March 2012 Monthly update

PEER Executive Committee

The PEER Executive Committee met in early February to consider the range of existing mutual aid agreements and resource management tools within the PEER Regions. These agreements, as well as protocols for activation of the agreements, are a critical element of response support capabilities. Agreements, coupled with resource inventory tools that identify critical equipment and capacities, allow organizations and regions to support each other appropriately during an incident. Having identified some gaps in agreements within disciplines, the committee will be meeting again in March to develop recommendations for how those gaps should be addressed.

NACCHO Public Health Preparedness Summit

The annual NACCHO Public Health Preparedness summit was held February 21-24. A major topic of conversation at the summit included the results of the grant alignment work conducted by Centers for Disease Control, which provides funding for public health preparedness activities and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, whose office provides funding for partnerships such as PEER through the hospital preparedness program. Alignment efforts address the connection of the preparedness capabilities across these two programs. The alignment efforts will be apparent in future funding requirements starting with FY2013.

Also at the Summit, Kerry Dunnell, together with Mary Clark, Director of the Emergency Preparedness Bureau at MDPH, and Harold Cox, Associate Dean at the BU School of Public Health Office for Public Health Practice, delivered a presentation about the learning collaborative work that PEER has undertaken in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and their Linking Assessment and Measurement in Public Health Preparedness Systems during the past year. Our presentation reviewed the use of the Model for Improvement developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in public health preparedness activities. PEER staff will be collaborating with HSPH and IHI to publish an article about this effort.

Psychological Resilience Training

Basic and Advanced Train the Trainer courses in Psychological Resilience are being offered by the Center for Multicultural Mental Health. To register for or learn more about any of these programs please go to [www.bmc.org/resilience](http://www.bmc.org/resilience). Participants in the Basic training are encouraged to have participated in previous “Building Emotional Resilience for Massachusetts Disaster Response Workers” or who have completed the on-line training: Dealing with Stress in
Disasters: Building Psychological Resilience or Psychological First Aid, available through the Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts’ site http://www.masslocalinstitute.org/