the western Caribbean
 - Sept 25, 2024 –
 - Enhanced watch
 - Started looking at SMSS Locatinos
 - Polled for NC EMS Resources
 - Check-ins with Statewide Patient Coordination Team
 - Sept 26
 - State OCS Full activation
 - Resources on the ground
 - Power outages and flooding
 - Sept 27
 - EMS Resource requests hit
 - SMSS site approved
 - Acute Care contacts contacted via phone
 - Home Depot, Lowes assistance activated
 - Sept 28
 - 95 resources requested
 - Standups facilities activated

- Internet, VOIP lost, power out
- VIPER Systems helped a lot
- Started healthcare assessments which were questions for facilities to answer regarding the status of their facility and it's needs
- Roads washed out
- OEM deployed Helicopters that were sent to investigate remote facilities
- Sept 29
 - Requested SEOC Support
 - Public Health Emergency Declared
 - Federal Ambulances deployed
- Sept 30
 - Sat phones used for communication
 - Diverting traffic from western half of state
 - Road access was still an issue
 - 9 Days to get to a nursing facility ; needed horses
- Requests
 - 7659 total WebEOC Requests
 - Average 30 -50 per day
- Points of emphasis
 - Western NC is rural and hilly
 - Wells without electricity will become unhealthy due to contamination (ecoli)
 - Communication – cell phone towers become compromised
 - Drones were used to drop supplies
 - Health care assessment – questionnaires were developed to determine resilience (supplies, utility availability, utility capacities)
 - What would be done differently, coalition reach out to tighten communications/connections. Patient transport to hospital issues.

The Clinical Advisors were introduced by Anthony

- Dr. Amundee Tagore spoke on Emerging Special Pathogens
- Dr. Alexander Kuc spoke on Measles

Coalition Updates were covered by the Emergency Management Team, specifically, Anthony, Ryan Cassidy, and Jax Wigert

- Current Real-World Events – Anthony
 - Measles messaging will be shared with members as cases continue to rise across the country
 - International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Strike is tentatively over as a six (6)-year agreement has been reached between the ILA and the U.S. Maritime Alliance
- NJHCC.org Website Update – Anthony
 - Trainings, Newsletters, Conference Resources, and Meetings Slides and Minutes are all available
- Readiness Plan – Ryan
 - In development

- Response Plan – Anthony
 - Information Sharing, Resource Management, Medical Surge Support Annexes
 - The Response Plan and its associated annexes are all in development and will be shared with members soon
 - Response Plan Workgroup could see one (1) more meeting before the end of the month
- Supply Chain Integrity Assessment – Jax
 - In development and will consist of outreach to facilities and their supply chain subject matter experts
- Jurisdictional Risk Assessment – Ryan
 - Should have results to share with members soon
- Statewide Workplace Violence (WPV) Committee Meetings – Anthony
 - Next meeting is Tue., Apr. 8th at 11am and will see spotlight speakers talking about Human Trafficking and Pediatric Psychiatric cases
- Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE) Follow-Up – Ryan
- 2025 NJHCC Strategic Planning Meeting Follow-Up – Anthony
 - Information from the meeting is available on the njhcc.org website
- Association of Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professionals (AHEPP) Follow-Up – Anthony
 - Information from the conference is available on the njhcc.org website
- Upcoming Conferences/Trainings – Anthony & Ryan
 - HSEEP on March 31st and April 1st at Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ – Anthony
 - Commissioner Call on April 3rd – Ryan
 - Ryan and Anthony asked members to submit their preferred topics for the call
 - Karen Fox spoke and stated that as a result of another meeting the Commissioner needs to sit on, the call is being rescheduled
 - New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association (NJEP) Conference in Atlantic, NJ on Apr. 7th-11th – Ryan
 - The EM Team will be presenting alongside the Association leads at the conference
 - 2025 Preparedness Summit in San Antonio, TX on Apr.29th-May 2nd – Anthony
 - Donning / Doffing Training (April 29th) – Anthony
 - Half-day training that should be train the trainer. The location is still pending.
 - 2025 Allied Associations Emergency Readiness Group (A2 ERG) Annual Meeting in NYC, NY in mid-May – Ryan

Member Updates – Anthony

- Acute Care – Leaders stated that there were no updates
- FQHC – A member stated that there were no updates
- Public Health – The Association lead re-emphasized the courses and exercises being offered
- Behavioral/Mental Health – Shared information about Mental Health First Aid trainings being offered

Reminders – Ryan

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times - Anthony

- May North HCC In-Person Meeting - Thurs., May 15th at 10am
- May Central HCC In-Person Meeting – Mon., May 19th at 10am
- May South HCC In-Person Meeting - Thurs., May 22nd at 10am
- Locations are To Be Determined

RHCC Future Agenda Items - Anthony
Post-Meeting Feedback Survey – Anthony
The meeting concluded at approximately 11:57am