



Foundation *for*  
Healthy Communities

Granite State Health Care Coalition  
2022 General Membership Meeting  
Executive Summary

November 17, 2022

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The 2022 GSHCC Virtual General Membership Meeting was hosted virtually and provided over 80 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 and participate in timely and relevant educational sessions on alternate site implementation, responder, healthcare, and public health worker resiliency, and climate change impacts on health.

## GSHCC Activity Updates

Attendees were welcomed to the 2022 Granite State Health Care Coalition Virtual General Membership Meeting and provided a brief update on Coalition activities, including an overview of 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 an annual Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA). HVAs conducted in recent years have identified pandemic, extreme winter weather, and cyber attacks as the top three hazards to prioritize for planning. The GSHCC team will soon be starting the process of updating the HVA for this year, consisting of an HVA survey, meeting, and report slated for completion by early Spring 2023. This year’s HVA process will consist of reevaluating mitigation strategy implementation activities and a root cause gap analysis.

**NH GSHCC Radiation Emergency Surge Annex** – The GSHCC team is currently developing the NH GSHCC Radiation Emergency 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 radiation emergency surge incident in New Hampshire, not directly related to Seabrook Station impacts.

**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 (MRSE). This is an annual operations-based exercise requirement for all health care coalitions. The MRSE was conducted in October and focused on a simulated evacuation of two hospitals and the patient transfer and placement activities associated with the response.

**GSHCC Pediatric Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise** – The Pediatric Surge Tabletop Exercise was conducted in December 2021 and focused on the response to a surge of pediatric patients into the healthcare system in New Hampshire as a result of a mass casualty incident. Discussions around patient transfer and placement led to a comprehensive AAR/IP and Annex revisions.

**GSHCC Burn Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise-** The Burn Surge Tabletop Exercise was conducted in May 2022 and focused on the response to a surge of burn patients in the healthcare system in New Hampshire as a result of burn mass casualty incident and the patient transfer and placement associated with this type of incident. Discussions around patient transfer and placement led to a comprehensive AAR/IP and Annex revisions.

**GSHCC COVID-19 Response After-Action Review #3** – The Team is finalizing the After-Action Report for the third phase of COVID-19 response. The latest report focuses on the successes, areas for improvement, and lessons learned through the COVID-19 response from the end of the state of emergency through June 30, 2022. Once completed, this report will be available for all members. The GSHCC team conducted surveys, interviews, and held an after-action review meeting to validate findings and observations. Corrective actions will be addressed to identify areas for improvement.

**Juware Implementation and Training** - The Coalition team continues to serve as state administrators for the Juware 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 GHSCC team continues to promote the system and support training and implementation in healthcare facilities statewide.

## Panel Discussion: Alternate Care Site Activation in Rhode Island During COVID-19

*Alysia Mihalakos, MPH, Chief, Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response (CEPR), Rhode Island Department of Health; Brian R. Willis, Director, Facilities Engineering, CNEMG MOB/Kent Hospital; Dawn Lewis, RN, MBA, Ph.D., Healthcare Emergency Management Director, Hospital Association of Rhode Island/ Co-Chair, Healthcare Coalition of Rhode Island*

The Panel from Rhode Island spoke on lessons learned and best practices relative to Alternate Care Site (ACS)/Alternate Hospital Site activations including lessons learned, strengths, and areas for improvement. The Panel spoke on processes for enhancing collaboration across sectors in order to build and activate ACS sites as well as the vast considerations required to activate the sites (including security, activation triggers, surge tiers, transfer guidance, and admission criteria).

## Responder, Healthcare, and Public Health Worker Resiliency

*Deb Pendergast, Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator, NH Fire Academy and EMS*

Deb Pendergast spoke on responder, healthcare worker, and public health professional psychological and biological impacts of being “on” at work. While responders,

healthcare, and public health workers remain focused at work on many critical job functions, it is tough to find a work and home life balance. Many in the field find themselves working from home during “off” hours and working nights and weekends. Deb also discussed burnout and strategies to promote healthy work/life balance. The presentation culminated with tools and suggestions to cope and build a resilient self.

## Climate Changes Health

*Shalini H. Shah, DO, FAAP, second-year Pediatric and Reproductive Environmental Health fellow, Boston Children’s Hospital*

Dr. Shah spoke on how the climate crisis impacts human health, strategies to provide climate-informed care in clinical practice, and information on how the healthcare sector can promote climate resilience. Dr. Shah also spoke on the basics of climate change, local considerations, and highlighted climate change as an environmental justice issue.