



Foundation *for* Healthy Communities

2021 General Membership Meeting Executive Summary

Granite State Health Care Coalition

October 28, 2021

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The 2021 GSHCC General Membership Meeting was hosted virtually this year, and it provided nearly 100 partners from hospitals, long-term care, dialysis, public health, community health centers, home health care, mental and behavioral health, emergency medical services, emergency management, and state and federal government agencies with the opportunity to hear about both past and upcoming Coalition activities as well as continue the important discussions of healthcare readiness in New Hampshire.

The GSHCC General Membership Meeting provided an opportunity for members and partners to hear additional information on current GSHCC COVID-19 projects, contribute to the continuing efforts to evaluate COVID-19 response, engage in discussion about mental health resiliency, and consider the future impacts of long-term COVID-19 response.

Members and partners were also provided with the opportunity to learn more about topics of high interest to partners, such as cyber resiliency, a regional approach to disaster health response, and how to use a team-based approach to managing aggressive behaviors.

GSHCC Activity Updates

Attendees were welcomed to the 2021 Granite State Health Care Coalition General Membership Meeting and provided a brief update on Coalition activities, including an overview of COVID-19 response activities. The GSHCC team also provided updates on existing planning, training, and exercise activities to expect through the end of the current fiscal year.

Hazard Vulnerability Analysis – The GSHCC is required to complete a Hazard Vulnerability Analysis annually. The last HVA identified pandemic, extreme winter weather, and cyber attacks as the top three hazards to prioritize for mitigation planning. The GSHCC team will be starting the process of updating the HVA once again for this year soon, with the HVA meeting slated for late Winter/ Early Spring 2022.

GSHCC Burn Surge Annex – The GSHCC team is currently developing the GSHCC Burn Surge Annex, which will reside under ESF-8 plans at the state level. This Annex outlines the coordination and supporting role of the GSHCC in response to a mass casualty incident involving an overwhelming number of burn patients.

GSHCC Continuity of Operations Plan – Another requirement for the GSHCC team this budget period is to complete a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan for the GSHCC team. This plan has been recently completed and focuses on how the GSHCC team could ensure continued operations in support of ESF-8 during a catastrophic event.

GSHCC Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE) – This year, ASPR has replaced the Coalition Surge Test with an updated exercise, the Medical Response and Surge Exercise. This is an annual requirement for all health care coalitions. The GSHCC will begin planning for the MRSE, with the goal of conducting the exercise in the late winter or early spring.

GSHCC Pediatric Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise – The Pediatric Surge Tabletop Exercise is focused on evaluating the coordination of response to a surge of pediatric cases as a result of a mass casualty incident. The GSHCC team has formed an exercise planning team to design the exercise, which will take place in December 2021.

GSHCC COVID-19 Response After Action Reporting – The Team is finalizing the After Action Report for the second phase of COVID-19 response. The latest report focuses on the successes, areas for improvement, and lessons learned through our COVID response. Once completed this report will be available for all members. The GSHCC team conducted surveys, interviews, and held an after-action review meeting to help validate all findings, observations, and to develop corrective actions to address identified areas for improvement. We greatly appreciate all who were able to participate and contribute to this report!

Juvenile Implementation and Training - The Coalition team continues to serve as state administrators for the Juvenile system. This system has been leveraged as a tool for maintaining situational awareness and managing information required for patient movement. This system have been consistently utilized since March 2020, and the GSHCC team continues to promote the system and support training and implementation in healthcare facilities statewide.

GSHCC COVID-19: Extended Response After Action Report Continuance

GSHCC Team

The GSHCC team presented findings from the GSHCC COVID-19: Extended Response After Action Report. Partners from various sectors were invited to share successes, lessons learned, and key takeaways from COVID-19 response efforts. COVID-19 experiences and feedback were collected from participants in real-time.

The GSHCC team discussed coordination and support functions outlined within the GSHCC Infectious Disease Surge Annex. Using the areas for improvement identified through the COVID-19 After Action Review process, participants selected areas for improvement within each domain that should be prioritized for action. Comments were collected from participants to capture potential corrective actions to address the prioritized areas for improvement.

