

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (CDPC) MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2012

ACADEMIC RESEARCH BUILDING C, ROOM 110

## Attendees:

Brenda Brown, International & Border Programs; Rose Leyva, NM Dept of Agriculture; Stephen Lopez, Police Department; JoAnne Dupre, Research Biosafety; Luis Vazquez, AVP Research; Connie DeBlieck, Nursing; Minerva Baumann, Univ. Communications; Janet Witte, SW Border Food Safety & Defense Center; Katrina Doolittle, Environ. Health & Safety; Benjamin Diven, Campus Health; Michael O'Larey, Intercollegiate Athletics

## I. Call to Order and Introductions

The quarterly meeting of the CDPC was called to order by Katrina Doolittle at 3:00 pm. Each attendee stated his or her name and the NMSU division represented.

## II. Minutes from September 11, 2012 Meeting

The minutes of the September 11, 2012 CDPC meeting were reviewed and approved as distributed.

## III. Old Business

### 1. Continuity of Operation Plans (CoOP)

- a. Updated CoOPs submitted
  - i. NMDA, updated by Jeff Witte
  - ii. Health & Social Services – updated CoOP for Nursing Department
- b. In progress or need updated CoOPs
  - i. DACC Nursing & EMT– Dean Hobbs responded; Chris Bare has been added as a new member to the CDPC
  - ii. ICT – still needed
  - iii. Dean of Students – new member Michael Jasek, CoOP in process
  - iv. Research – in progress, CoOPs required for animal care
  - v. Provost's Office – contacts updated for LoS in AHEOP
  - vi. President's Office – contacts updated for LoS in AHEOP

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

The emergency preparedness policy is being revised. There was discussion about emergencies and facilities that are overseen by Police and Fire services, including the Early College High School and other non-NMSU units on campus. The final draft will be vetted through the Emergency Planning Committee before it is submitted to University Administrative Council for review and approval.

The formal adoption of the CDPC charter coincides with the process of defining the roles of the Emergency Planning Committee and the CDPC. The Emergency Planning Committee attends to the senior level, Central Administration response, while the CDPC is called out in the emergency policy as attending to the departmental plans and long term continuity of operations. One recommendation from the policy committee is to consider changing the name of the CDPC to reflect the broader scope as more than communicable diseases and health preparedness, to focus on the continuity of operations planning for the university overall. Members are encouraged to bring suggestions for a new committee name and acronym for the formal recognition process.

The Emergency policy, since its adoption several years ago, sets the requirement to identify essential personnel in the continuity of operations plans, and this should be incorporated into job descriptions. The revised Emergency policy will reinforce how this happens, through a process in which the Chair of this committee will identify the essential positions to HR, and HR will put the requirement and the word “essential” into the job description. This is not currently being done here. It is important to specify essential as part of the job description so that there is no question about who is expected to work during a disaster or other emergency situation.

### **3. Foreign student travel protocol (Ben Diven)**

The Study Abroad travel protocol was put in place to connect travelers with Campus Health so that outgoing students receive a physical exam and recommended vaccinations. For new students coming to NMSU, the initial visit to Campus Health and follow-up process has been going well. Another program that is still needed is one to test returning travelers for TB, since people coming back to NMSU after visiting their home country may be re-exposed. For now, this item will be removed from the agenda. Future discussions can continue, as the need arises.

### **4. Health disaster tabletop (Janet Witte)**

Cooperative Extension is planning in January to begin a three month process to qualify for DHS funding for a tabletop exercise to take place in April or later. Respondents from the April 2009 Office of Emergency Management tabletop and August 29, 2008 NMSU tabletop would like a follow up to the scenario of dead rabbits with tularemia found in a livestock barn. Several people have proposed another animal exercise, and would like to pull in more of the campus community.

CDPC members suggested a feline exercise, toxoplasmosis in feral cats, would impact the entire campus. In the past, an research study with sheep was lost when the feral cat program started since feral cats live near the lambing barns and the toxoplasmosis infections caused lamb stillbirth. A tabletop with Animal Health issues is important to address the IACUC Assurance required for our research programs by OLAW and USDA.

