

Franklin-Williamson Co. Respiratory Emergency Planning Committee Mtg (REPC)

8/13/09

NOTE: For the 9-17-10 Mtg, the notes from this meeting were just added to the former meeting notes.

NOTE: Comments in red were added 9/2010 when resuming committee activities.

CHALLENGES

Home Medical Equipment Businesses (HMEB):

- Several factors influence whether customers with respiratory issues adopt emergency back-up measures for their respiratory equipment in power outage situations. Some of these factors include lack of financial resources and little motivation to do so. In general, most HMEBs seem to have some plan in place for providing equipment preparedness information.
- In certain situations, HMEBs may have difficulties in getting equipment and supplies to resupply customers in major power outage.
- Transporting medical equipment can be difficult if, for instance, road debris or flooding is an issue.

Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs):

- Most of the special needs-based calls EMAs received during the May storm/power outage were respiratory-related (i.e., CPAP and oxygen).
- EMAs are unable to provide businesses with generators during a power outage.
- Work needs to continue in identifying special needs populations and consequently creating, developing/improving adequate emergency plans.

Hospitals:

- During the May power outage, hospitals experienced an influx of people seeking a variety of medical and non-medical support, which at times became very disruptive in their work in providing medical care to hospital patients. Many of the people arriving at hospitals did not need medical care, just electricity.

Little Egypt American Red Cross (ARC):

- Little Egypt ARC responded to a wide range of needs/requests during the May storm. With their region spanning across all of southern Illinois. ARC responded to local needs/requests, despite their own restrictions from the power outage, e.g., limited communication, limited office functions, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS

HMEBs:

- Begin a discussion with key internal stakeholders about the benefits of working with local emergency response agencies, especially EMAs.
- Discuss and seek approval for sharing of educational material and any written or not written emergency plans/policies/procedures (especially and including power outage information) with emergency responder group. Please Note: any plans/info sent to Ronda for review by the community emergency responders group (EMA, ARC, Hospitals, Health Dept., SIU) will be used only to identify the important aspects in HMEBs emergency response in order to coordinate activities and information sharing with EMAs. If any educational information or HMEB response plans/procedures were revised as a result of the May 8th storm, please summarize what was revised and send to Ronda as well.
- Discuss and seek approval for the need to acquire limited client data to go to EMAs. EMAs have initially recommended that it would be helpful to have list of respiratory-based clients and the names of the electric and water companies they utilize
- If approved, provide Ronda at Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department (FWBCHD) with 1) any emergency-based educational materials or verbal information shared with clients and, 2) any written or not written emergency plans/policies/procedures (in particular what to do in a power outage). Discuss internally to determine if your business would be willing to acquire certain, limited client data for access by EMAs in an emergency situation. If so, please review the ARC/FEMA release of information and provide suggestions on how form can be revised for HMEBs use and if there are other types of information that would be helpful (in addition to power/water suppliers). Having select types of information pre-identified may be very valuable since these individuals with respiratory needs may not be currently reached through planning and outreach efforts through the Franklin-Williamson Special Needs Assessment Panel (FW-SNAP).
- Also discuss internally the hospitals' proposal about HMEBs working cooperatively with other equipment suppliers in an emergency, like the cooperative relationship Heartland Regional and Herrin Hospitals have during emergencies. HMEBs and their clients would benefit in the pulling of local resources during emergencies.
- As you discuss these issues within your organization, please capture any additional thoughts or suggestions, especially those relating to community-based emergency planning.
- In order to include other HMEBs, not present at the meeting, Ronda will be providing a list of the HMEBs that she currently has. If you would, please review and let her know if there are other HMEBs or associated organizations that should be included in our community discussion.
- Allocating funds for a back-up generator for your business is a very good use of money.

EMAs:

- Discuss and identify important information that may be obtained from customers with respiratory conditions that would be helpful for EMAs in county planning and response.

- Upon receipt of the ARC/FEMA release of information form, please review and make suggestions on how to adapt the form to apply to respiratory clients (already suggested power and water companies to be identified).
- EMAs are to pull May storm records, in particular special needs calls, and forward to SIU, Rehabilitation Institute, Dr. D. Shane Koch, dskoch@siu.edu so he and his team can review and analyze these records. I believe they will be able to provide a summary that may be helpful in our continuing planning.
- Meet with Ronda (Health Dept.), ARC, Hospitals and SIU to review HMEB emergency plans and provide suggestions for improvement.
- Work with FWBCHD and other response agencies in determining short and long-term respiratory-based emergency planning issues.

Hospitals:

- Discuss internally and identify important power outage hospital issues, if needed. Come up with any recommendations on how these issues can be addressed through county planning. In particular, if you would provide specific information that people with respiratory needs during a power out would need to know: where people can go, any regulations or limitations (mentioned earlier that people needed to be self-sufficient, not needing assistance), any additional information that can be included in community protocols and public information campaign.
- Upon receipt of the ARC/FEMA release of information form, please review and make suggestions on how to adapt to respiratory clients.
- Meet with Ronda, ARC, Hospitals and SIU to review HMEB emergency plans and provide suggestions for improvement.
- Work with FWBCHD and other response agencies in determining short and long-term issues related with the REPC.

