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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

As we round into Fall, and eventually Winter, we progress into this "odd" period where some facilities are no longer in COVID response while others are still experiencing COVID outbreaks in their patients, residents, and staff. Still much work to do! Certainly, nothing is the same as before COVID. I encourage you all to find that outlet that helps you recharge and replenish. This time of year affords us the opportunity to appreciate much of the beauty that surrounds us. Take some time and soak it in! Always be proud of who you are and the work you perform, not everyone is able to do what you do. I know I said this last newsletter as well, but this message is very important for us all.

Please be safe and find those things that remind of why you chose this work!

-Scott



Foundation for
Healthy Communities

Thank You

Thank you, members and partners, for your continued dedication to your staff, patients, and residents as we all continue to navigate operations in a world with COVID-19 and its cascading impacts. We could not do our work without your collaboration and support, and we thank you for your continued guidance as we mitigate and plan for future emergent events. Your resilience is evident!

- The GSHCC Team



SCOTT NICHOLS
Senior Director



SHAYLIN LIPMAN
Program Coordinator



VICTORIA PAIGE
Exercise & Training Officer



DAKOTA HAYES
Planner

GSHCC MEMBERSHIP

All partners are valued Granite State Health Care Coalition general members, but part of the mission of the GSHCC is to garner formal support, encourage collaborative approaches to information and resource sharing, and support continuity of health care service delivery. To establish a membership structure, GSHCC is encouraging general members to become supporting members of the Coalition by signing a Letter of Support.

Supporting members are eligible for additional benefits beyond what is extended to general members, including more specific technical assistance, exercise evaluation assistance, and more intensive educational opportunities. Please see the attached [GSHCC Letter of Support](#) and [Member Benefits](#) information. If you would like to become a Supporting Member, please sign the Letter of Support and email to gshcc@healthynh.org.



[Learn more about GSHCC Membership](#)

CONTACT US

[We are actively seeking new members from state and local public and private organizations across the continuum of care.](#)

[To become a member or to learn more about the GSHCC, contact us at \[gshcc@healthynh.org\]\(mailto:gshcc@healthynh.org\)](#)

GSHCC STAFF UPDATE

The GSHCC team is pleased to announce the hire of two new staff members! Dakota Hayes has been hired in the new position of Planner and Victoria Paige has been hired as the new Exercise and Training Officer. Welcome aboard Dakota and Victoria!

Dakota Hayes, Planner

The Granite State Health Care Coalition is pleased to announce that Dakota Hayes has started his journey in the newly created position of Planner. Dakota brings positivity and initiative to everything that he sets his mind to. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations from American University. His recent experience as the All-Hazards Planner and State Program Delivery Manager for NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management brings a knowledge of plans, planning, and program management to the GSHCC team. Through these roles, Dakota has acquired experience in stakeholder engagement, program planning, and emergency preparedness.

Dakota began his journey with the GSHCC on August 22nd and is looking forward to bringing his passion and dedication to the team. Dakota can be reached at dhayes@healthynh.org or 603-425-4265.

Victoria Paige, Exercise & Training Officer

The Granite State Health Care Coalition is pleased to announce that Victoria Paige has accepted the role as the Exercise and Training Officer. Victoria holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Justice Studies-Homeland Security and Terrorism from Southern New Hampshire University. Her background is diverse with knowledge of security, public health, and healthcare emergency management. Victoria's recent experience as Carroll County's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator brings a wealth of knowledge to COVID-19 response work for vaccinations and infection prevention requirements. Prior to Victoria's Public Health role, she worked as a Hospital Emergency Management Coordinator for Wentworth Douglass Hospital for four years. Her experience in conducting Hazardous Vulnerability Analysis, emergency plan writing, creating and managing full scale and tabletop exercises, and training staff on emergency procedures will provide the team with a comprehensive knowledge of the duties as a HEMC. She is passionate about assisting organizations in their planning, exercising, and training needs to meet organization's requirements.

