

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (CDPC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 12, 2012 - DRAFT**

Attendees:

Kathy Agnew, Human Resources  
Bonnie Ambrose, NM Dept of Agriculture  
Tammy Anthony, Auxiliary Operations  
Renette Apodaca, Purchasing & Risk Mgt.  
Minerva Baumann, Univ. Communications  
Andy Bowen, NMSU Police  
Benjamin Diven, Campus Health

Katrina Doolittle, Environ. Health & Safety  
JoAnne Dupre, Research Biosafety  
Celso Enciso, NMSU Fire & Emergency  
Lori McKee, Health & Wellness  
Mike O'Larey, Intercollegiate Athletics  
Luis Vazquez, Office of the VP for Research  
Susan Waldo, Student Services

The quarterly meeting of the CDPC was called to order by Co-Chair Doolittle at 3:06 pm. The CDPC regularly meets in the summer in order to prepare for the return of students in the fall and have time to implement suggestions. Attendees introduced themselves and stated the department or division they represented.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2012**

The minutes of the CDPC meeting of March 13, 2012 were reviewed. Attendees commented that the March meeting covered a lot of material, and the minutes are helpful summaries for representatives and for those who were absent. The Hazard Mitigation Plan for NMSU was discussed at the March meeting, and the documentation in the CDPC minutes met one of the requirements for public communication of the plan by NMSU. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. A vote was taken by voice and the motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**1. Continuity of Operation Plans (CoOP) – K. Doolittle**

Many of the CoOPs were updated and submitted in March. Of those that still need updated, as listed on the CDPC Agenda for this meeting, contacts have been made with some of the missing CDPC representatives, including deans of DACC Health, NMSU Nursing, International Programs, and the Dean of Students. The offices of the President, Provost, and Research have expressed an interest in developing their plans, but none have been submitted to date.

Requests for CoOP submissions and updates will continue as an ongoing function of the CDPC, since ensuring continuity of operations is a component of the CDPC charter along with preparedness, safety and health. Members of this committee represent areas that have been identified as having activities that are necessary to the operations of the university. One example of engagement with Research activities is the CoOP submitted by the Department of Animal and Range Sciences, in which animal care is a concern that cannot wait one or two days during an emergency. Some research areas have emergency power requirements for critical equipment, and those identified have been equipped with backup generators or connections to the emergency power bus and some have alarm notification. It is possible that other research needs exist that

have not been included in the university's emergency planning efforts. Continuity of Operations planning was requested from Research to help identify additional needs.

Not every academic department has the need for continuity planning; some university units can cease activities temporarily without adverse results. Other activities, such as student food operations, housing, purchasing and payroll must continue un-interrupted during a disaster. One role of the CDPC is to help members plan for actions to be taken during emergency events; through preparing the CoOP, members clarify which activities must continue. The CDPC can help coordinate those efforts across the university, since it is not always clear who should be called first. To use another example from animal care, not all of the animal units fall under Research. The horses for the equestrian team, the polo club, and rodeo are not research animals, but incidents are reported to Research, and the university veterinarian is associated in part with Research. Animal care on campus is an area that potentially can have wide effects across the university. A previous tabletop exercise conducted by the CDPC informed participants that an outbreak of disease in the animals on campus could impact a large number of people. Awareness of zoonotic disease is increasing among veterinarians and public health officials, so that both groups are trained to recognize the transmission of certain illnesses between animals and people. Campus medical professionals should monitor cases of human illness that might be related to animals by asking patients about their work and exposures to animals if zoonotic transmission is suspected. Discussion of these issues in the CDPC meetings is a good way for groups across campus to keep connected on these important issues.

## **2. Committee Charter Update (K. Doolittle)**

Co-Chair Doolittle informed the committee that the Charter is in the process of moving through the system, thanks to efforts by Glen Haubold.

## **3. Foreign Student Travel protocol (International Programs)**

No representative from International Programs was present, so no updates or changes were reported for the student travel protocol.

## **4. Hazard Mitigation Planning and Projects (K. Doolittle)**

(Handout: "NMSU Mitigation Projects and Implementation Strategies")

A link to the Dona Ana County All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) draft document was provided in May 2012 by email from Dr. Doolittle to CDPC members with a request for comments pertaining to NMSU. Three very detailed reviews on the plan were received, and through this process, a few editorial problems were noted (e.g., tables of action items for NMSU were not sorted correctly).

