

Hospital Preparedness Planning Group

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2007

Tara Lowe called the meeting of the Hospital Preparedness Planning Group to order at 9:06a on 6/22/07.

- I. **Sign In**
- II. **Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves. Joining the group were Scott Tekell from Grainger and Tom Aoki from Mintie Technologies.
- III. **Minutes from the 6/8/07** were reviewed They were approved with no changes. Melanie Tucker questioned the the SNS presentation segment from the last HPG meeting regarding the process presented for hospitals to request SNS assets by contacting DSHS directly, after concurring with DR. Valadez, and PHR7, TSA-O healthcare facilities will continue to request such resources through their Emergency Operations Center, which Tara relayed to the group; *Hospitals are not to circumvent the NIMS incident command system.*
- IV. **Paraslyde Evacuation equipment demo:** Scott Tekell from Grainger presented a demonstration for the group, beginning with a brief video showing the Paraslyde in action. Scott will email the documentation on the product for review

The Paraslyde is completely collapsable, offering a solution for evacuating patients without needing a bed or stretcher for all patients. This product is also used for evacuating patients down stairwells; using a belay system for single-person use or for larger patients. The Paraslydes can be stored 15 to a sleeve and attached to a wall for out-of-the-way storage. The standard size holds up to 500lbs and the bariatric size holds up to 800lbs; straps have a 2000lb capacity. **Mintie ECU2 Bundle & Corridor Flange Negative Pressure Isolation Demo (handouts & CD provided):** Tom Aoki from Mintie Technologies provided an overview of the ECU2 Bundle and corridor flange. These products are intended as a solution for creating more patient isolation rooms, by enabling a facility to convert an entire hall to a negative pressure isolation "unit" The cost of this system is about \$11-12k, with a 3-year warranty. The shipping container is used to store this equipment, there are no climate requirements for storage.

- V. **HAM Radio Update:** Joe Canfield will give a HAM Radio class in July, starting with the 1st or 2nd weekend. Cost was mentioned in the 6/8/07 minutes, where Joe said that he will "mandate that students bring to class \$25 for the book (provided at the class), to ensure attendance commitment."

He also recently received an email from Seton Williamson County Inquiring whether they would have to pay for HAM radio installation in their facility. Joe sent a copy of this email to Melanie, explaining the equipment was already there and the cable would not be at their expense. The hospital is not ready for installation yet.

No reply yet from Scott & White, nor Cornerstone. He has been inside Dell Children's Hospital, and their cable pull has been scheduled for early July. Austin Surgical Hospital is on the "to-do" list; their cable is in. Joe has been concentrating on getting the installations done on the outlying facilities, is now ready to focus on the corridor facilities pending installation.

The Texas Amateur Radio Emergency Service has been contacted by planners across the country for information regarding what they're doing for emergency preparedness communications. They will have a website soon, which will be accessible to any HAMs in the US to enter their information. Driskell Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi is interested in the communications program in our region. Joe and another representative of ARES will be giving a presentation to their RAC.

Joe also shared that he and other HAM Radio operators from the area would be spending 24 hours in a non-stop drill, using the football field at Anderson High School to set up their radio sets and antennas. They operate under emergency power and communicate with other HAM operators around the world. He will report on the outcome of this drill at a future HPG meeting.

- VI. HRSA 08 RFP:** Tara Lowe updated the group on this process thus far. CATRAC is on the "tentative awardees" list. There is a negotiation conference call scheduled with CATRAC and DSHS for 6/27/07.
- VII. HRSA 07 Budget:** Tara stated that we should receive approvals on the budget by the following week, which is pending approval on those items requiring state/federal approval.. Facilities will start to receive notices on this as soon as we receive notice from the state.
- VIII. Regional Operations Issues Discussion:** *None*
- IX. Committees:** The committees broke out for 30 minutes, then reconvened to report to the group on their discussions.
 - **Weather:** Nothing new to report at this time. As of this report, they have not received suggested corrections from the group on the DRAFT Regional Hospital Weather Response Plan.
 - **Chemical:** They have received 4 more chemical surveys; still need 4 more. The "needs" identified from this query is the need for additional regional training, e.g. HAZWOPER, NIMS, etc.