

March 9, 2010 Meeting Summary (by PKH)

Members Present: Chris Beardsley (for Joe Palmer), Darrell Smith, Katrina Doolittle, Patti Havstad, Benjamin Diven, Sidney Webb, Rene Yoder, Randy Bamford, Mike O'Leary, Stephen Lopez, Alfred Valdez, Teresa Burgin, Carol Nevarez

Members Absent: Billy Dictson, Tammy Anthony, Lorin Gobble, Amy Collins, Pamela Schultz, Lori McKee, Albert Parra, Mary Simmons, Julie Weber, Ida Baca, Nancy Baptiste, Sara Miller, Jeff Witte, Carmen Gonzales, Michael Abernethy, Nellie Quezada-Aragon, Connie DeBlick, Marianne Panzini Rosenthal, Angela Arvizo, Minerva Baumann

The meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

- I. K. Doolittle (EH&S) opened the meeting with introduction of Patti Havstad as the interim Biosafety manager replacing John Balog on the committee. Each attending member introduced themselves to the group. Other guests/new members included John Kemp (Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee-IBC) and Carol Nevarez (Nurse Supervisor, Student Health Center-SHC).
- II. The meeting summary of Nov 10, 2009 was accepted without comment or revision
- III. Old Business
 - a. The status of the Continuity of Operation Plans (COPs) was discussed.
 - i. CoOPs have been received from the core groups (those represented on the CDPC), and from 8 additional departments
 - ii. CoOPs that are updated or changed (e.g. change in staff or responsibilities) should be emailed to kadoolit@nmsu.edu.
 - iii. All CoOPs should be reviewed every two years and sent through appropriate Dean/VP.
 - b. Hand Sanitizers
 - i. R. Bamford (OFS) provided an update on the availability of hand sanitizers on campus. He noted that bottles of sanitizers are located in several locations including computer labs and the Corbett center. Other committee members reported that availability and usage has increased in several areas across campus.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Update on Influenza at NMSU
 - i. B. Diven (SHC) reported that the Oct/Nov season was "miserable". However, since the Holiday break, there have been no confirmed cases of influenza on campus. There is a persistent respiratory ailment going around, but no actual flu. This is likely due to a combination of vaccinations and naturally acquired immunity. The anticipated "second wave" of H1N1 did not occur
 - ii. S. Webb (University Health Center) reported that approx 1300 vaccinations were given campus -wide for H1N1. Early vaccinations were given in Dec. '09 to health care staff and high risk children at Myrna's campus day care. The bulk of campus vaccinations were given in Jan-Feb 2010.
 - iii. There were several points of distribution (POD) for the flu vaccination on campus, including the student and staff health care locations, dormitories and vac-stations set up outside. Nursing, EMT, and other students helped with the administration.
 - iv. The broad distribution of H1N1 information, and preventive efforts, contributed to containment at NMSU. Communication and preventives occurred through several venues, including:
 - (a) incorporation of the H1N1 situation into class curriculums
 - (b) establishment of hand sanitizer stations in high population areas (Corbett Ctr, Computer labs) and high population venues (such as graduation) on campus
 - (c) email to staff to encourage ("give permission for") the use of medical leave when exhibiting symptoms
 - (d) posting of CDC -issued flyers encouraging increased attention to hand washing and other sanitation practices (e.g. sneezing into sleeve).
 - (e) numerous POD for vaccinations and early vaccination of high risk groups

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- (f) the presence of students wearing masks if they felt compelled to attend classes while exhibiting symptoms (encouraged by SHC)
 - (g) increased supplies of personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks in several department locations. The supply of hand sanitizer was monitored and increased as much as possible (supplies ran low at the usual bulk -suppliers ,e.g. Walmart and Sams, during the height the H1N1 concern)
 - v. The consensus of the committee is that this event provided an opportunity to “test run” the NMSU preparedness plan. The combined efforts of several entities, including considerable oversight by members of this committee, resulted in a very positive result. Efforts were reported as being proactive, interactive, and mutually supportive.
- b. Education/Symposium
 - i. K. Doolittle gave an update on the planned “Executive Seminar: Prevention of, Response to, and Recovery from Campus Emergencies”, a course offered by US Dept of Home Security. Possible seminar dates for New Mexico are in June and July. The seminar is scheduled to occur at the NMSU Albuquerque Center located at 4501 Indian School Rd. UPDATE: Dates for the seminar have since been established for 8-9 June and notice was sent to Committee members to enroll if interested.
 - ii. S. Lopez (NMSU Police Dept) shared a power point presentation that he presented in Feb 2010 as an invited speaker at a H1N1 -related seminar. The presentation title is “H1N1 Goes to College: Select NMSU experiences”. The presentation focuses on NMSU’s ‘pre-event’, ‘during outbreak’, and ‘ongoing efforts’ toward containment of contagious diseases in the university environment. A copy of this very informative ppt was provided to K. Doolittle
- c. Items from CDPC members
 - i. Many of the committee comments are incorporated into item a. above.
 - ii. Additional comments
 - (a) Improved communication with the NM-DOH would be beneficial in future H1N1-type situations
 - (b) Sensationalized reports of the H1N1 pandemic from many of the major media outlets may have made it more difficult to deal with the reality of the situation, which was not as serious as portrayed.
 - (c) Very little personnel absenteeism is reported as resulting from this event
 - (d) S. Webb and B. Diven have developed a “time line” to document the activities of the NMSU health service in relation to the 2009 H1N1 event. A copy of this document was provided to K. Doolittle and will be distributed to members electronically.
 - (e) S. Lopez advised the committee that two “severe weather warning” sirens have been installed on campus (near the stadium on the east side and near the cotton gin on the west side). The auditory range of each siren is approx 1 mile. The first test run of these sirens is scheduled for April 7, 2010 at noon. The general campus and public will be informed closer to this scheduled test date. Once the system is established, regular siren “drills” are expected to be held, possibly on the first Wednesday of each month. The response protocol upon siren activation is: all individuals within hearing distance will move immediately to an indoor space, and check the existing Emergency Communication System for instructions. The system was installed as a result of the high volume of requests for this type of preparedness/preventive measure by members of the campus population. The system will ONLY be used for very severe weather conditions at this point.
- d. Committee meetings will be held quarterly or once each semester, unless there are specific agenda items that need to be addressed. Next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2010 at 3 p.m. Academic Research Bld. C rm 109.

K. Doolittle thanked everyone for their good work towards accomplishing the mission of this committee

The meeting closed at 4:50 p.m.