Victoria began her journey with the GSHCC on October 24th and is excited to bring her experience and passion to the team. Victoria can be reached at vp Paige@healthynh.org or 603-415-4298.

CDC Infection, Prevention, and Control Grant

A total of \$500 million, spread across the entire country, has been made available through the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2*, is being awarded through the CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cooperative Agreement (CK19-1904). This award is being issued as a program-initiated component called the '*Nursing Home & Long-term Care Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Project*'.

The Granite State Health Care Coalition has been selected as a recipient of this award in order to assist recipients with supporting long-term care facilities during their response to SARS-CoV-2 infections, and also to build and maintain the infection prevention infrastructure necessary to support resident, visitor, and facility healthcare personnel safety.

Through this funding, the Coalition is setting out on programs and activities in order to enhance infection prevention and control capabilities within nursing and long-term care facilities throughout the State of New Hampshire, through infection prevention education and certification assistance, resources, technical assistance, and infrastructure.



HPP PLANNING ACTIVITIES & PROGRAM OUTLOOK

Learn about where the Granite State Health Care Coalition will be focusing planning and program efforts in upcoming grant years.

HPP Budget Period 5 (FY 23-24)

In BP5, the HPP Surge Annex requirement centers around chemical surge including determining local risks for chemical events, decontamination assets, a review of CHEMPACK, coordinating training for members, and ensuring coordination with HAZMAT resources. See below for additional resources.

➤ [ASPR Topic Collection: Chemical Hazards](#)



GSHCC 2021-2022 Annual Report

The GSHCC completed the [GSHCC 2021-2022 Annual Report](#) in June 2022 highlighting key projects and deliverables including a planning overview, exercise overview, membership overview, and COVID-19 pandemic response overview.

Radiation Surge Annex

The GSHCC is working on compiling a Radiation Surge Annex that applies to a surge event involving radiation events in New Hampshire. This Annex will be made available upon its completion. For additional information on radiation surge see the links below.

➤ [ASPR TOPIC COLLECTION: RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR](#)

➤ [RADIATION INJURY TREATMENT NETWORK](#)

GSHCC 2022-2023 Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) Update

The GSHCC will be conducting the 2022-2023 Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) in early winter consisting of a survey, meeting, and report. Stay tuned for additional information on how your organization can participate



UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 GSHCC Virtual General Membership Meeting
November 17, 2022
8:30am - 12:00pm



Register
Today!

All members, partners, and stakeholders are invited to attend the meeting. There is no fee to attend.

About the meeting:

The meeting will consist of three plenary sessions including:

Responder, Healthcare, and Public Health Worker Resiliency

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

This presentation is intended to increase the awareness of responder, healthcare worker, and public health professional psychological and biological impacts of being “on” at work. The presentation will include strategies to focus on work/life balance and what self-care truly looks like including some tools and suggestions, to not just cope, but build a resilient you.

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 RI Department of Health (RIDOH), Healthcare Coalition of Rhode Island (HCRI), and Kent Hospital will present their experience in setting up and operating an Alternate Care Site for the care of patients with COVID-19. Components of the presentation will include contracts and governmental negotiations; setting up, resourcing, and security; and clinical coordination.

Climate Changes Health

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

This session will explore how the climate crisis impacts human health, our role as healthcare professionals, and strategies to provide climate-informed care in clinical practice and beyond. This presentation will focus on health impacts to all ages.

How to register: Register at the link [here](#). *Registration closes November 10th.*

Please contact gshcc@healthynh.org with questions.

Registration closes November 10th



Save the Date! Granite State Health Care Coalition 2023 Conference
May 11, 2023
Concord, NH

The GSHCC 2023 Conference will take place on May 11, 2023 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. The conference is currently scheduled to occur as a hybrid event allowing for both in-person and virtual participation.

This collaborative and educational event will provide attendees with an opportunity to network with colleagues from around the state and attend interactive sessions.

Stay tuned for additional information! A formal Save-The-Date will be released in mid-December and registration will launch in early 2023.

