



**Region 6 Healthcare Coalition**  
**Community Healthcare Provider COVID-19 Preparedness Call**  
**October 14th, 2020 – 3pm**  
**Minutes**

Recording of meeting started late, minutes start at 3:15pm

Luke stated that we are currently in a crisis standards situation. Aaron discussed that the state surveyors are still going to want to see proof that you have made multiple attempts outside your normal supply chain to obtain PPE. They will also want to see your contingency plan and your plan to get back to normal usage. Luke will draft a document that will be signed by him and Dr. Evans for facilities to use that recommends crisis supply standards and can be presented to surveyors.

Aaron reviewed what a contingency plan would be dependent on, this would be very facility specific. Discussion took place about creating a standard to use across the region and having it vetted at higher level.

Discussion took place about N95 and gown reuse, anything outside of using these items just once is considered crisis standards.

Discussed that any letter that the facilities can use and have surveyors take into consideration would have to come from higher up because so far letters from health departments and from region have not worked.

If you need PPE the region does have stuff available as needed.

Region 6 opened MCC in response to another AFC center last week. This incident was closed out, it was pushed up to state level agencies. Katie from the state shared that the state recognized that items needed to be addressed that they were not aware of.

Discussion took place about MDHHS orders and the fact that they do not have anything specific about staffing crisis operations, items that were in place during governors' orders were not covered in the new MDHHS orders. Katie reported they are working on revisions on these to be more inclusive. The question was asked what is considered staffing crisis, Katie shared that there are some defined numbers in the survey on the MDHHS side to be able to request assistance from the state.

The state is working currently to contract with a second staffing agencies.

Health bar information went out about emergency healthcare staff for crisis staffing. This would be a short term, situation by situation type of staffing. This could be very helpful for some of our organization.

There is a document that outlines staffing criteria to request assistance from the state, Luke will send out the link to this document.



Discussion took place on quarantine requirements for exposures. There are mixed messages about what needs to be done. Scenarios were discussed.

Discussion took place on nomination for CHP seat on the executive committee for Region 6 Healthcare Coalition, Aaron Crawford is the current representative. Please e-mail Courtney your recommendations.

Aaron discussed what people are going to do when people flag as symptomatic, but it appears it is just the common cold. Concerns about staffing during cold and flu seasons were discussed. Some facilities will require a COVID negative test before allowing someone to work with any type of symptoms. Kent County does have a screener sheet available on their website for workplaces (back to work site).

Katie:

- Approval for needing to report is down to once a week, you will need to make sure you are reaching out to the region if something is happening with your facility. The state is looking to do some training on this before the new requirement goes into place. For facilities that have been having data transferred over to NHSN they need to make sure they are inputting data on correct day, so it transfers over. This new reporting requirement is not in effect yet, it is still a daily requirement right now. An official announcement will be coming out with info about the once a week reporting.
- Additional staffing contract is being worked on by the state for emergency staffing.

Question was asked about compliance with yearly requirements for drills. The federal requirements are still in place, you can use COVID as one of the drill requirements, another idea to meet the second required one is what is your vaccination process or what did you have to set up in order to set up screening at your facility.

Expected more updates and policy revisions to come out.

Staffing discussion continued.

Question was asked if any facilities have created a staffing model for dealing with COVID situations.

Some facilities report that they feel more comfortable pulling staff from other locations instead of from the outside (staffing agency) because it is easier to know where they have been and exposure. They also expressed that staffing agencies can be very unreliable and very often end up being a no call no show now that we are in the pandemic. Also rates are going up for these staffing agencies with hazard pay in place.

Katie will look into if there are any rules about price gouging for staffing.

Discussion took place about needing to get in writing the staffing instructions for COVID exposure, positives, etc.

If you have specific questions for a specific health department, please sent to Luke and he will work to get answers to these. If you do not want your name associated with questions, Luke can submit these anonymously. The goal will be to clear up any confusion and mixed information.

Luke will shoot for having answers back on these by Monday.