

# North Central Healthcare Coalition (NCHC)

October 1, 2013

**Attendees:** Mel Johnson, Nez Perce County Emergency Manager  
Circe Munson, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center  
Charles Craig, Gritman Medical Center  
David Reynolds, Moscow Fire Department  
Don Gardner, Clearwater County Emergency Management  
Sandy Rollins, Latah County Disaster Services  
Molly Terhaar, Idaho County Deputy Clerk of Programs  
Jerry Zumalt, Idaho County Disaster Management  
Debi Ruppe, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security  
Sue Welch, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security  
Angela Porter, Nimiipuu Health  
Jamie Johnson, Lewis County Assistant PIO  
Dave Hasz, Lewis County Emergency Management  
Travis Myklebust, Lewiston Fire Department  
Shelley Ponozzo, Lewis County PIO  
Bill Spencer, Syringa Hospital and Ambulance  
Matt Dudley, Public Health - Idaho North Central District  
Casey Schooley, Public Health - Idaho North Central District  
Ryan Bender, Public Health - Idaho North Central District  
Kayla Moehrle, Public Health – Idaho North Central District  
Ed Marugg, Public Health – Idaho North Central District

## ***Circe Munson, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center***

- Circe welcomed everyone.
- Roundtable introductions.

## ***Updates:***

### ***Advisory Committee Update***

- Dave Reynolds discussed some of the changes that will take place for next year's ASPR grant funding. The Advisory Committee will come up with more defined scoring criteria. There will also be a day designated for presentations from applicants given to the grant scoring committee to help answer questions. The use of acronyms is no longer acceptable on applications. Applicants for ASPR grant funds that are also on the grant scoring committee will no longer score their own applications. The idea of a price cap for applicants was left open for further discussion.
- Hazmat awareness and the next steps were relayed to the group. Members of healthcare agencies should designate staff to complete online awareness training. Operations level training should happen at possibly two locations in the region. At least one representative from each hospital should attend. Further down the line hands-on-training at each hospital is the goal.

### ***North Central Information Network (NCIN)***

- The JIC/JIS training on November 14<sup>th</sup> was briefly discussed.
- The policies for social media and the WebEOC training are items being worked on within the group.

### ***EMS Taskforce***

- The EMS Taskforce is trying to increase participation and make it a more sustainable/regional group.

## **North Central Healthcare Coalition (NCHC)**

*October 1, 2013*

- Looking into setting up a conference call or webinar that can involve input from the smaller units/communities.
- Creating valuable trainings with quality instructors from the area is a high priority for the taskforce.

### ***St. Joseph's Airport Drill – Travis Myklebust, Lewiston Fire Department, and Circe Munson, SJRMC Regional Services Manager***

- On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Lewiston Airport conducted an air rescue incident. The scenario involved a crop duster colliding with a 20 passenger charter airplane. The incident occurred due to a lack of radio communication with the tower.
- The incident was an opportunity to expand an outdated mass casualty plan. The incident involved the participation of many surrounding agencies, which included TSA, Lewiston Emergency Manager, Lewiston Fire, Asotin Fire, and St. Joe's.
- Lewiston Fire focused on the transportation of patients, returning to the scene, and transporting more. Altogether there were 19 patients in need of transportation. Lewiston Fire worked on maneuvering through a field of debris to safely reach the patients.
- Issues found were that the airport is a secured area where TSA controls all entrance and exit locations. New staff on the fire department did not know these locations. The airport is creating new maps that identify the designated gate access points.
- Lewiston Fire also identified the need for colored vests during larger scale incidents to help identify Incident Command positions.
- Lewiston Fire is planning a mass casualty drill for every shift once a year. They are also planning a larger scale drill outside of city limits to work with outside agencies.
- Altogether Lewiston Fire did a total of six trips with the quickest timed at 16 minutes and the slowest at 19 minutes.
- St. Joe's identified that the 19 patients that were transported to the hospital would have been too many for them to handle. The need for communication with surrounding agencies like Tri-State and Valley Medical is imperative. St. Joe's will also create directional signs to help guide EMS units as they deliver the patients. The interoperable communication with the multi-agency response was also an issue.

### ***Interoperable Communications – Don Gardner, Clearwater County Emergency Manager***

- Jurisdictions are isolated and they use the form of communications that they feel comfortable with. It's time to create a strategy that can help align everything.
- The DIGB will create an 'All Call Channel' that can help improve communication within the region. Reaching out to the smaller communities is a priority to help push this strategy.
- Contacting hospitals is also important to identify how to improve communications.
- Don Gardner will chair this project.

# North Central Healthcare Coalition (NCHC)

October 1, 2013

## ***Exercise Joint Information System – Sue Welch, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Training and Exercise Coordinator***

- A joint information system exercise will be conducted with the intent to improve the processes for releasing information.
- Coordinating information that is released to the media is important since all counties share the same media sources.
- The common theme for this exercise will be a flood that impacts all five counties. Each jurisdiction will have a sub scenario that they must cope with.
- The exercise is tentatively scheduled for the week of January 20<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Mass Casualty Transportation/Bed Tracking – Open Forum***

- It has been identified that hospitals in the region may not always have the capabilities to handle all patients that are transported to them. The need to identify a plan regionally for large scale incidents is increasingly important.
- Washington State has a system called the Disaster Medical Control System that provides the availability of beds for each type of patient.
- Moscow Ambulance is looking into ways to provide extended treatment in the field.

## ***Time Sensitive Emergency – Bill Spencer, Syringa Hospital and Ambulance***

- Bill provided a handout and information on time-sensitive emergencies. Time-sensitive emergencies include trauma, stroke and heart attack. Idaho remains one of only a few states without organized systems of care for these types of emergencies.

## ***County Updates***

Clearwater County: November 6<sup>th</sup> Clearwater County is conducting a Dam exercise. Don Gardner urged others to use Debi Ruppe at BHS to help with daily conference call capabilities.

Idaho County: Idaho County is working with Lewis County on a Transitions Wildland Fire table top exercise. Date of the exercise is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Class Announcements:

- ICS 300 – November 7-8<sup>th</sup> in Riggins, Idaho
- ICS 400 – January 16-17<sup>th</sup> in Kamiah, Idaho

*Participation in these classes is needed or they can be cancelled.*

Nez Perce County: Training and preparing for the November 14<sup>th</sup> JIC/JIS training. On November 9<sup>th</sup> the Lewis-Clark Valley Preparedness Fair is taking place at the Fair Grounds.

Lewis County: Craigmont and Winchester are building new fire departments.

Latah County: Took part in a successful search & rescue. The county is working on a 911 table top exercise that can address alternatives if there is a communication outage.

## **North Central Healthcare Coalition (NCHC)**

*October 1, 2013*

### ***Hazmat Contamination – Dave Reynolds, Moscow Volunteer Emergency Ambulance***

- Dave used a PowerPoint to help bring awareness to the group on hazmat contamination procedures in the event of a situation.
- The need for hazmat awareness training given to those who first come in contact with a hazmat situation is important. Receptionists are some of those that need to be aware of the situations that can be considered hazmat.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE  
North Central Healthcare Coalition  
Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**