Department of State Health Services
Health Service Region 1
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
(PHEP)

PHEP-HSR1 Newsletter

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Volunteers...the lifeblood of the community!

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Regional Staff:

Lubbock: 806-744-3577

Regional Medical Director:
Peter W. Pendergrass, MD, MPH

Deputy Regional Director:
Deborah A. Evans

PHEP Program Manager:
Kelly Northcott, BS

Program Specialist IV:
Sandra Perez

Administrative Assistant II:
Sandra Munoz

Program Specialist III:
Roy Ramos (Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Cochran, Hockley, Lamb, Parmer, Swisher)

Program Specialist III:
Liz Broadstreet, M.Ed (Hale, Floyd, Motley, Crosby, Dickens, King, Garza)

Canyon: 806-655-7151

Program Specialist IV:
Jordan Coulson, RN, BA
SNS Coordinator (Dallam, Deaf Smith, Hartley, Moore, Oldham, Sherman)

Program Specialist III:
William McDowell, BA
(Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Roberts, Wheeler)

Program Specialist III:
Rick Tull, BS
Chempack Coordinator & SNS Assistant Coordinator (Armstrong, Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hall)

5th Annual Panhandle Regional Preparedness Conference

The 2014 Panhandle Regional Preparedness Conference was held in Amarillo, Texas on January 28, 2014. This conference has seen over 400 participants each of the 5 years that it has been hosted. With the timely guest speakers, critical training and exciting vendors – this conference provided an excellent venue for emergency preparedness personnel to network and learn new techniques to improve the response to their communities.

Participants at Conference

The Conference included speakers covering a variety of hazards with an emphasis on "all discipline" response and lessons learned. Topics included:

- Whole Community Planning
- NTSB Approach to Family Assistance
- Interdiction for the Protection of Children
- The Nuts & Bolts of Volunteer & Donations Management

This year's conference had a greater focus on the Exhibit Hall, which allowed participants to visit with vendors and network with their peers. For more information visit the conference website at www.premac-conference.us .

Commissioner of Health is Keynote Speaker at Panhandle Regional Preparedness Conference

The keynote speaker for the 5th Annual Panhandle Regional Preparedness Conference was David L. Lakey, M.D., who serves as Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Dr. Lakey oversees programs such as disease prevention and bioterrorism preparedness, family and community health services, environmental and consumer safety, regulatory programs and mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.

David L. Lakey, M.D.

In Dr. Lakey's presentation titled *Public Health Emergency Response: Stories of Successful Collaboration* he discussed Texas Public Health Structure,

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HSR1 staff participate in the 2014 Panhandle Regional Emergency Preparedness Conference

Jordan Coulson (DSHS) assisted in the registration process. He is was also part of the planning committee.

DSHS staff Kelly Northcott, Rick Tull, William McDowell and Debbie Evans standing next to the DSHS Display. (Shown from left to right)

Health Service Region 1 (HSR1) -Public Health Emergency Preparedness displayed several boards at the conference.

HSR1 staff; Jana Campbell, Keila Johnson, Sharon Tillman and Kay King attended the conference. (Shown from left to right).

Kelly Northcott (DSHS) and Shane Brown (PRPC) network during the conference.

Health Service Region 1—Public Health Preparedness Conducts Survey

This past December, Health Service Region 1 (HSR1)-Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) conducted a survey for the purpose of:

- Identifying priority training interests and needs related to selected areas of emergency preparedness.
- Identifying gaps in resources.
- Understanding the level of interest/potential volume of participants in future training programs.

The results of this assessment will be used by public health planners and partners to develop and implement public health emergency preparedness and response trainings.

Approximately 40% of the survey respondents were Emergency Medical Services personnel, 24.4% Emergency Management Coordinators, 22% Hospital personnel and 15.9% Nurses. Other respondents included: Law Enforcement, Justice of the Peace, Judges, and Educators. The survey asked respondents to rank the current available trainings in order of importance. The top requested training was *Family Emergency Preparedness* followed by *Mass Fatalities Overview*, and *Shelter-in-Place*. Other training suggestions included: National Incident Management System, Bioterrorism, Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness, Planning, Mobile Medical Unit, Critical Incident Stress Management, Decon, Weather, Resource Availability, Community Paramedic, Pandemics and Coordination of Community & Regional Entities/Agencies. For all the results of the survey, please contact Liz Broadstreet at 806-783-6454 or by email at liz.broadstreet@dshs.state.tx.us.

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All Hazards Approach Encompasses Disaster/Threats Impacting Public Health, Texas ESF-8 Organizational Structure, Working with Local Partners and 2008-2013 DSHS Response Events.

Kelly Northcott (DSHS), Dr. Lakey, Matt Richardson (City of Amarillo) and Debbie Evans (DSHS)

Dr. Lakey stated that preparedness evolution requires continuous improvement efforts such as:

- Continue to staff & train deployable teams
- ICS training by DSHS Staff
- Developing manuals, operating guidelines and procedures for response efforts
- After action process for all DSHS emergency response efforts

He summed up by stating that effective regional responses require recognition that impacted jurisdiction may be overwhelmed and severely limited in their ability to respond, Also, he stated that regional collaboration is essential. Example, coalitions are essential for public health/healthcare system emergency preparedness activities and local/regional public health and partners must; perform resource assessments, prioritize healthcare assets and essential services within their region, work together on planning training/ exercises, and conferences such as this are vital to the future of preparedness in Texas.

Dr. Lakey concluded with these thoughts:

- Public health and medical are vital parts of disaster response.
- Partnerships, planning, preparation and practice are key.
- Public health and medical disaster response is greatly enhanced.
- We have room to improve.
- Lead by example—have a plan for you and your family.

You can find Dr. Lakey's presentation at website www.premac-conference.us in the Speaker section.

Training Modules and Presentations Available upon Request

- Point of Dispensing: POD
- Family Emergency Preparedness
- Nutrition in Preparedness
- PHEP/EPI — Who are we?
- Shelter-In-Place
- Mass Fatalities Overview
- Tuberculosis Best Practices
- Strategic National Stockpile Security Overview for Law Enforcement

Welcome to our new team member…..

Sandra Munoz

Sandra is the program Administrative Assistant II and joined our team on December 1, 2013. Originally from San Antonio, TX Sandra now lives in Plainview, TX. Before joining our team she held an administrative position with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for 4 years in their Plainview Region 5 office. Sandra has been married for 7 years to Tommy.

Cold Weather Health Precautions—Food Safety

Winter storms can cause power outages and lead to food safety problems. If you lose power for more than four hours, take these precautions with refrigerated food products:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible during power outages.
- Discard any potentially hazardous foods such as meats, eggs, dairy products and leftovers that may have reached a temperature of 40 degrees or higher. "When in doubt, throw it out."
- Frozen food that has thawed but not exceeded 40 degrees should be prepared as soon as possible. Do not refreeze.