

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND
RECOVERY

Date: 10/23/2014	ATTENDANCE
Time: 09:30 AM to 11:51 AM	Devlin X
Place: HCR 0112	Eddins X
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Senator Lambert</u>	Garcia A
	Haskins X
This Report was prepared by <u>Erin Vanderberg</u>	Herreid X
	Jani X
	Markwell X
	Saine X
	Ziegler X
	Nicholson E
	Lambert X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Call to Order	Committee Discussion Only
Ebola Pandemic Update	Witness Testimony and Committee Discussion
Department of Public Safety Briefing	Witness Testimony and Committee Discussion
Review of Continuity of Operations Planning	Committee Discussion Only
Review the LEPRRC Final Report	Committee Discussion Only

09:31 AM -- Call to Order

Senator Lambert, chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Senator Lambert discussed the purpose of the Legislative Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Committee (LEPRRC), and introduced guests at the table and in the audience.

09:37 AM -- Ebola Pandemic Update

A panel of presenters representing state health agencies came to the table to provide a briefing of the state's response to the ebola pandemic, including Dr. Larry Wolk, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE); Dr. Mark Johnson, Colorado Medical Society; Pat Conroy, University of Colorado Hospital; Dr. Michelle Barron, University of Colorado Division of Infectious Diseases; John Douglas, Tri-County Health Department representing the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials; Gail Finley, Colorado Hospital Association; and Colleen Casper, Colorado Nurses Association. Members of the committee were provided a memorandum on the ebola pandemic prepared by Legislative Council Staff (Attachment A).

09:40 AM -- Dr. Wolk, representing the CDPHE, provided an overview of the ebola pandemic to the committee. He stated that the countries of concern are in West Africa, specifically Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. He stated that as of October 22, 2014, there were 9,915 cases of ebola, with a little more than half the cases having lab confirmation, and 4,555 of those cases resulting in death. He said that in the United States, there have been three cases and one death. Dr. Wolk discussed the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) response to the ebola pandemic, specifically its funneling of travelers from the West Africa region to five U.S. airports and the health screening facilities set up at these airports. He discussed the Colorado-specific response plan, and explained the public information campaign called "Facts not Fear." He showed the information graphics to the committee that the CDPHE is using to explain the event (Attachment B), which are also available on the state's ebola response website, www.colorado.gov/ebola. He discussed the use of the website, the helpline (COHELP 303-389-1687 or 877-462-2911), social media, and public service announcements to disseminate ebola-related information to and answer questions from Colorado residents. Earlier in the week, the CDPHE hosted a media briefing. For health professionals, a campaign focused on the principles of "Ask, Isolate, Call" has been rolled out. This entails health care providers asking about travel, exposure to persons with ebola, and symptoms of every patient. When a patient meets criteria, they are to be isolated in a private room. Finally, the health professional should call CDPHE and hospital leadership so the response to the case can be coordinated appropriately.

09:49 AM

Dr. Wolk began responding to questions from the committee. He responded to a question about the infection of nurses in Dallas, Texas, stating that the CDC was still investigating the event. He responded to another question about the statistics and public notification efforts around enterovirus and D68. He responded that the "Facts not Fear" slogan was the basis of these campaigns as well, and discussed the statistics of each virus.

09:57 AM

The panel continued responding to questions from the committee about the nature of the ebola threat and concerns about non-compliant ebola patients; coroner and first responder protocols; and the chain of patient custody and whether or not the state is considering implementing a quarantine protocol.

10:11 AM - Dr. Mark Johnson of the Colorado Medical Society (CMS), which represents 8,000 physicians in Colorado, delivered his prepared remarks to the committee. He stated that the CMS was taking the ebola threat very seriously. He said that his organization had received a lot of questions from its membership and was in the process of preparing a training seminar to help prepare and equip them. Mr. Johnson responded to a committee request to characterize the questions coming in. He stated the questions were mainly about ensuring personal protective equipment (PPE) is in place and that ample training has been received to use it properly.

