

**HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES SUB-PANEL  
GOVERNOR'S SECURE AND RESILIENT COMMONWEALTH PANEL  
Tuckahoe County Library, Henrico, Virginia  
January 7, 2020  
Meeting Notes**

**Welcome and thanks to all attendees.**

**Ed Rhodes, Chair**

- Introductions of attendees
- Welcome

**Dr. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, State Health Commissioner**

- Welcome
- Thanked everyone for taking time out of their schedule to attend this meeting
- Full agenda
- Last meeting, discussed gun violence

**Emerging Health Threats**

**Jonathan Falk, Office of Epidemiology, VDH - Slides**

- EVALI – E-Cigarette or Vaping Associated Lung Injury
  - VHD activated Emergency response August 20, 2019
  - Vitamin E Acetate appears to be the cause. Is found in products containing THC
    - Identified in 48 out of 52 of EVALI Cases
  - VA reports 88 Hospitalized cases and 1 death – 95 total cases as of January 7, 2020
  - Central region appears to have an unusually low number of cases
- Hepatitis A – VA became an outbreak January 1, 2019
  - Multi state outbreaks began in 2016
  - Vaccine is the best way to prevent
  - VA Cases – 276 – 175 hospitalized – 0 deaths
- Influenza 2019 - 2020 season
  - Earlier than usual
  - Achieved widespread status in week 48
  - No pediatric deaths as of January 7, 2020
  - New version of the B Victoria Virus V1A.3
    - Most commonly identified flu strain nationally as of January 7, 2020
  - Appears to be genetically similar to the B strain contained in the Influenza vaccine – mid season update will provide more information on the efficacy of the vaccine
- Ebola
  - Second largest Ebola outbreak
    - Occurring in DRC – N. Kivu and Ituri provinces
    - 3,382 cases – 2,232 deaths (66% fatality rate) as of January 1, 2020
    - Appears to be contained
  - Number of cases appears to trending downward
  - Attacks on Ebola responders continues to be a problem in DRC
- Measles
  - Unprecedented year in 2019

- Roughly twice the number of cases than usual worldwide
  - US trending the same
- In US greatest number of measles cases since 1992
- Highlights Vaccination as a preventative measure

## **Fusion Center Updates (No Slides)**

### **Payne Marks, Virginia State Police**

- Annual Threat assessment (THIRA)
- THIRA Executive summary – 5 most prominent threats
  - Band 1 – Cyber-crimes – Independent lone actors will continue to exploit intrusion opportunities and use ransomware to extort victims
    - Independent lone actors are more likely to conduct planned targeted attacks
      - 77 % spent a week or more planning
      - Arrived with a victim pre-identified
      - Knew victims
      - 73% of school attackers had specific target/s
      - 2000-2013 a large percentage of attackers exhibited 4-5 behaviors that caused concern prior to the attack
      - Inspired violence – inspirational guide for lone actors who adapt it for their own purposes and grievances – information sharing via internet creates a way for extremists to share ideology
  - Band 2 – White supremacist extremists, home-grown extremists, domestic terror groups
    - Inspired by ISIS propaganda, weapons and tactics do not require much planning or resources
    - Committing violent activity at public events
  - Band 3 – Drug gangs, militia extremists, human trafficking, eco-terrorists
    - Drug trafficking organizations continue to pose a significant threat to the commonwealth
    - Human trafficking continues to pose a public safety threat
    - Street Gangs – Bloods, MS 13, Motorcycle gangs
      - Recent activity where street gangs and MC gangs have been teaming up to attack a mutual rival
  - Band 4 – ISIS, Al- Qaeda
  - Band 5 – Hezbollah – currently the lowest threat, may increase in VA due to tensions with Iran
- Iran – Quds force commander killed by US Military
  - Quds classified as a terrorist organization 2019
  - Iran State classified as a state sponsor of terrorism in 1984
    - Hezbollah
    - Hamas
  - US airstrike conducted after US discovers Commander was responsible for and was actively planning attacks on the US and/or its assets
  - Most likely retaliation scenario will be a cyber-attack on US
    - As of January 7, 2020 there are no direct, credible threats against the US from Iran

- Upcoming GA session
  - Begins on Wednesday, January 8, 2020
  - Preparing for protests and possible violence due to proposed gun legislation
  - Threats being made via social media
    - Veiled threats that don't cross the threshold to being criminal
    - Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) is doing a pretty good job of attempting to coordinate groups coming and providing guidelines for civility and to not use inflammatory rhetoric on Lobby Day on January 20<sup>th</sup>
    - The concern is with outlier groups – Patriot front (Charlottesville) and others, including out of state groups
  - Out of state groups are intending to participate that may be more inflammatory – 15-20 out-of-state groups known to be attending
  - No specific grasp on numbers – estimates at 4,000 to 10,000
  - NRA event on January 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Smaller Events on January 8<sup>th</sup> for opening day

