

RHPC Board Report – October 2020

The RHPC Board met on August 7, 2020 via teleconference.

New Business

Mid-COVID-19 Update

Lori Upton reported yesterday (August 6th) the region made the 100 mark for open ICU beds. The numbers are trending in a favorable position (see data on SETRAC website). Jefferson and Galveston counties ICUs are still in an area of concern. Holding patients in the emergency rooms waiting on ICU beds is decreasing as well. The UMMC facility is open and they can take an expanded number of patients compared to previous numbers, and they will take incarcerated individuals with guards. Outstanding STARS for staffing total 2,095 which includes ICU nurses to ancillary professionals (physical therapist, psych techs, etc.). After today, there should be approximately 150 ICU nurses outstanding and some non-nursing requests.

Ms. Upton thanked the coalition members for completing their daily reporting which gives SETRAC and our elective officials the ability to make good decisions.

Chris Collier reported SETRAC is working with the EMS dispatch centers to receive real-time data pushes from their Computer Aided Dispatch Systems (CADS) to push data to EMResource which will show the number of ambulances at each hospital.

Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities

Long Term Care Update (C102)

Ms. Upton reported a conference call was held with the Long-Term Care members yesterday giving them an update on the COVID response and discussion regarding hurricane preparedness and evacuation plans.

Training and Exercise Update (C104)

The August training schedule was distributed to the coalition members for review and reference (document filed in minutes binder).

EMTF Update (C104)

Mr. Collier reported the MIST members continue to support the test sites in the region. EMTF continues to support some ambulance strike teams in the Rio Grande Valley initially sent during the massive COVID increase in numbers.

Sub-Committee Updates

RHPC Award of Excellence Committee (C101)

Tonie Carnie reported the revised packet is ready but on hold for now.

Symposium Planning (C101)

The 2020 Symposium has been cancelled due to COVID-19 response.

Clinical Advisory Committee (C101)

Tina Rose reported that the Clinical Advisory Committee has been meeting the third Thursday of each month at 9am online, since May to compile information for a regional burn surge plan. The plan scope will include current regional capacity for the 3 burn centers and recommendations for non-burn center ICU bed capacity for burn surge.

Regional Plans Training

Fifty (50) attended the April 20th regional training with the following distribution:

Discipline	#	Discipline	#	Discipline	#
Hospitals/Healthcare	20	Fire Services (5)/EMS (2)	7	Public Health/DSHS	5
Emergency Management	13	Universities/Education Centers	3	VOADs	2

Seventy-Seven (77) attended the July 21st regional training with the following distribution:

Discipline	#	Discipline	#	Discipline	#
Emergency Management	22	Fire Services (17) /EMS (7)	24	VOADs	2
Hospitals/Healthcare	18	PD Universities/Education Centers	2	(Fed) USCG	1
Public Health/DSHS	6	Houston Galveston Area Council	1	(Fed) Dept. HS	1

Continuity of Operations (COOP) Training

The 8 scheduled in-person (L548 & L550) Continuity of Operations (COOP) courses in the region were cancelled by FEMA for the year due to COVID. Any newly created virtual COOP courses are conducted by the FEMA National Continuity Program (NCP) under a new course labeling (K-0548; K-0550). To look up the new virtual continuity trainings and register, click this link:

https://training.fema.gov/netc_online_admissions/

Corridor Updates (C101)

Downtown Corridor – Ray Higgins reported the Downtown Corridor met via conference call on Friday June 5th. The meeting was dedicated to conducting an After-Action Review of the COVID -19 Tabletop Exercise that was held on March 18th at the SETRAC Conference Room. The After-Action Review went well with very good participation from those who called in. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2nd from 1:00-3:00 PM and the announcement if the meeting will be held via teleconference, in-person or both will be made as soon as possible.

South Corridor – No report at this time.

East Corridor – Vicki Tarnow reported the East Corridor met on July 17th and the meeting was dedicated to the COVID-19 After Action Report and response.

North Corridor – Mike Rankin reported the North Corridor is scheduled to meet next Wednesday (August 12th) at 2:00 pm at which time the plan is to “go live” with a virtual/video meeting.

West Corridor – Dena Daniel reported the West Corridor met on July 31st and the meeting was dedicated to the COVID-19 After Action Report and response. The next West Corridor meeting is scheduled for September 25th and the announcement if the meeting will be held via teleconference, in-person or both will be made as soon as possible.

Partner Updates (C101)

Public Health

Bobbiejean Garcia with DSHS reported they have the capacity to provide some onsite inspection for PPE to determine the quality.

OEM

Harris County OEM

Mark Sloan reported the Harris County OEM has been activated since March 2nd to support Public Health and their partners for COVID-19. Harris County OEM is also monitoring the cyber-security issues that exist for employees working remotely. According to the National Hurricane Center, this tropical season is predicted to be one of the worst hurricane seasons ever reported.

EMS

Mr. Collier reported they continue to work with the hospitals to stabilize their PPE.