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ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Special Edition

IPHA TAKES LEAD TO ASSESS ILLINOIS' PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL READINESS

I am pleased to announce the Illinois Public Health Association's new partnership with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) to conduct a comprehensive public health and medical preparedness assessment, based on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Target Capabilities List.

Recently, ITTF completed the FEMA State Preparedness Report Survey Tool, a core capabilities survey intended to provide data on areas of unmet compliance, and resource allocation needs. As a result, ITTF is interested in a more in depth review of the questions and answers and the opportunity to utilize that information as a working outline of identification of unmet need and areas for further focus of attention. IPHA's broad membership and organizational relationships, with cross-over interest among multiple response communities, makes us well-positioned to develop and conduct this follow-up project.

The results of the assessment, expected to be completed in December 2010, will provide the ITTF and Chicago MMRS Steering Committee with a greater understating of public health and medical preparedness in Illinois. IPHA will be assessing readiness through a process of interviews, document reviews, survey, and focus groups. The project team will take the information gathered to:

- (1) Establish percentage level scores for compliance with the individually outlined activities and underlying measures for each Target Capability outlined for medical, agricultural and surveillance areas of the FEMA Capabilities Assessment survey;
- (2) Identify and establish data on the current funding streams dedicated to or supporting activities, measures and overall target capabilities, as well as gaps where no funding or potentially insufficient funding is dedicated; and
- (3) Based on the above information and results, formulate scalable recommendations for areas of opportunity to enhance Illinois' capabilities and readiness in responding to situations that would fall under the areas of medical, agricultural or surveillance readiness.

IPHA values new initiatives, such as this, that can further develop organizational partnerships, as well as support our mission and strategic plan. I look forward to updating our membership on project activities and information learned.

James R. Nelson

James R. Nelson, Executive Director