### **Gun Violence as a Public Health Threat and opportunities for prevention (Slides)**

**Dr. Jaberri**, Chief Deputy Commissioner, VDH

- Led discussion on gun violence prevention
- We understand that this is a political issue, we desire to frame conversation on violence prevention, not gun control
- Suicide rates tracking slightly higher than national average 2/3 of all gun related deaths
- Homicide rates tracking slightly lower than national average 1/3 of all gun related deaths
- Second leading cause of unnatural death second to substance abuse
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> is MVA
- Access to a firearm triples the risk of suicide
- Access to a gun doubles the risk of homicide
- Abused women are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser has access to a firearm
- Victims of one form of violence are likely to experience other forms of violence
- Shared risk and protective factors
- Next Steps
  - Improve data collection and understanding the impact of gun violence
  - Injury Data
  - Increase education and awareness
    - Roles of HCP, LE, public, and private entities
    - Health in all policies
    - Development of a Taskforce
- Heather Board
  - Focus on looking beyond the gun control legislation and looking at a comprehensive violence prevention
- Alex Jansson
  - 50 firearms related bills
    - Determining which ones will have a positive effect on violence

- Bob Mauskopf – Creation of workgroup/taskforce
  - Vision – to reduce deaths and injuries due to gun violence
  - Mission – Virginia will be a national leader in identifying and implementing interventions to reduce gun violence deaths and injuries
  - Secure and resilient commonwealth panel meeting in April 2020.
  - Charges the subpanel with creating a work group and creating a charter
  - Goals
    - Define the gun violence threat
    - Research how other states are combatting gun violence
    - Develop and organizational model for a task force
    - Be prepared to update the SRC panel
  - Objectives
    - Prepare for enhanced surveillance
    - Improve cross functional data interoperability
    - Task ASPR for technical resources, assistance center, and information exchange for background information (TRACIE)
    - Mobilize health and medical community for violence prevention
    - ASPR TRACIE gave ideas and resources and information about what other states are doing to combat violence

-BREAK-

### **Public Health and Healthcare Preparedness Update**

**Bob Mauskopf**, Director, Emergency Preparedness, VDH

- DMAT 1 - has been placed on alert to respond to Puerto Rico following an earthquake
- VDH looking to organize a State Medical Assistance team
- CDC Visit January 9<sup>th</sup> John Dreysner
- THIRA to be released soon
- FOA coming out soon
- Mass Care – After hurricane Florence and the subsequent sheltering issues the state is looking at state assisted regional shelters – DSS is the lead – most of these regional shelters are on college campuses
- Mission ready packages – developing
- VDH is entering into climate change
  - Coming up with an addition to the national disaster playbook regarding heat as an issue
- PH&P Academy – March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>
  - Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, VA
  - Opioid summit that Monday morning
  - CBERS – 3hr workshop called resilient responder, self-care for all responders

### **Opioid Addiction Response – Slides**

**Jonathan Kiser**, Assistant State Planning Coordinator, VDH

- One-time, supplemental funding supporting over 20 key public health initiatives, including but not limited to:

- Enhancements to the VDH Opioid Indicators Dashboard and the Emergency Department Care Coordination program;
- Development of standardized guidelines for emergency departments to improve access to care at the point of non-fatal overdoses;
- Expansion of the statewide workforce capacity of certified peer recovery specialists in collaboration with DBHDS;
- Training opportunities including naloxone education for pharmacists, MAT waiver training for clinicians, Project ECHO learning labs and Recovery Ally;
- Launch of a statewide public awareness campaign;
- Hiring of temporary employees to surge public health outreach and NAS and HCV case follow-up.
  - Opioid Response Outreach Coordinator (OROC) Coordinator Program
    - Temporary, contract positions
    - Working in several local health districts, VDH offices and community-based organizations
    - Supporting public education initiatives, promoting harm reduction services including CHR and naloxone dispensing, supporting/building community coalitions, etc.
- Recovery Ally Training – Partnership with VCU Rams in Recovery and the JHW Foundation
  - Six “train-the-trainer” sessions offered across the state
  - 271 attendees - family members and friends of people in recovery or actively using, health care providers, employers, treatment providers, etc.
- Communications Campaign
  - TV, radio, and digital media
  - VDH-produced videos
  - CDC “Rx Awareness” campaign
- Dashboard and website enhancements
- No-cost Naloxone distribution
  - Local HD’s, LE/jails, Fire and EMS departments
- Save the date – 2020 Virginia Public Health and Healthcare Preparedness Academy – ½ day pre-conference will be held on the morning of Monday, March 23, 2020

