Lessons Learned in Developing an Effective Regional Ebola CONOPS
August 10, 2016
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Welcome Message and Webinar Intent

• Melissa Harvey, RN, MSPH
  – Director, Division of National Healthcare Preparedness Programs
Webinar Purpose

• Share lessons learned to assist regions in the development of their Ebola concept of operations (CONOPS)
Learning Objectives

• Participants will:
  – Learn how two regions developed their CONOPS.
  – Understand how lessons learned shaped planning in those regions.
  – Know more about resources that support patient transport.
  – Be able to apply promising practices to their own regional CONOPS development efforts.
Region IV
Region IV Approach

• Built upon established relationships.
• Shared more mature plans to jumpstart planning in less advanced states and facilities.
• Led partners to resources, but did not force them to follow.
• Understood that planning is an ongoing process.
Region IV Lessons Learned

• Need for sound and exercised communication pathways.
• Essential to have “Plan B” for transport.
• Just because something worked does not mean it is finished.
Regional Treatment Center Perspective

• Notification influences readiness.
• Clear and concise communication strategies are key.
• Building relationships with regional partners during times of inactivation helps provide a foundation of trust.
“A-ha” Moments and Promising Practices

• Don’t forget about your Field Project Officer.

• Important to account for differing levels of experience.

• Active support from leadership makes the process easier.
Region III Approach

• Formation of dedicated planning group.

• Constant communication throughout the regional CONOPS development process.

• Engagement with the Regional Treatment Center every step of the way.
Region III Lessons Learned

• Cannot overemphasize importance of transparent communication.

• States’ legislative construct posed some challenges.

• Transportation remains a challenge.

• Importance of inclusion of federal installations in the process.
Regional Treatment Center Perspective

• Involvement in planning at the outset is critical.
• Forming strong partnerships with local and state governments is imperative.
• Onsite multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional training is key to success.
“A-ha” Moments and Promising Practices

• Phoenix Air revelation.
• Who’s responsible for transporting patient back home?
• Early and active buy-in by Deputy Secretary set the stage.
• SharePoint to facilitate development of plan.
EMS Biosafety Transport

• Development and implementation of:
  – Administrative policies
  – Work practices
  – Environment design
  – Safety equipment

To prevent transmission of biological agents to workers, other persons and the environment.
EMS Biosafety Transport

• Education
• Training
• Policies
• Procedures
• Development and maintenance of competencies
Important Principles

• Strong partner communications
  – EMS, hospital, public health, law enforcement, emergency management, airport

• Strong EMS-hospital interface
  – Shared development of policies and procedures
  – Shared drills and exercises
Resources

• ASPR - Air to Ground Transport Fact Sheet
• CDC
    • Patient Hand-Off SOP
    • Air-to-Ground Patient Hand-Off SOP
    • Ambulance Decontamination
• NETEC - EMS-hospital interface
• NIEHS – Worker Training Program
Resources

• EMS Biosafety Transport Consortium
  – Emory University/Grady EMS
  – UNMC/Omaha Fire Department
  – NYC-Health and Hospitals-Bellevue/Fire Dept. of New York
  – NIH Div. of Fire and Rescue Services/NIH Div. of Occupational Health and Safety
  – Phoenix Air Group
  – American Medical Response
  – US Department of State/Office of Operational Medicine
Tackling Issues

• Regional air ambulance transport
• Prolonged ground transport
• Deterioration in transit
• Medical direction
• Ambulance decon and disinfection
• Waste management
• Post-mission surveillance
• Maintenance of competencies
Wrap Up and What Comes Next?
National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC)

- Comprised of hospitals that have successfully evaluated and treated patients with Ebola in the U.S.
- Established in July 2015.
- ASPR and CDC providing $12 million over 5 years to support NETEC.
NETEC Resources and Benefits

• Infrastructure to increase collaboration.
• In-person didactic and collaborative training courses.
• In-person skills courses.
• Robust Learning Management System.
• Exercise templates.
How NETEC Supports Facilities

• Annual site assessments for each of the 10 Regional Ebola Treatment Centers.
• 1 state visit during the 5 year program.
• Access to subject matter experts with experience caring for patients with Ebola.

• For more information visit netec.org.
Question and Answer Logistics

• To ask a question-
  – Type the question into the chat feature on your GoToWebinar console.
  – We will collect all questions and ask them on your behalf.
Closing Remarks

• Shayne Brannman, MS, MA
  – Director, ASPR TRACIE
Questions and Answers
For Additional Support

• Contact National Ebola Training and Education Center (netec.org)

• Contact your NHPP Field Project Officers

• Contact ASPR TRACIE

ASPRtracie.hhs.gov  1-844-5-TRACIE  askasprtracie@hhs.gov