10:17 AM -- Ms. Gail Finley of the Colorado Hospital Association delivered her prepared remarks to the committee. She stated that all state hospitals are on high alert for ebola. She explained the different facilities of hospitals in the state -- all hospitals have a minimum capacity to "ask, isolate, and call," but not all hospitals have the physical space to contain patients and transfers will be involved. She discussed the biocontainment facilities available in the country. She compared the response to trauma patients to the response to ebola patients and stated that the arrangements being made are conceptually similar. She noted that three hospitals in Colorado have stepped forward as capable of hosting ebola patients from anywhere -- Denver Health, University of Colorado Hospital, and Children's Hospital.

10:26 AM

Ms. Finley responded to questions from the committee about biocontainment facilities, PPE supplies, differences in the state's hospitals, and arrangements between hospitals and Emergency Medical Services providers. Ms. Finley stated that hospitals are fully equipped with PPE and discussed the federal supply caches.

10:33 AM -- Mr. Pat Conroy of the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) delivered his prepared remarks to the committee. Mr. Conroy discussed his work in emergency preparedness at the UCH. He discussed the issue of information overload and the changing dynamic of PPE. He also discussed the costs to healthcare institutions.

10:40 AM -- Dr. Michelle Barron of the University of Colorado's Division of Infectious Diseases discussed the infection prevention and control role. She discussed universal precautions, the history of epidemics, the public health role of hospitals, and the effectiveness of simulations and drills. She and Mr. Conroy responded to questions from the committee about PPE guidelines.

10:53 AM

The panel responded to additional questions from the committee related to land travel and disinfection.

11:03 AM

Members of the committee thanked the panel for their presentation. The chair asked all panelists for their input on necessary legislation, state funding priorities, or closing thoughts. Dr. Wolk thanked the chair and stated that he would work with panelists to prepare recommendations. Mr. Conroy discussed funding at the federal level, specifically through the Hospital Preparedness Program.

11:08 AM -- Colleen Casper of the Colorado Nurses Association, which represents 50,000 registered nurses in the state, suggested that resources be directed to exploration and gap analysis, in concert with hospitals and the biotech industry. The committee asked Ms. Casper to discuss any preparedness concerns on behalf of the CNA. She discussed the incident in Texas, changing preparation standards, and PPE training.

11:12 AM

The panel responded to a question from the committee on what is being done to advance the vaccine and prevent the disease. John Douglas of the Tri-County Health Department discussed the vaccine timeline and the history of the disease.

11:15 AM

The chair called a recess.

11:28 AM -- Department of Public Safety Briefing

The chair called the meeting back to order.

11:29 AM - Stan Hilkey, newly appointed Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), came to the table to introduce himself to the committee. Director Hilkey discussed his background in local government affairs, most recently as the elected sheriff of Mesa County. He responded to questions from the committee about the electronic discovery system he implemented while in his role as sheriff. Senator Lambert requested that Director Hilkey make future recommendations for legislation to the committee as needed. Director Hilkey stated that members of his staff were available to answer questions specific to ReadyOp and capitol security.

11:35 AM -- Kevin Klein, Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) in DPS, came to the table to discuss ReadyOp. He explained the implementation process for the communications platform and responded to questions from the committee about mechanisms in place in DPS to measure and respond to shortfalls in the communication system.

11:39 AM -- Review of Continuity of Operations Planning

The chair requested an update on summer Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning efforts throughout the legislative agencies.

11:40 AM -- Erin Reynolds, Legislative Council Staff, addressed the committee. She stated that members of the legislative agencies had completed a course on Mission Essential Functions planning which was presented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and hosted by DHSEM. The legislative agencies employed this training to update their COOPs, which had last been updated in 2006. She stated that these updated COOPs were now uploaded to ReadyOp. Additionally, she stated that the agencies have begun regular independent tests of the ReadyOp system.

11:42 AM -- Review the LEPRRC Final Report and Other Business

The chair requested an overview of the final report.

11:42 AM -- Nicole Myers, Office of Legislative Legal Services, addressed the committee and provided an overview of the draft 2014 LEPRRC Final Report. The report will be available on the LEPRRC website at www.colorado.gov/lcs/leprrc.

11:48 AM

The chair apprised the committee of his recent conversations with the Federal Bureau of Investigation related to matters of legislative security and asked for the committee's participation in continued conversations in this vein. He stated that the next meeting of the committee would be dependent on the new legislative membership, and would likely happen early in the 2015 session.

11:51 AM

The committee adjourned.