ARC:

- Search for the ARC/FEMA release of information form and provide any comments on how form might be adapted for respiratory clients. Provide form Ronda, EMAs, and hospitals. (EMAs have initially requested that individual's power and water companies be identified.)
- Review ARC power outage response and identify issues/important information that can be shared with and addressed by the REPC.
- Meet with Ronda, ARC, Hospitals and SIU to review HMEB emergency plans and provide suggestions for improvement.
- Work with FWBCHD and other response agencies in determining short and long-term issues related with the REPC.

Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department:

- Ronda will type meeting notes and share with REPC.
- Ronda will pull a few previous SNAP meeting minutes and forward to HMEBs, along with an invitation to attend the next SNAP meeting on September 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The September meeting will meet at Franklin Hospital, in their board room. Quarterly SNAP meetings alternate between Franklin and Williamson counties.

- Ronda will share REPC contact information with everyone, and provide periodic updates.
- Ronda will receive, review, and conduct a content analysis of HMEB emergency preparedness literature [forwarding to SIU].
- Ronda to meet with EMAs, ARC, Hospitals and SIU to review HMEB emergency plans, including power outage, and provide suggestions for improvement (review and conduct a content analysis of HMEB power outage emergency policies/procedures/plans).
- Upon receipt, Ronda will forward the ARC/FEMA release of information form to HMEBs for review and comment.
- Ronda will establish a follow-up meeting with county emergency response agencies, after HMEBs have sent in their emergency plans/procedures (esp. power outage) info. This responder meeting will focus on review of general HMEB responses during emergency situations, information sharing, and next steps.
- Ronda will work with SIUC Rehabilitation Institute to contact national respiratory-based advocacy organizations to seek additional input and assistance.

SIU Rehabilitation Institute (entire section added on or after 9/16/10):

Educational Material

- Track in-coming HMEB educational material sent from FWBCHD.
- Review educational materials (verbal/written) to determine types of information conveyed and categorize various types of information. Identify what was most common types of information provided
- Conduct research to seek additional educational information, categorize this information as well.
- Identify the gaps in current educational material after reviewing various, current HMEB educational material and research on topic; share results with emergency responder review group.

HMEB Emergency Plans/Procedures

- Track in-coming emergency plans sent from FWBCHD.
- Review HMEB emergency plans/procedures (verbal/written) and categorize various types of information. Identify what was most common types of information provided
- Conduct research to seek additional emergency plan/procedure information, categorize this information as well.
- Identify the gaps in current HMEB plans/procedure and research on topic; share information with emergency responder review group.

Other

- If financial barriers are hindering people with respiratory-based equipment from purchasing additional equipment that would help them manage in an emergency (power outage), it might be interesting to see if any of the national advocacy groups could help in any way, e.g., negotiating for a special price or spread payments out over several months?

FUTURE PLANNING INFO DISCUSSED IN INITIAL REPC MEETING

- People with life-dependent equipment need to immediately notify their home medical supplier in a power outage
- Last resort-location of ARC and ARC-associated shelters – outline conditions for contact.
- ARC has 6 – extra large beds; Fox, and possibly SISA, indicated they had extra large beds, too? Add info to Special Needs Annex.
- Oxygen providers with liquid oxygen tanks can fill smaller tanks from larger tanks.
- EMS did some checking of home oxygen patients during storm.
- EMAs stated that it would be better if HMEBs could contact the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) early in the process, before the issue becomes critical, when noticing a potential shortage in oxygen or other life-saving medical supplies/equipment.
- Heartland plans to discuss the possibility of utilizing their business building in an emergency as an alternate site, possibly to be used for public/community-based needs. Temporary, back-up generator considerations are being looked into for this building.
- Issue of concern for hospitals when discharging patient with no electricity at home.
- Responder meeting – discuss utility in Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program to address special needs – use in outreach/education campaign?
- Would it help EMAs/SNAP/special needs response if HMEBs’ client lists had most critical individuals indicated?
- Can anything be done to address “tank hoarders?”
- Would it be helpful to have HMEBs proactively call most critical clients during emergencies, if possible?
- Hospitals were okay with assisting people with CPAP machines, but will only accept if they do not require medical assistance.
- Hospital issues of concern -- people with CPAP, oxygen needs, or other needs were just dropped off at hospitals.
- Some individuals with CPAP needs were referred to Marion Senior Citizens Center.
- What is the capacity of the Marion Senior Citizens Center, 40-50 cots?
- How do HMEBs secure important supplies, equipment? What do they do when critical supplies run out?
- Methodist and Catholic churches – Parish nurses – Parish nurse camp. Possible Health Dept. vols.