It would be ideal to also have a human health issue involved so that Campus Health can take part in the planning and training exercise. Lori McKee is interested in following up on this after the accreditation period in January. Janet Witte will have more information on the Extension tabletop in January, and can inform the EH&S director of meeting dates. CDPC members can send other suggestions to Janet Witte, to try to represent as many areas as possible. It may not be possible to cover everything, but an exercise involving human health, animal issues and food services would be beneficial to many groups on campus.

## **I. New Business**

### **1. Emergency Animal Care Plan required by OLAW and USDA –**

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the USDA for animal care and welfare. The most recent compliance guide for animal care requires a disaster plan for each animal facility. Dr. Hallford, the IACUC Chair, was provided with the CoOP template to describe emergency procedures to protect research animals during a disaster. Researchers must be prepared with procedures to move animals to a safer location, or methods of humane euthanasia if the animals are injured or cannot be cared for adequately. In the event of a loss of research animals, institutional officials must investigate and report the outcomes to OLAW and any funding agencies such as NIH, who determine whether the responses were appropriate to remedy the situation. Significant time and money was involved last year when

eight exotic fish were lost due to water quality and needed facility repairs. It is better to take preventive actions, such as updating equipment to improve the water delivery systems, installing alarms to monitor temperature and water quality and other measures to prevent incidents. Each animal care facility must have a CoOP to protect the animals during potential emergency situations. The IACUC Chair will ensure the CoOPs and disaster preparedness procedures are updated before the institutional Assurance is signed so that we are eligible to receive research funding. Animals need to be cared for every day, holidays and weekends included, as well as during disasters. Alternative plans are put in place to cover emergencies and unexpected events. This is the first time the federal agencies have clearly designated these animal care issues as a requirement. NMSU is already ahead because the CDC has been promoting the CoOPs and essential personnel, emergency preparedness issues, and disaster tabletops with communicable disease and animal populations. This adds specific plans for each animal area, which coincides with the goals of this committee. Dr. Hallford and the IACUC will likely have an interest in the upcoming tabletop discussions.

## 2. Items from members

An update on Pertussis was given by Dr. Diven. Pertussis is a bacterial infection of the upper airway. The toxin-producing bacteria, *Bordetella pertussis* is killed by antibiotics, namely erythromycin-class drugs; however the toxin persists and causes airway inflammation and obstruction by mucous. In small children, the airway narrowing produces the classic whooping cough. Most fatalities occur in children under six months. Whooping cough is making a comeback in adults, because the immunity wanes. Adults are encouraged to get the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine, since 20% of adults with a cough that persists more than 4 weeks may be infected. It is easily treated in adults with antibiotics; after 5 days of the patient is no longer contagious, however the cough continues for much longer due to the toxin. Testing (by nasal pharyngeal swab) is not routine, except in small children. Pertussis is suspected in people who have a persistent cough lasting two weeks to a month or more after a typical respiratory illness, similar to bronchitis. Cough medicines are not very effective. NM is having a pertussis outbreak right now, almost 800 cases in the state.

The first case of influenza was lab-confirmed yesterday at Campus Health. The three strains of influenza that are prevalent this year are covered by the vaccine. The person was not a traveler, not near children, no known risk factors; this indicates that there are more cases around.

For people who need immunizations, the Tdap takes about 2 weeks for vaccine effectiveness, so don't wait for people around you to become sick. Campus Health has the vaccine. The Tdap is \$10.00 more than the TD (tetanus, diphtheria) vaccine; it is recommended for college-age students, and would be a good choice for the animal workers enrolled in the Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) who are offered tetanus vaccinations. The Biosafety Manager coordinates the OHSP with Campus Health to recommend immunizations for research programs, and the Tdap vaccine is a good way to cover a population of young adults with exposure. If the university will not cover the extra cost, perhaps a system could be applied for the student to pay the difference in cost to receive the pertussis-containing vaccine.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 3pm – possibility of cancellation in lieu of tabletop exercise, or task force meeting if needed for flu outbreak in coming months. CDC members should continue to remind people around them to wash their hands frequently. We can recommend social distancing if needed; also remember that hand sanitizers and Kleenex are allowable expenses under the university policy for preparedness and prevention. Check expiration dates on hand sanitizer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.