

**Southeastern Healthcare Preparedness Region**  
**Summer Quarterly Meeting**  
**August 21, 2024**

**Call to Order & Introductions**

The quarterly meeting of the Southeastern Healthcare Preparedness Region was called to order at 9:30am on August 21, 2024. The meeting was held virtually via zoom. A roundtable introduction of the meeting attendees was conducted.

**I. Partner Updates**

- **DRP Update – Heather Griffin**
  - The next DPR 3 meeting will be August 29<sup>th</sup> held virtually
- **NCHA EM Council – Matt Merritt**
  - NC Hospital Association is now the NC Healthcare Association. Previously for hospital emergency managers but now it is opened to all healthcare emergency managers.
  - Next meeting is Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to get on the meeting invite list, please email Matt at [mjmerritt@novanhealth.org](mailto:mjmerritt@novanhealth.org).
- **PHP&R – Adrian Cox/Tim Davis**
  - There is a radiological TTX on September 5 for the eastern branch in Kinston at the EBO.
  - Free Covid testing at home tests are available to the public.
  - 280 CAP testing sites throughout the state.
  - Monkey Pox – a NC HAN alert was sent out about this for a different strand originating in Africa. Sweden had their 1<sup>st</sup> case outside of Africa.
- **NCOEMS – Kimberly Clement**
  - HPP has released their annual report for July 2023 – July 2024. It can be found at <https://hpp.nc.gov/annual-report/>
  - Healthcare assessment teams are being developed for state and federal declarations. The teams are set up to deploy into affected facilities to look at life safety issues. The teams are not regulatory and would have a state rep with them during their assessments. The State is looking at putting together a state assessment team that can assist the federal teams or be a stand-alone team.

**II. Facility Evacuations**

- **Pender Medical Center**
  - On July 15<sup>th</sup>, staff identified condensation from HVAC that was dripping into patient rooms and electrical outlets that was creating a significant hazard for patients to remain in facility.
  - Total of 49 patients from both the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor SNF and 1<sup>st</sup> floor hospital needed to be evacuated.
  - Two ambulance busses were used for the evacuation, Novant NHRMC and Brunswick County. Brunswick's bus can transport 18-20 stretcher patients and 4-5 wheelchair patients at a time.
  - The process went well, but it was identified that communication and patient tracking could have been improved. It was also noted that it is extremely important to get a list of patients immediately upon arrival as to the number of stretcher/wheelchair patients needing transport.

Having the patients ready to be evacuated when the busses arrive was also noted as an area for improvement.

➤ **Shoreline / Liberty LTC**

- On August 7th, staff identified an issue with the sewer system that created a significant hazard for patients to remain in facility.
- There were 54 patients that were moved throughout the evening and 19 patients that sheltered in place at the facility until additional transportation resources were available to transport.
- They were able to move patients more quickly and efficiently because the responding agencies were able to preposition the bus and preplan the evacuation while waiting for the go ahead from the state. This facility has had to evacuate for a previous event, which allowed them to draw on their lessons learned from the previous evacuation.

**III. Carter Kits for EMS – Gregory Edwards**

- Carter Kits are sensory kits that include items such as sunglasses, earmuffs, weighted blankets and fidget toys.
- PPRP – Pediatric Preparedness Readiness Project – grant that will be able to purchase multiple kits for EMS agencies across the state. The goal is to have one in every EMS truck.

**IV. SHPR Updates – Hans Edwards**

- Partners were sent an email with a ReadyOp form to complete for their agency contact information. We need these back by August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) will be updated and cataloged with any changes and additional equipment that we have received. This will be updated on the website.
- We are going to be bringing several TEEEX classes and other training classes to the region.
  - (1) In Spring 2025 we will be bringing in the 0-305 Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Class. We are partnering with EHPC.
  - (2) Winter/Spring 2025 we will be hosting the UNC Burn Mini Classes in multiple locations.
  - (3) Oct 23-24 - Peer Support training in Onslow County
  - (4) ICISF G.R.I.N. and Advanced group crisis will be held at the Onslow County Health Department in November.

**V. Tropical Storm Debbie**

- We will be sending out an After-Action form via ReadyOp to collect info on how things went and how we can improve communications and responses throughout the region.

**VI. Steering Committee**

- There are 2 openings on the steering committee, non-trauma hospital and emergency management. Nominations for these positions will be sent out in the coming days.

**VII. Adjournment**

The quarterly meeting of was adjourned at 11:00am