



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

**Date:** November 5, 2007

**To:** HEALTH, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Subject:** QUARTERLY UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Previous Directives:** None

**Prepared or Submitted by:** Pam Blixt, Manager, Public Health Preparedness  
Phone: x3933

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health & Family Support

**Permanent Review Committee (PRC):** Approval \_\_\_\_ Not Applicable X  
**Policy Review Group (PRG)** Approval \_\_\_\_ Date of Approval \_\_\_\_ Not Applicable X

**Presenters in Committee:** Pam Blixt, Manager, Public Health Preparedness Manager  
John Fruetel, Assistant Fire Chief  
Erin Schroeder, Preparedness Specialist  
Marie Hauser, Pandemic Preparedness Specialist

**Financial Impact (Check those that apply)**

X No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

**Background/Supporting Information Attached**

The Department is requesting to provide a mandatory quarterly update by Pam Blixt on progress in activities for our federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Cities Readiness Initiative, and Pandemic Influenza Grants. Information will also be provided about the Bio Detection System (anthrax) drill at the Minneapolis Main Post Office.

# **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING**

Department of Health & Family Support (MDHFS)

**CITY COUNCIL UPDATE: FOURTH QUARTER GRANT YEAR 2006-07**

## **Response and Recovery**

On August 1, 2007 staff responded to the Emergency Operations Center to assist with the bridge collapse response and were given the responsibility for behavioral health. MDHFS provided leadership to manage the Family Support Center at the Holiday Inn Metrodome and Augsburg College until August 11, 2007. Some facts and information:

- Twenty staff from MDHFS participated in the response at the Family Support Center as part of a total of 185 individuals from the 7 County metro area who dedicated 3,465 hours of assistance to families. Provided support, accurate information, and services to friends and family members of the missing victims.
- MDHFS collaborated with eight other agencies to manage operations: Minneapolis Police Department, American Red Cross, National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB), Salvation Army, MN Departments of Health and Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health, and the Sheriff's Department.
- Activated the Medical Reserve Corp for the first time under the public health mutual aid agreement.
- Received comments from NTSB staff that the Family Support Center was one of the best they have seen and could serve as a model for other jurisdictions.

## **Planning**

1. MDHFS staff continues to lead heat emergency preparedness and response planning. Staff hosted and assisted a journalist and photographer working on a global climate change project documenting the effects of heat on a northern urban city, Minneapolis. Sponsored by the Blue Earth alliance, the team profiles ordinary people around the world as they confront and adapt to the complex issues surrounding climate change. The collection is designed to engage the American public through print and Web media, presentations and exhibitions. Our staff also completed a survey from the Local Governments for Sustainability organization on our planning efforts. Pam Blixt has been invited to speak at a national conference on Excessive Heat Events: Confronting Climate Change, Vulnerability, and Urbanization.
2. Staff are working on trainings on preparedness planning focused for long term care providers as part of participation on a regional workgroup to share information and successful outreach strategies and to identify opportunities for pandemic influenza preparedness collaboration in the metro region.
3. Staff are beginning implementation of the Safety Plan for pandemic flu, and are continuing to work on increasing the City's inventories of personal protective equipment (PPE).
4. In conjunction with Hennepin County, MDHFS participated in a baseline assessment completed by the Center for Disease Control as part of the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). Results are pending.
5. Alternate Dispensing Modalities (ADM) is in progress that will allow facilities such as nursing homes to do mass dispensing of medications to their own staff and clients.
6. The plan for dispensing to each metro household within 48 hours using postal workers has reached a new milestone with a written agreement by law enforcement solidified.
7. Staff continue to work closely with city-based health care clinics as part of regional clinic planning. This includes collaborating with clinic emergency preparedness liaisons to share materials, ideas, and approaches related to work with unaffiliated clinics.

## **Training and Exercise**

1. MDHFS staff participated in a full scale USPS exercise held in September that simulated the response to anthrax being detected in the postal sorting area of the main post office. Staff worked with

Hennepin County public health staff on the mass dispensing of prophylactic treatment portion of the exercise.

2. MDHFS has an agreement to collaborate with the Minneapolis Public Schools for emergency planning, training, and exercising. This quarter several MDHFS staff attended training with administrative staff management from the schools and continue to assist in the planning efforts. Federal trainers discussed importance of buy-in from all staff members, importance on planning for likely events and necessary prevention strategies to safeguard children and teachers.
3. Planning for the Republican National Convention is underway for the potential health and medical consequences of the event. All MDHFS emergency preparedness staff will be participating on different committees from now until September 2008.
4. During September's readiness month our jurisdiction participated in the state-sponsored CodeReady initiative by initiating an informational campaign to promote self readiness which included changes to the City public web site and an article in City Talk.
5. With sponsorship from United Way, and in partnership with Catholic Charities, Second Harvest Heartland and the MN Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, MDHFS delivered three half-day, emergency preparedness workshops for community based organizations. Over two hundred staff people from community organizations serving vulnerable populations attended and received a CD with the plan template developed by MDHFS.
6. MDHFS is part of a regional workgroup developing a three year exercise plan for metro public health that includes sharing best practices and lessons learned from exercises completed.
7. Wells Fargo sponsored an employee and community awareness event as part of Preparedness Month in September, and MDHFS developed and staffed a booth to provide information about influenza.
8. MDHFS staff are participating in a partnership with American Lung Association called Faces of Influenza, in an effort to boost influenza immunization rates.
9. Staff finalized MOUs for notification of selected community groups during an emergency.