In the AHMP, NMSU is one jurisdiction in this regional plan, along with City of Las Cruces, Anthony, Sunland Park, Mesilla, Hatch, and Elephant Butte Irrigation District; all of the jurisdictions in Dona Ana County were invited to participate. The plan is in draft form, moving to the State Hazard Mitigation Planning Officer through the Department of Homeland Security. Once it has been reviewed and approved as meeting all the criteria, then the plan will be sent to FEMA. After FEMA approval, then NMSU will be eligible to apply for federal grants. On the

provided handout, a FEMA grant application is listed as a potential funding source for Project 2, the Tortugas Dam study.

The Tortugas Dam study is a project in which the College of Engineering will perform a civil engineering study that will involve NMSU students and provide an opportunity to apply for the FEMA grant. The study will look at the two dams near NMSU to identify effects of flood. The Tortugas Dam is on campus, a secondary dam east of the Academic Research Center. The primary Tortugas dam is up University Avenue, on Dripping Springs Road just past the Farm & Ranch Museum. A break in the primary dam would cause water to flow directly toward the NMSU campus to the secondary dam and Arrowhead Research. The study will identify the extent of the resulting inundation.

The number one (ranked) action item is a study of the university tunnel system. Recently, when the tunnel collapsed during work on the road, some vulnerability in the flooding of the tunnel was identified. Money from the Building Repair and Renewal (BRR) fund has been committed to reviewing the system in detail in order to mitigate identified vulnerabilities.

The third project relates to damages from extreme temperature, in which a comprehensive program of adding insulation is needed to protect equipment during freezing weather. Project number four is the implementation of the storm water plan which is in place. Project five is the Unified Mapping system, to create a consistent map which would not only prepare us for emergencies, but also be operational for use by all campus departments. The unified map would combine maps from parking and all departments onto the same base. Item six addresses emergency power to shelter facilities, including critical facilities such as the science centers that need to be connected to the emergency power bus, as well as Corbett Center and the Pan Am Center. Project seven, Generational capacity, seeks external funding to increase our on-campus power, so that NMSU will not be as vulnerable to supply problems from El Paso Electric. Item eight, Response Equipment, will establish an inventory of available emergency equipment. EH&S is working on an MOU with UTEP to build connections with EH&S and Facilities for sharing equipment and resources in emergencies, similar to mutual aid agreements in which Fire and Police can contact neighboring agencies for assistance. The last project, wildfire protection at the college ranch, will mitigate the impact of fire by clearing brush from critical areas around water sources. Throughout the work to identify the projects on this list, it became evident to all participants that the planning process is important, and helps to inform people about what is needed and what is being done.

## **New Business**

### **1. Campus Health Center update (B. Diven, L. McKee)**

No zoonotic or epidemic illnesses are present on Campus.

Campus Health Center officials noted the upcoming Warped Tour on June 29. Provisions for this big event have been coordinated with the Fire Dept and Dona Ana EMS. Campus Health helps provide prescriptions and other supplies. This outdoor concert takes place yearly in 100 degree heat. The Warped Tour is a good exercise in coordinated efforts between NMSU, the city

Emergency Operations Management (EOM), and law enforcement. This is the tenth anniversary of this annual event, so a large crowd is expected.

Incidentally, ASNMSU has agreed to leave the fencing up around the field after the event so that efforts can be made to repair the grass by reseeding and keeping sporting groups and walkers off until the fall semester. Members commented that the field is in bad shape now; it looks like divots of grass have been gouged out. This may be from the sports teams, or possibly from skunks digging for grubs. There is no new money for this I&G field, but Bud Jones has agreed to help. This repair effort may become an annual process, since the field is used less in the summer.

