



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority
From: Eric Shanks, Medical and Public Health Regional Project Manager
Carl Hess, Bio-Terrorism Coordinator, San Mateo County
Date: April 9, 2015
Re: Item 8: Medical-Public Health Regional Exercise Close Out

Staff Recommendations:

No recommendation – for discussion only

Action or Discussion Items:

Discussion

Background and purpose:

The Bay Area approved \$150,000 of UASI FY13 funding for the purpose of designing a regional Mass Prophylaxis Exercise. This project complimented the federal Center for Disease Control's (CDC) City Readiness Initiative which prepares major metropolitan areas in the country to quickly receive and distribute medicine and medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) following a large-scale public health emergency. The exercise tested the Public Health and Medical Services, Operational Coordination and Public Information and Warning core capabilities. Disciplines involved included: public health, EMS, public information officers, fire departments and emergency management. Exercise goals included testing deployment of the Bay Area SNS, public information system capabilities in crisis communication and coordinated mission tasking of Bay Area Public Health agencies.

Project Activities:

In March 2014, work began to leverage other funding and provide trainings and workshops to support building capabilities for the exercise. The exercise involved eight Emergency Operational Centers, ten Medical/Health Department Operations Centers, three Receiving Storage and Shipping (RSS) centers supporting SNS operations, law enforcement agencies, and multiple hospitals. Over 150 people attended the exercise workshops held between July and

October. Pre-exercise events were held from November 13-19th and supported the final Full Scale Exercise on November 20th. Several hundred public and medical health stakeholders in the Bay Area participated in the exercise. Over the course of a week, medical shipments were delivered to RSS centers, divided up, and distributed to health departments. Some Operational Areas used the seasonal flu vaccination process to test exercise goals. Ebola and anthrax mitigation procedures were tested in other Operational Areas.

Main Findings:

The regional Mass Prophylaxis Exercise After Action Report's Improvement Plan showed the Bay Area needs additional training on coordinating with Public and Medical Health state reporting processes in disasters. Training is needed on requesting resources from the state and follow-up coordination, as well as submitting situation status reports to the state in a mass prophylaxis incident.

Conclusion:

The UASI Medical/Public Health Working Group is working with the Association of Bay Area Public Health Officers (ABAHO), the Bay Area Mass Prophylaxis Work Group (BAMPWG) and the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinators (MHOAC) on a strategic plan to address the exercise Improvement Plan items in 2015. The UASI Medical/Public Health workgroup will also identify and work with the UASI Regional Training and Exercise Program to schedule training courses in 2015-2016 to meet the identified needs from the regional Mass Prophylaxis exercise.