



National Municipal ESS Network

November 3, 2009
11:30PST/2:30EST

New Toll-Free Dial-in Number: 1 (877)413-4792
New Direct Access Number: 1 (613) 960-7516 (Ottawa)
New Conference ID Number: 4246079

Agenda

1. Review October meeting minutes
2. Signage for centres - use of standard symbols(universal)
3. Safety Function Action (SFA) training
4. NMESSN Workplan
5. Other Business
6. Roundtable

Regrets: Sheila Brantnall (Calgary), Jodi Chittick-Denoble (Peterborough), Sara Walsh (Victoria), Jackie Kloosterboer (Vancouver), Wendy Hayko (York)

On Call: Pauline Hopley (Durham), Steve LaRoche (Waterloo Region), Janine Aussem (ESSA), Linda Bouchard (PHAC), Louise Geoffrion (Red Cross), Gail Spencer (Greater Sudbury), John Webb(Nova Scotia), Tracy Newton (Kingston), Terry Johnson (New Brunswick)

October Minutes: Approved

Signage for Centres:

- Looking for universal ESS symbols, Canadian or international
- NS uses signs (Red Cross) written in English and French
- What symbols exist to benefit multicultural & vulnerable populations?
- A sheet of symbols is being used in ON. Whereby there are coordinating translations in various languages for each of the symbols
- Perhaps Red Cross would be interested in incorporating this for their signage
- Issue of accessibility standards was mentioned
- Universal Signage would be helpful.

Safety Function Action

- National Emergency Psychosocial advisory consortium is discussing SFA as well
- Training : train as many as possible to become trainers for their communities
- SFA is for first responders and first response agencies organizations, anybody that responds to emergencies – how you work with survivors and how you work with the community
- Built on the same concept as NOVA, CISM
- 1 day SFA workshop which gives a certificate and then you go out and work within your community.
- Dr. Shultz is the presenter from Miami University – People paid \$50 to attend workshop or \$160 for train the trainer workshop; NS paid Dr. Shultz \$10,000.00 for 3 days



National Municipal ESS Network

- Consider adopting a universal concept that trauma and emotional support is necessary
- Ontario is trying to move this concept forward provincially
- NOVA is much more in depth, better for people with existing skills
- SFA – good standard for all first responders so all have the same concept around the trauma support area during/after a disaster

Work Plan

- Want to move some of these things forward
- H1N1 Pandemic planning/response has impacted the ability to get work done around this.
- If you have an interest in any specific area of the work plan, please forward your name to Steve or Janine. Steve will be beginning to add names to work plan action items. Forward additional action plan items to Steve/Janine

Roundtable

Nova Scotia – John Webb: H1N1 is major focus. Vaccine supply was of concern; first come first served was initial approach, now moved to a priority list. Hype is driving the demand for the vaccine. NS is seeing 3-4 times the number of people with the regular flu. Starting to impact businesses, churches, schools – people are starting to unravel (health care area). Already seeing some buckling before the peak of the season. Inconsistency between who is getting the vaccine and who not, 1 family member gets it and an older brother/sister doesn't get it, there is a great deal of confusion. No real role for ESS at this time.

New Brunswick – Terry Johnson: NB is seeing similar circumstances, folks turning up who are not on priority list. Vaccination sites used the work public, so people thought anyone could show up and stand in line. Health has increased communication to better direct the public. Some clinics cancelled due to lack of supply. Terry is the NB rep on CESSD. Terry brought up a question: if there is bad construction in a building and has resulted in an evacuation, who is responsible for looking after these types of evacuations/evacuees? Terry spoke with a Director with Public Safety responsible for Emergency Measures NB and he did not see a role within municipalities for NMESSN. However, Terry is the Acting Manager of Executive Response and Operations Support which among others is a central office responsibility for Emergency Planning in a coordination capacity. Terry will participate with NMESSN for now.

Kingston – Tracy Newton: Currently no ESS role regarding H1N1 response but that could change. There is a rub between day to day ESS vs. H1N1. Redeployment strategy of staff – people don't realize that you can not assume redeployment of staff without setting that in place first. This is an issue that needs to be dealt with formally between unions and employers before rather than during an event. Kingston is a hot zone for H1N1 Communication issues around priority groups – creating animosity and mistrust

Red Cross - Louise Geoffrion: Red Cross is working with municipalities across the country putting on mass immunization clinics and helping public health authorities. Their focus has been mainly in Quebec and western Canada – roles include: Set up, greeters, non-medical role. Public messaging and internal support to ensure internal business continuity



National Municipal ESS Network

Durham – Pauline Hopley: Recently held an Evacuation Exercise, unfortunately the whole Health Component for the exercise was lost to the H1N1 response. This was part of a regional field exercise, which was a great success. H1N1 – no redeployment to health dept. although health staff are very taxed. Vacation has been cancelled for staff. 5 clinics open. Nursing Dept. has requested advanced care paramedics be allowed to assist with vaccinations. School board reports (10-20% absenteeism) – on heightened alert due to that. Some questions remain regarding the message of whether people should take the vaccine or not.

Sudbury – Gail Spencer: H1N1 clinics full, with lineups. There is significant school absenteeism with parents staying home with kids. They are trying to keep the panic out of pandemic!

Waterloo – Steve LaRochelle: Interesting situation, an apartment building was put under quarantine. Mainly students from other countries living in the building, so language barriers were an issue. The students couldn't live there. The construction crew was not allowed to enter without proper gear. However, residents were allowed to go in without any safety equipment. ESS decided to respond as it was clearly an unsafe situation. H1N1 – clinic for seniors and general population for regular flu vaccine
Going through clinics as per priority list for H1N1

ESSA-Janine: The death of the boy in Ontario due to H1N1, appears to have created a greater urgency for people in BC to get the H1N1 vaccine. The lineups in the Metro Vancouver area have been very long.

Next Conference Call: Tuesday, December 1, 2009
11:30PST/2:30EST