Another project that Campus Health has in progress is the MOU with EOM that was sent to the state several months ago concerning a policy a mass distribution site to dispense prophylactic medications in the event of a biological emergency. Co-Chair McKee has worked with Stephen Lopez (NMSU Police), and met with Gary Rachele about the Pan Am facilities, which is the only place with sufficient space and capabilities such as loading docks. The concession area has data set-up, which would provide accessibility to the emergency automated system in order to keep track of which NMSU students and staff receive dispensed medications. A drive-through system is not planned; people would have to park and come in. In a related matter, Co-Chair McKee received a call about two weeks ago from a state office regarding the plan from a few years ago for setting up an “Aggie hospital”, a triage center to be used during a medical crises event. State funds are available for this, possibly as part of NM’s mitigation planning, so S. Lopez re-submitted the proposal. NMSU has the space, but not the supplies such as cots, and would need assistance from the National Guard or the military for this type of hospital triage. The Activity Center would be used in this situation, since a need exists for showers and bed space that could be used for a duration of time. Rentfrow Gym is no longer available to Campus Health; it is now used by College of Ed. One possibility for the funding is a portable supply trailer with equipment for 50 beds. This would be an intermediate care unit; for example, IVs could be hung for a patient, but not for long term care (e.g. no ventilator-type systems). The Pan Am Center set-up would be used in a bigger emergency; one in which classes were canceled, everything was halted to dispense medication.

## **2. Project Heart Start (K. Doolittle)**

The Project Heart Start event, with EMS Region 2, will occur June 23 at the Pan Am Center to promote the new CPR method that focuses on chest compressions, not respiratory ventilation. This is a free, open to the public training event to raise awareness of the state-wide program by Presbyterian Heart Institute. It is a great opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to learn with a video and 30 minute sessions using the floor mats and mannequins. Volunteers do not need to be CPR-certified. A flyer and contact information will be provided to CDPC members for distribution. University Communications will announce it on HotLine. Campus Health can also send an announcement to students through email.

## **3. Avian Influenza Research (J. Dupre)**

A brief overview was given of a recent surveillance project by NMSU researchers to monitor wild bird populations for signs of avian influenza. In New Mexico, the Bosque del Apache is situated as a wintering spot for migrating waterfowl and other birds. As these birds fly north to breeding grounds in Alaska, contact with birds from the European flyways may transmit avian

influenza virus. Researchers have recently completed a multi-year study in which hundreds of samples were collected and analyzed. The presumptive screening resulted in no samples that were positive for high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI). The continuation study will determine which species of local birds carry cells that can be co-infected with both bird and human strains of influenza, allowing the potential for the virus to reassort into a new type of flu. Projects such as this are reviewed by NMSU research committees, in this case the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for animal welfare and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) because they were looking for influenza virus so we didn't want the students to be at risk. The Principal Investigator (PI) had safety plans in place, to provide training for the students in awareness of influenza, and the procedures to follow if a HPAI strain was found. A HPAI strain would be immediately sent to the state testing lab; no samples would be kept on campus. In preparation for a wildlife project like this, the students and investigators attend the Animal Worker's Safety training at EH&S, where they fill out medical evaluation forms that are sent to Campus Health. That way, Campus Health is informed of those students who may have exposures through their work. This research summary gives CDPC members a view of one way our involvement in this planning committee fits together.

#### **4. Items from members**

Co-Chair McKee explained that Texas law now requires college students to have been vaccinated against meningitis within five years. This will be a challenge for Texas colleges to implement a system of tracking. NMSU does not require vaccinations, but the Texas law may start a push for other universities to look at this requirement. Most private schools require insurance and immunization. This same discussion occurred last year with Julie Weber. Currently, incidence is low in NM; we have no active cases, and a lot of other factors besides vaccination go into meningitis rates, so it is not a high priority. Members may hear more about this in the news, possibly in July when students are told they should get vaccinations to prepare for college. UTEP will require it; it is not known if the small health center or admission will track vaccinations. NMSU has been busy vaccinating students who are going to Texas schools, and travelers. The CDC identifies people living in dorms as the at-risk group, but the incidence of bacterial meningitis is twice as high in college-age people who do not attend college. We are concerned about bacterial meningitis because of the potential for it to spread, however requiring vaccination is problematic. The vaccine only covers about 70% of the strains. It is an expensive vaccine, about \$125.00, only recently covered by state health plans and insurance. For those under 18 years of age, Public Health gives them free. In the new Affordable Health Care Act, vaccines should be 100% covered as part of the wellness benefit in insurance coverage, and vaccine companies will push for it so that insurance companies won't be able to deny vaccinations. Pertussis is also increasing, so the TDaP vaccination is needed. The cost is high to carry an inventory; Campus Health does it because they cycle them quickly through the vaccination clinics. People may have a more difficult time locating other providers for immunizations quickly. Here is another way NMSU benefits the community.

**The CDPC meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11 at 3:00 pm.**

Minutes submitted by JoAnne Dupre on 8/29/2012