

New Jersey Healthcare Coalition (NJHCC)

May Central Region HCC In-Person Meeting

Date: 5.19.25

Somerset County, NJ

Ryan Cassidy opened the meeting up at 10:02am

Opening Remarks were delivered by Scott Skrivanek

- Welcomed members
- Asked attendees to utilize the Virtual Sign-In Sheet
- Introductions were given by all in attendance

Spotlight Speaker was introduced by Ryan

- Dr. Tagore (Clinical Advisor)– gave presentation on EMS Week
- EMS week is May 18th-24th
- American Siren- book on 1st African American paramedics
- EMS and Acute Care Connection
 - Bring your patients, first line of contact and screening
- EMS and Long-Term Care Connection
 - emergency transport (911) and non-emergency transport when needed
- EMS and FQHC's, Home Health, Hospice Connection
 - Emergencies and preventative care (community paramedic, vaccines, reporter for abuse)
- EMS and Public Health Connection
 - Look for trends, notice outbreaks, disaster management addiction medicine, surveillance and first line of surveillance
- EMS and Future Direction
 - community paramedicine, alternative destination transport, triage to home, new treatments and interventions (blood, ECPR), behavioral health (transport to behavioral health hospitals)
- Houston Fire
 - Has a triage system where if EMS comes in and patients are not in an emergency, they will connect with a telehealth doctor and they make an assessment (go to urgent care, ED, etc.)

Coalition Updates were covered by the Emergency Management Team, specifically Ryan and Megan Brown

- Do not have any updates on where funding stands but will keep everyone updated as we hear-Ryan
- Admin changes-Ryan
 - Director Theresa Edelstein is retiring, and COO Ray Brandes is stepping in as interim Director for the time being
 - Bob Fields (former co-chair of the Central Region) will now be a part of the South region and Scott will be the sole lead for now
- Plans and Annexes- Ryan
 - This is the 1st year of a 5-year cycle
 - The team has been drafting several plans and annexes and sending them out for review
 - If anyone has not received the plans, please let the team know. They will be on the website.
- Supply Chain Integrity Assessment- Ryan
 - This is underway and will consist of interviews with bigger and smaller systems and then will expand to member types
 - The assessment will look at any issues or chronic issues a facility is facing with supply chain
- Statewide WPV Committee Meetings- Ryan
 - Continuing to hold them bimonthly
- MRSE AAR/IP- Ryan
 - Will be distributed today or tomorrow,
 - Annual exercise will be held
- Juvare Process and Architecture Review (PAR)- Ryan
 - Juvare will continue to keep up with interviews and conversations with DOH, HCC leaders, etc.
 - We are exploring WebEOC but want to reassure everyone that EMResource will not be going anywhere
 - Jason Bhulai asked about bed capacity and is there an ability to have an open link for a person to have for entering information? There is a barrier for people to enter data (ex: 2AM charge nurse needs to input data and do not have the information or link needed)
 - Jason asked if HCC would get a copy of PAR-he would like to request a copy
- NJHCC EM Contact Directory-Megan
 - The team will be putting together a directory to house contact information for various federal, state and county agencies, as well as acute care and long-term care information for emergencies
 - Jason asked if we could include cell phone numbers for acute cares not office phone numbers
- 2025 NACCHO Preparedness Summit- Ryan
 - PowerPoints and notes will be pushed out on website and Constant Contact
- Conferences/Trainings –Ryan
 - Commissioner Call on June 11th at 10AM
 - Ryan asked members to submit their preferred topics for the call
 - The invite should have been sent out, but a QR code will be posted for anyone to sign up
 - Donning / Doffing Training (April 29th)
 - Half-day training was held that was train the trainer.
 - Run, Hide, Fight Training
 - This will be rescheduled for the North and South regions. Dates and locations are still pending.

