**Georgia Mountains (Region B) Healthcare Coalition**

**Quarterly Meeting via Conference Call**

**Minutes**

**Aug 17, 2021**

**10:00-11:30 AM**



**Participants:** Please see list of participants posted to GHA 911.org and [www.garegionb.org](http://www.garegionb.org)

Convened: 10:00 AM Adjourned: 11:30 AM

**Opening**

**Coalition Info/Updates:**

**Matthew Crumpton, NGHS, Emergency Preparedness Manager**

* COVID19 numbers have increased across Region B, Georgia, and nation
* Matthew gave updates on numbers and requests of hospitals in Region B. He is meeting many of those needs through NGHS/RCH
* In-person DCON class scheduled for Sept 15-17 at NGHS Braselton is cancelled due to focus on COVID19 now
* Other trainings are listed in minutes below.
* Look for emails and check the TRS (Training Registration System) for other trainings offered statewide finalized

**Exercise Updates**

* Functional Exercise: Mass Casualty Event during Severe Weather August 25, 2021
  + Cancelled as COVID19 is focus now
  + Many can use yesterday’s Tropical Storm Fred as exercise
* Planning for Active Shooter FSE in future, will be virtual
* Burn TTX exercise tentatively in the Spring, plan and exercise required for grant year

**Budget 2021-2022**

**Reviewed and approved at last meeting**

* May have to be amended and funds moved if COVID19 continues to limit in person events

**Community Partner Updates**

**Hospitals**

**Brian Ensley, Union General Hospital**

* Increase in COVID positive cases
* Having staffing issues
* Staff are resilient and working other duties as needed

**Beth Hester, Habersham County Medical Center**

* Surge of patients over the last week
* Facility also migrated to a new server causing downtime with EMR
* Have purchased new beds as response to surge

**Brian Turner, Mountain Lakes Medical Center**

* Increase in patients, increasing in testing

**Chatuge Regional Hospital**

* Experiencing staffing shortage
* Beds stay full, increase in ED and outpatient

**District 2 Public Health, Donna Sue Campbell**

* Introduced new Public Information Officer, Natasha Young
* COVID19 testing site open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30-4:30 at Allen Creek in Hall County
  + Registration is on District 2 PH website <http://phdistrict2.org>
  + Planning for two new COVID19 test sites in Franklin County and Lumpkin County, details aren’t firm yet
* GDPH Guidelines for additional COVID19 vaccine dose aren’t released yet.
  + CDC guidance found here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>
  + If you are moderately or severely immunocompromised please contact your PCP or a pharmacy for additional dose

**Georgia Department of Public Health, Alexandra Benoit, Vulnerable Populations Coordinator**

* Coastal Hurricane Planning is going on now
  + All facilities please talk with your sister facilities on evacuation and receiving plans
* All Hospital and LTC facility staffing requests go through your local Emergency Manager (EMA)

**Adrienne Feinberg, Georgia Hospital Association**

* Georgia Coordinating Center is open
* There is a statewide task force reviewing and developing strategies to improve flow of patients
* Hospital Emergency Departments please complete the Pediatric Readiness Survey, deadline is Aug 31
* Mutual Aid Task Force meeting is Sept 17 at GPSTC
* There will be a new grant funded position in each Region for an Infection Prevention subject matter expert who will design and provide education on infection prevention
* GHA911.org
  + Please clean up your contact information in GHA911 and Everbridge
  + Training for GHA911 and Everbridge is on Tuesdays, please see GHA911 website under “calendar of events” for dates an registration links
  + WebEOC training will be added soon
  + If you have questions, please contact
    - Mallory Garrett mgarrett@gha.org 770-249-4532

**BJ Hollingsworth, Brown Health and Rehab Long Term Care, Royston**

* They are testing patients and staff 3x a week, have no cases
* Staffing issues continue
* Continue to watch the weather

**Messages in chat:**

**Deidre Moore, Banks Co. EMA**

* reported there was a tornado warning in Banks
* Several people left the call to respond to this

**Closing**

**Matthew Crumpton, NGHS**

* Data shows that vaccine prevents hospitalization and further complications
* NGHS will start additional dose of vaccine in 7-10 days

**Next meetings/WebEx:**

* Region B quarterly Healthcare Coalition meeting/webex Nov 17, 2021

**Some resources for mental health during COVID19 and other times**

* Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line 866-399-8938
* Georgia Crisis and Access Line 800-715-4225