



TRACIE
HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Lessons Learned in Developing an Effective Regional Ebola CONOPS

August 10, 2016

[Click here](#) to access the pre-recorded webinar.

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.



TRACIE

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

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.





TRACIE

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Region III

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.





TRACIE

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Critical Issues in Patient Transportation

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
 - [“Guidance for Developing a Plan for Interfacility Transport of PUI . . .”](#)
 - 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.

A collaboration between



EMORY
MEDICINE



UNMC
Nebraska
Medicine

NYC
HEALTH+
HOSPITALS

And funded by

Bellevue

ASPR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION



ASPR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

TRACIE
HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

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](https://asprtracie.hhs.gov)



1-844-5-TRACIE



askasprtracie@hhs.gov

