



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

Date: April 20, 2006

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
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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

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.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

Department of Health & Family Support (MDHFS)

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE: SECOND QUARTER GRANT YEAR 2006-07

Planning

1. We are in the beginning planning stages to prepare for the Republican National Convention in September of 2008. Specific areas which have been identified for a public health role are in the deployment of a Strategic National Stockpile special event package; disease monitoring and surveillance, particularly for food borne illness; care of the protesters; enhanced laboratory capacity; pre-planning for event response; and coordination and communication between health and medical entities.
2. A recent OSHA Pandemic Planning Guide reinforces the Continuity of Operations planning done to date by MDHFS, estimating risk to employees based on their job functions and ways to protect employees. We are now working on infection control policies and procedures to implement those guidelines.
3. Staff members from MDHFS are working closely with the Minneapolis Public School District and Hennepin County in organizing points of dispensing for antibiotics or vaccines using school properties. Eventually, site specific teams comprised of City staff will be identified and trained to manage operations in a number of schools in the District.
4. Last fall Minneapolis Public Schools received a federal grant for emergency readiness. MDHFS is actively assisting in the training and planning for a variety of emergencies which could affect schools. The variety of assistance includes leadership in their policy making groups as well as technical assistance with planning.
5. MDHFS staff has worked with United Way to obtain an agreement to host training sessions for non-profit organizations. Topics will include emergency preparedness planning for their organization and staff members. The first class will begin in June.
6. Staff has been planning for the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Postal Plan, which requires public health develop response plans to dispense oral antibiotics to 100% of the population within the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (more than 3 million people) within 48 hours of notification to do so. MDHFS staff has been involved in the development of the following CRI planning components:
 - Postal Plan utilizes volunteer postal carriers to deliver medication to residential houses in pre-identified zip codes. This plan requires a one-to-one ratio of law enforcement officers to postal carriers. MDHFS staff has worked in conjunction with local and state law enforcement agencies to conduct strategic level postal planning. The Strategic Security Plan has been approved by the USPS. Tactical level planning is the next phase.
 - Alternate Dispensing Modalities is a hub and spoke distribution model that requires pre-identified large cohorts and special populations groups (e.g. jails, prisons, nursing homes, student housing, businesses, hotels) to pick up medication in quantities for staff plus household members and residents/guests for dispensing at their facility. This plan will reduce the number of people required to use Mass Dispensing Sites.

Training and Exercise

1. MDHFS assisted with planning and training for City department heads and management staff, to help prepare them for a tabletop exercise, testing the City's Pandemic Influenza Continuity of Operations Annex. Most City departments participated in the February 12th discussion-based experience held to confirm the assumptions and practicality of our current Continuity of Operations Plan for pandemic flu. With the assistance of staff from the Hennepin County Department of Emergency Management

to lead the exercise, over sixty staff participated in the drill which identified some key areas which need additional planning and further work.

2. MDHFS, with the assistance of Communications, did a health education video in November, 2006, for City employees. The video contained information about seasonal, avian and pandemic influenza; how to stay healthy during flu season; how to prepare themselves and their families for times of serious illness such as a pandemic; and why it is important to get their flu shots. This video is now being used in CERT trainings for city residents. Other organizations, including Hennepin County, have requested copies of the video.
3. Presentations were done by MDHFS to community groups on individual and family planning and continuity of operations planning for “all hazards” and pandemic influenza. Among the organizations which received this training included: a seminar organized by Gray, Plant, Moody law firm with approximately 200 local human resource personnel including Donald Levin, owner of Northeast House Inc. Health Care Facilities; approximately 70 staff of Andrews Residence for the chronically mentally ill; and approximately 50 staff of Fraser Group Homes.
4. Four MDHFS staff were among the 1,500 who attended the recent Public Health Preparedness Summit in Washington D.C., which had much of the focus on pandemic preparation.
5. Five city staff from MDHFS, Public Works, and Regulatory Services participated in a Mass Dispensing Sites (MDS) and Regional Distribution Node (RDN) tabletop exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate policies and procedures for transport of the SNS (Strategic National Stockpile) product from the RDN to the MDS.
6. Several City staff from Fire and Health have provided leadership in planning for a Metropolitan Medical Response System exercise which will occur from May 14-17, 2007. Named “Snowball III”, this multi-jurisdictional exercise will use a bioterrorism scenario to test a variety of significant pieces of a regional planning effort. They include a multi agency coordination system (MACS); activation of the Regional Distribution Node to facilitate dispensing the metropolitan pharmaceutical cache to first responder personnel; and the set up of an Alternative Care facility (off site hospital) with a corresponding Support Center. In preparation, MDHFS staff has provided training for more than 60 first responder agencies in the metropolitan area.
7. MDHFS staff co-facilitated “Partnering to Prepare Our Community” with Hennepin County Human Service and Public Health at Martin Luther King Recreational Center. All faith based organizations in the City of Minneapolis were invited to participate and about 40 attended the session, which focused on pandemic flu planning.

Response and Recovery

There have not been any active emergencies to which MDHFS staff has responded in the Second Quarter.