Data gathered from attendees provided additional opportunities for improving response, specifically addressing those issues that are within the influence or control of the GSHCC team. These findings and improvement planning discussions will be applied towards further evaluating COVID-19 response from the perspective of the Coalition team's role in response to an Infectious Disease Surge event.

COVID-19 Updates

*Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Infectious Disease and International Health
NH DHHS, DPHS, Deputy Epidemiologist*

Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, Professor at the Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth and Deputy Epidemiologist for NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control provided an overview of current COVID-19 response activities, including a discussion of COVID-19 variants and implications. She also discussed vaccine boosters, emerging science, and future considerations for ongoing response and responding to other special pathogens. COVID-19 will remain with us all for some time, and we must capitalize on the successes of response, to include ongoing collaboration, sustainable partnerships, and adopting proactive solutions that will prepare us to respond to emerging and reemerging infectious disease outbreaks.

Mental Health Resilience

Dr. Cassie Yackley, Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change

Dr. Cassie Yackley took this opportunity to move the conversation beyond self-care with responders from across healthcare, public health, emergency management, and EMS. She discussed burnout and secondary trauma within the context of COVID-19 response, strategies to build healthier organizations that embrace and acknowledge the mental and behavioral health needs of staff, and how to move forward, with hope. In her presentation, Dr. Yackley addressed the science and fundamental components of stress in the context of a pandemic response. She further explained the role of emotion contagion as a driver of stress and burnout in organizations, and she described the relationship between parallel processes of individual stress responses and signals of stress within organizational environments.

Educational Breakout Sessions

In addition to the engaging group discussions, attendees could choose from one of three concurrent educational breakout sessions to deepen knowledge of current and emerging topics of interest.

Cyber Threat Resilience

*Hannah Popovitch, Intelligence Analyst, NHIAC
Adam Ciardelli, Intelligence Analyst, NHIAC*

Representatives from the New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center (NHIAC) presented an overview of the cyber threat landscape, emerging threats, best practices, and mitigation strategies to enhance IT systems and connections to reduce vulnerabilities. Hannah and Adam reviewed recent cyber incidents that involved health systems, highlighting the vulnerability and desire for foreign and domestic adversaries to target healthcare systems. Additionally, they presented an emerging topic of interest, referred to Mis-, Dis-, and Mal-information (MDM), and how MDM can inspire and drive physical safety and security threats. The CISA COVID-19 Disinformation toolkit was shared as a resource for increasing awareness of how MDM and conspiracy theories continue to impact COVID-19 response.

Region 1 Regional Disaster Health Response System (RDHRS)

Dr. Paul Biddinger, Massachusetts General-Brigham, Center for Disaster Medicine

Dr. Paul Biddinger, of the Region 1 Regional Disaster Health Response System (RDHRS) spoke on the mission of the Region 1 RDHRS to ensure that appropriate clinical expertise is integrated into emergency response, and to enhance clinical surge capabilities across the Region 1 community. RDHRS goals include improving organization and coordination across local, state, regional, and federal healthcare response assets, improving situational awareness of the medical needs and issues in response, identifying, and further developing highly specialized clinical capabilities critical to unusual hazards for catastrophic incidents, and increasing healthcare coalition participation. Dr. Biddinger spoke of the potential utility of RDHRS collaboration with the New Hampshire healthcare system.

De-Escalation and Managing Aggressive Behaviors in the Field

Lt. Frank Harris, Safe Environments via Collaborative, Unified Response to Emergencies (SECURE)

Lt. Frank Harris proposed a team-based approach to de-escalation and management of aggressive persons. In his presentation, Lt. Harris described how S.E.C.U.R.E is designed to reduce aggressive and violent behaviors in situations where personal injury or property damage is likely to occur when interacting with a patient. This is done through enhanced communication, collaboration, and planning between healthcare professionals and law enforcement/security. Development of joint policies, procedures and defining the understanding of roles is exemplified.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter of Support
Membership Benefits
Year in Review