- Home Care and Hospice Association of NJ Annual Conference
 - June 3rd-5th

FIFA World Cup 2026 was covered by Ryan

- We are currently waiting for more of an update from the state police
- Dr. Steenberg wants to work with coalitions
 - He has two questions for the coalitions
 - What do you want to know?
 - What are you going to do with that information?
- Bucky Buchanan (NJ EMS Task Force) spoke
 - FIFA Club World Cup- He submitted an organizational chart on Friday to DOH. Dana, from DOH is the branch director for Fire/EMS and asked to bring in public health for the food/health inspections
 - A multi-agency coordination center request was submitted, and this will be held virtually. Twenty (20) agencies will be represented at the center.
 - Area command will be at the Hudson County OEM for next year and senior leadership from DOH will report out any procedures.
 - IMT is managing the overall incident located in Edison. Fire/EMS branch co-branch directors are Dana, DOH and NJ Division of Fire Safety. Under that will be the North and South division task forces at the facility.
 - There was not enough involvement from the beginning but more to come in preparation for 2026.
 - There will be 10 additional ambulances for semi-finals and finals
 - Public health will be involved in disease tracking from all over the world
 - ESF-8 Component is represented in Area Command, SEOC is not stood up for Club Cup itself but will be available for any other incident in the state
- Scott Skrivanek spoke:
 - Club World Cup is being downplayed but people are coming from all over the world, no official watch parties but there will be impromptu parties.
- Buckey mentioned that they have identified public health agencies for assistance and have EMS/Ambulances at the ready. Secaucus train station will have people stationed for emergencies and they will make hospitals aware of any information. He stated HCC and NJHA will be a key component to keep communication open
 - Basking Ridge and New Brunswick will be the only schools that will be hosting teams in Central Jersey

Member Updates

- Acute Care – Jason stated his team is building on preparedness and training on what they do daily in preparation for World Cup. They are having trainings for Mass Causality Incidents, mobilizing and activating command centers and partnering with EMS task force to run large scale incident response courses. If anyone is interested there are 3 classes left that you could attend if any EMS agencies would like to.

- Long Term Care- Dave Weidner stated they are hosting elopement training for facilities and in partnership with EMS task force, they are hosting a full-scale evacuation exercise in Cape May. On June 12th, they have an elopement exercise at Eastern Star inside the facility and Search and Rescue demonstration outside the facility
- FQHC
 - Ron Depo: Run, Hide, Fight training was great and very informative.
- Public Health
 - Chris Tomaszewicz: they are running a risk communication exercise with the state
 - Caroline from Union County Health Department: They are dealing with the challenge of funding and staffing and how to leverage that
 - Discussion surrounding a statewide Tabletop exercise
 - Public Health professionals have less than 5 years of experience, but the exercise opened the public health bubble, but it was a great discussion
 - Good information regarding Measles
 - Members said they understand the disconnect between what hospitals are doing and public health. It was great to get into a room together with school nurses as well
- Emergency Management: None
- Home Care Hospice: None
- Emergency Medical Services
 - Bucky- Wished everyone a happy EMS Week and went over what they have been involved with lately:
 - Jones Wildfire
 - Inspira Network Outage
 - Burlington County Nursing Home Fire
 - AC Airport Exercise
 - Airshow
 - LSI in partnership for large scale training
 - Ambulance Strike Team class getting started up
 - Regional EMS prep group expanded into Philadelphia, lower PA and Delaware County
 - Saint Clares- hazmat in facility (shipment of chemicals that do not react well together reacted together due to breaking in the boxes)
- Behavioral/Mental Health: None
- Dialysis: None
- Urgent Care: None
- HHS- Member stated he has no information regarding the funding, but he has a contact with the Medical Sub Committee if anyone needs. He also heard a rumor that the President will be at FIFA and that will change the entire system of events.
 - Stated there is a Hazardous Infectious Simulation Exercise on June 26th in NYC at LaGuardia in preparation for the World Cup

Strategic Planning/Open Discussion-Ryan

- Ryan asked if there are any trainings or resources that are falling short that HCCs could help with? Anything anyone is seeing that is causing issues or threats?
 - Members stated that if there is a loss of funding and/or staff, they will not be able to handle threats
 - A member mentioned she heard that manuals for infectious diseases, communicable diseases, etc. were going to be started by either the state or NACCHO and asked if anyone knew anything about it
- Ryan asked how can Coalitions better support you and your teams?
 - Members asked for FEMA training- HSEEP
 - Jason can help with registering for that if anyone needs to get in
 - A member mentioned Tabletop exercises
 - need help bringing people to the table to look at the plans, amplify the exercises

Reminders – Ryan

Closing Remarks- Scott

- June 11th Commissioner Call and Thank you

Meeting Ended: 11:56AM