August 1, 2011

PEER update July 2011

Response Support Planning
As we enter FY2012, the first phase of work for PEER is to carry out a Needs Assessment. The Institute for Community Health (ICH) will be conducting this assessment which looks at the best structure for PEER to make ‘response support’ functional; how the needs for ‘response support’ differ across Region 4; what regional capabilities already exist; what components need to be built or enhanced; what trainings and technical assistance will the coalition need or want; and lastly, how do we ensure connectivity between all three regions, 4A, 4B and 4C. ICH and PEER will be contacting stakeholders in Regions 4A and 4B during August and September.

In preparation for the Needs Assessment, PEER staff met with several of our disciplines and stakeholders. Staff was present at the Region 4A public health meeting and the 4AB hospital meeting. Phone calls and in person meetings were held with members from local hospitals, long term care and public health.

Drills and Exercises
PEER staff has been coordinating with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the vendor ESI to purchase an online exercise simulator that works in WebEOC. This exciting technology would allow for conducting a functional exercise in WebEOC and running it multiple times if necessary. PEER would be able to utilize this new tool for conducting more frequent or more targeted exercises.

LAMPS – Linking Assessment and Measurement to Performance in PHEP Systems
PEER staff has been continuing to work on our project for the Learning Collaborative of maintaining our contact lists for Community Health Centers. We are almost done with the CHC list and plan to have the findings available in August. The Collaborative is currently in the process of scheduling its next meeting for sometime in September to identify future goals and efforts.

Conferences and Meetings
PEER staff joined the other LAMPS collaborative, the Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC) Learning Collaborative for their webinar on July 28th. While their work focuses mostly on volunteers and how to organize them, there were lessons learned from their work and their collaborative that may be useful to PEER and our Learning Collaborative as well.

Upcoming notes
Please watch your email as we will have several communications coming out in the next few weeks. ICH will be conducting a follow-up to a survey that was originally sent out during PEER “GoLive” in March, as well as their Needs Assessment survey to Regions 4A and 4B. Please look for these surveys and we request that you click on the links and respond to them. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and help.

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