TRAINING INFORMATION

Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning Training

[FEMA EMI- IS- 1300- Introduction to Continuity of Operations](#)

This interactive web-based course is intended to lay the foundation of knowledge for students who wish to increase their understanding of continuity and building a comprehensive continuity program in their organization or jurisdiction.

Public Information Officer (PIO) Training

[FEMA EMI- IS-29.A- Public Information Officer Awareness](#)

This course is designed to familiarize participants with the concepts underlying the PIO role. This course can provide a basic understanding of the PIO function for those new to the position. Additionally, it can provide those in executive level roles the necessary knowledge of PIO roles and responsibilities during an emergency.

Psychological First Aid

Johns Hopkins University

This free on-demand training from Johns Hopkins University is available via Coursera. Participants will learn to provide psychological first aid to people in an emergency by employing the RAPID model and learn critical skills that have been effective in promoting personal and community resilience.

[Enroll Now](#)

CDC TRAIN- Building Workforce Resilience through the Practice of Psychological First Aid: A Course for Leaders and Teams

This free on-demand training offers trainees with the opportunity to learn how to assist colleagues with coping mechanisms with stress at management levels making it possible for them to effectively function and build resilience with each successive event they encounter.

[Enroll Now](#)

ONLINE TRAINING

[CDC Training for Healthcare Professionals](#)

[FEMA Emergency Management Institute](#)
(Independent Study Program)

[Center for Domestic Preparedness \(CDP\)](#)

[National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center \(NETEC\)](#)

COALITION EXERCISE INFORMATION

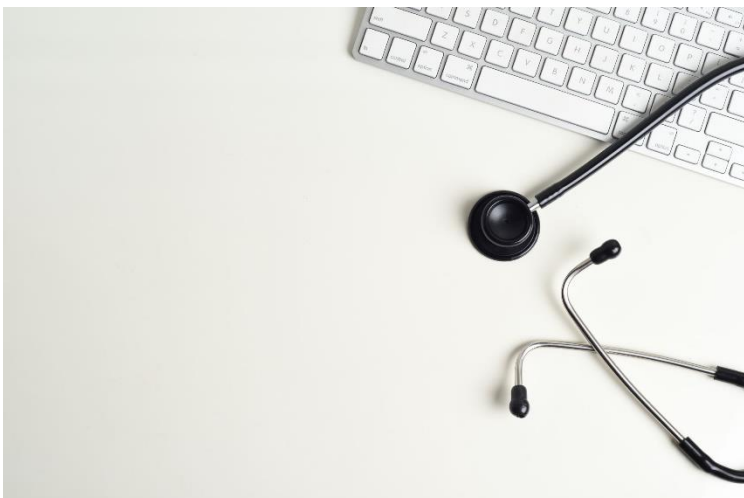
Radiation Surge Annex TTX

The Radiation Surge Annex applies to a coalition-level response to a mass casualty event involving a large number of pediatric patients. GSHCC is currently in the process of developing a tabletop exercise to validate the Annex along with key partners and other subject matter experts. This exercise will take place in Spring 2023 and will address pre-hospital response, patient movement, and reunification. Additional information to come.



Medical Response & Surge Exercise (MRSE)

GSHCC conducted the Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE) in mid-October. Partners from across the healthcare and public health sectors participated in this operations-based exercise. The exercise was designed to stress the healthcare system in New Hampshire through a sudden surge scenario by testing functional surge capacity and identifying gaps. Stay tuned for a complete MRSE After Action Report and Executive Summary.



COALITION EXERCISE INFORMATION

Burn Surge Annex TTX AAR/IP Outcomes

Partners from healthcare, public health, emergency medical services, and emergency management participated in a virtual Burn Surge tabletop exercise in May 2022. Participants were guided through a burn mass casualty incident scenario as a fire occurred at an indoor commencement ceremony with more than 1,000 attendees. The objectives of this exercise were to review existing burn care assets and identify gaps that may occur in a burn mass casualty incident; review agency/facility roles in a burn mass casualty incident; validate assumptions in the *NH GSHCC Burn Surge Annex* and identify changes that need to be made in the *NH GSHCC Burn Surge Annex* based on the roles and capabilities of the involved partners. Overall, participants were able to achieve these objectives with some noted challenges.