### Cardinal Resolve

**Aaron Kesecker**, Exercise Coordinator, Office of Emergency Preparedness, VDH

- Why – Required by PHEP and HPP
  - Also required to exercise fiscal preparedness (Admin preparedness)
- 16 Months of planning
- Multi-agency, multi-disciplinary planning team
- Local, state, federal, and private sector partners
  - Over 500 agencies participated in the entire series including tabletop exercises
- **Exercise program priorities** are the multi-year, overarching priorities listed in an organization’s Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan (TEP)

- **Priority 1:** Improve Public Health and Healthcare Incident Management Capabilities, Coordination and Integration
- **Priority 2:** Develop, Strengthen and Sustain the Public Health and Healthcare Emergency Workforce
- **Priority 3:** Improve the Management of Medical Materiel and Countermeasures in the Commonwealth
- Exercise Assumptions
  - A Public Health Emergency Declaration is in place.
  - A Governors Declaration of Emergency is in place.
  - A Presidential Declaration is in place.
  - Response to the second wave is being made with up to a 40% degradation of the workforce.
  - A total of \$10,000,000 of federal funds released to Virginia to assist in response, \$7M has been spent.
  - We are in the second wave; pandemic related fatalities will not be OCME cases.
- Receipt Storage and Staging
  - Receipt, Stage, & Store (RSS) - hub of the distribution system of the state to which medical countermeasures are deployed.
  - Simulated product being delivered on 10/22 with security escort (US Marshals Service, Virginia State Police, Richmond International Airport Police) and Tabletop Exercise to follow.
  - Pick, Pull, Pack, and Ship product to 21 sites
  - 21 pallets
  - ~350 individual boxes
  - Include cold chain product (simulated)
  - Utilizing Memorandum of Agreement with UPS to distribute throughout the entire state – Grundy to Virginia Beach
  - 21 Different Receiving Locations (11 Local Health Districts & 10 Healthcare Facilities)
  - 14 unique inventory items included in the exercise play (mostly simulated)
  - Cold Chain Management shipping
  - Delivery of palletized materials
  - Six trucks on separate routes, each delivering products to multiple locations
- District Play
  - Conduct/operate a local Point of Dispensing
  - Capture required Operational Readiness Review and Public Health Preparedness Program metrics
  - Submit a Situation Reports on October 23 in the Virginia Healthcare Alerting and Status System (VHASS)
  - Update/complete info in the Inventory Management and Tracking System (IMATS)
  - Submission of a district After Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP)
- Healthcare Coalition Play
  - Primarily function of the First Wave Tabletop Exercises was HC participation

- Submit Situation Reports
- Update/complete info Inventory Management and Tracking System
- Liaison with facilities receiving product and/or opening operations center/Incident Management Teams
- VDH Incident Management Team Tasking
  - Coordinated with all response partners VHHA and other partners
  - Facilitated fulfillment of resource requests (Staffing, logistics, etc.)
  - Finance and administrative elements (Procurement, Human Resources issues, etc.)
  - Continuity of Operations considerations
  - Future planning & Coordination elements
  - Policy and altered standards of care issues
  - Media and Public Information elements
  -
- AAR – it's going to touch everyone, not just a health related event
  - More education on epidemiology for non-epidemiologists
  - Closer coordination of messaging/information with the whole community (Clinical and Non-Clinical)
  - Inventory/Delivery Processes, RSS and end user experiences
  - Incident management processes, RSS, IMT and Virginia Emergency Operations Center (ESF 8)
  - Plans & Planning updates

### **Fatality Management Planning**

**Bob Mauskopf**, Director, Emergency Preparedness, VDH

- OCME is not going to do fatality management during a pandemic
- Learned from cardinal resolve that localities will need to provide some fatality management during pandemics (temporary burial, body bags, mass burial, etc.)
- Continuity planning during a pandemic
- Comment – the faith community was/is a great asset used during the VA tech shooting for grief counseling as well as honoring the faith of the victims. Also, first responder grief counseling
- MERC – Mortuary Enhanced Remains Cooling unit in central region funded through the HCC

### **Public Comment**

- No Comments

### **Closing Remarks**

**Ed Rhodes**, Chair

- Adjourned

Next meeting: TBD