Participants successfully identified some supporting resources for this type of response however, it is clear New Hampshire lacks adequate burn resources, including a burn center. While hospitals have had years of practice throughout the COVID-19 pandemic responding to surge, burn surge capabilities are much different. Individual capabilities to surge acutely are also limited when considering burn patients. As discussions evolved, it became clear the process for determining burn patient transfer prioritization is a challenge. Statewide patient re-distribution plans need to be developed. It is also evident that hospitals participating in the NH trauma program are more prepared to provide initial stabilizing treatment to burn patients during a burn mass casualty incident than those that are not. It also became clear it is necessary for all to develop a shared understanding and practice for large-scale patient movement, beyond hospital systems and current transfer agreements.

GSHCC has engaged stakeholders to update the *NH GSHCC Burn Surge Annex* with updated information and additional language, where possible. However, additional planning specific to addressing a burn surge incident is required. GSHCC members and partners are encouraged to review the *GSHCC Burn Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise After Action Report and Improvement Plan* for more information about the exercise. The GSHCC will continue to engage partners in planning efforts related to managing medical surge in additional exercises.

NH DHHS UPDATES

NH DHHS, Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Updates

NH Statewide Training and Exercise Program (STEP)

The NH Statewide Training and Exercise Program (STEP) is pleased to announce the return of the **Centralized Event Calendar**. The goal of this resource is to make information easily accessible, timely and local for you! The calendar features information about upcoming trainings, exercises, webinars, conferences, and other events across our state all in one place, making searching for learning opportunities time-saving and simple.

We invite you to take advantage of this resource at no cost to you. [Visit the Statewide Training and Exercise Calendar](#) to see what is happening across the state. Visit often as we are adding new information daily. We encourage you to save the page to your web browser 'favorites' so you don't miss another event and download the Teamup app to your iOS & Android device.

If you have events coming up and you would like to share the event information with partners across the state, include us in your distribution list and we will make sure to post your events on the calendar. Please feel free to contact us at STEP@dhhs.nh.gov or send an email to Adnela.Alic@dhhs.nh.gov.

GSHCC COVID-19 After Action Review #3

The GSHCC is in the process of completing the third iteration of the COVID-19 After Action Review and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP). This process consisted of a survey, partner interviews, and After-Action Meeting. This iteration focused on the end of the State of Emergency through June 30, 2022. This included the Delta and Omicron Surges, Booster Blitz 1 and 2, supply chain shortages, staffing shortages, testing changes, the initial recovery stage and much more.

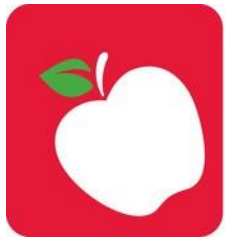
The final report will be shared upon completion.

GSHCC Spotlight on Recovery

As the COVID-19 pandemic response develops into status quo operations for many organizations, recovery planning is a project priority. Recovery operations from a prolonged response such as COVID-19 will involve a myriad of support functions. There are many tools that can assist partners with recovery planning, below are just a few.

- [FEMA- National Disaster Recovery Framework](#)
- [ASPR Division of Community Mitigation and Recovery](#)
- [ASPR Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function](#)
- [ASPR Topic Collection: Recovery Planning](#)





Foundation *for* Healthy Communities

The Granite State Health Care Coalition is an initiative of the Foundation for Healthy Communities, a non-profit organization that engages in innovative partnerships to improve health and health care in New Hampshire by addressing quality of care, access to care and community prevention.

The preparation of this newsletter was financed under a contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, with funds provided in part by the State of New Hampshire and/or such other funding sources as were available or required, e.g., the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Please visit us online to view past issues of the [Granite State Health Care Coalition semi-annual newsletter.](#)

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