

# Western Massachusetts Health & Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC)

Newsletter - January 2017

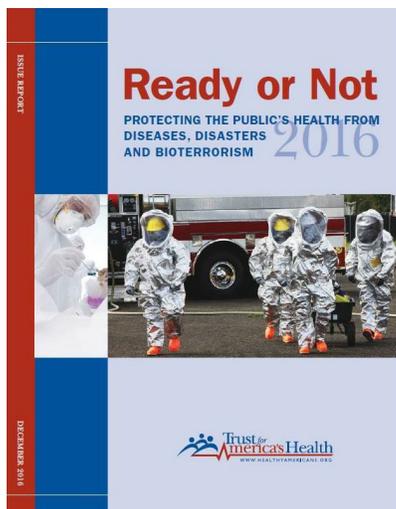
## News and Updates

### MA DPH OPEM Director Announces Retirement

Mary Clark, Director of the Department of Public Health Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM) announced her retirement during this week's quarterly stakeholder conference call with DPH Commissioner Bharel. Mary later issued the following statement:

"After 9 years as Director of Preparedness at MDPH, I am getting ready to retire. In order to have strong succession planning in OPEM, I have agreed to stay as a senior advisor 4 days a week. I will be focused on supporting key initiatives within OPEM such as Crisis Standards of Care, patient tracking and family reunification following a mass casualty incident, and integration of Department-wide and bureau- specific response and continuity of operations plans and guidance. I will also provide support for the EP grant application process for the new Cooperative Agreement. Kerin Milesky, current Deputy Director, has agreed to serve as the Acting Director of OPEM during this transition. Kerin began to work at DPH as a senior planner in 2012 and was promoted to Deputy Director of OPEM last year. This leadership transition will take place in mid-February. We are committed to working together to make the transition as seamless as possible."

We congratulate Mary on her pending retirement, and wish Kerin all the best as she assumes the role of Acting Director!



### MA Only State to Achieve Top Ranking in National Preparedness Assessment

Massachusetts has been recognized by the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) as the most prepared state in the nation when it comes to preventing, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks, bioterrorism, and natural and man-made disasters.

The Commonwealth was identified as the only state to have achieved 10 out of 10 public health preparedness indicators in the TFAH report [Ready or Not 2016? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism](#).

Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.

The indicators provide a snapshot of efforts to prevent and prepare for health threats in

states and within the healthcare system based on high-priority areas and concerns. Massachusetts' score reflects work across the MA Dept. of Public Health on health security preparedness, flu vaccination, climate change readiness, food safety, healthcare associated infections, and state public health laboratory biosafety measures.

## HMCC Emergency Coordination Plan Tested

Last week, public health, healthcare system, and emergency management leaders from throughout western Massachusetts gathered to participate in the first tabletop exercise of the western MA HMCC Emergency Coordination Plan. The group was guided by the Harvard School of Public Health in examining a scenario in which the region is impacted by a hurricane, allowing the leadership to examine the role the HMCC would play in healthcare system response coordination.



Healthcare, public health, and emergency management leaders discuss the HMCC regional coordination plan.

We were joined that day by representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) as they visited the state for a regular site visit.

Harvard will work with the HMCC staff and Steering Committee to develop an Improvement Plan based on the findings from the exercise. Any questions or concerns about the regional emergency coordination plan can be directed to [Mark Maloni](#).



Access the recorded webinar here:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1138947091765558274>

**TRACIE**  
HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Learning More About the 2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities  
January 11, 2017

**ASPR**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## Archived Webinar on ASPR Capabilities Reorganization Now Available Online

The ASPR TRACIE Webinar, "Learning More About the 2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities" was held on January 11th to walk stakeholders through the new organization of the ASPR capabilities and how they intersect with healthcare Coalitions, PHEP funds, and the new CMS rules. You can access the recorded webinar [here](#).

## Upcoming Trainings

### Training Opportunity - Hospital Incident Command System (HICS): Response to Emergencies in Healthcare Facilities

This 4-hour course provides an overview of the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) Fifth Edition. Students will learn the benefits of HICS and its application in a healthcare environment, **including adaptations for community health centers and other healthcare settings**. This course is roughly



**Hospital Incident Command System (HICS):  
Response to Emergencies in Healthcare Facilities**

Tuesday, March 14, 2017  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Check in begins at 12:30 PM

Baystate Health Systems  
Conference Center  
361 Whitney Avenue  
Holyoke, MA 01040

To register for this course, please visit: <https://delvalle.bphc.org/hica>  
For questions about registration, please contact [delvalle@bphc.org](mailto:delvalle@bphc.org)

This 4-hour course provides an overview of the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) Fifth Edition. Through practical scenarios and interactive discussions, students will learn the benefits of HICS and its application in a healthcare environment, including adaptations for community health centers and other healthcare settings. The program reviews the basics of the HICS organizational structure, and incorporates best practices related to use of HICS forms and incident management.



All personnel staffing the Hospital Incident Management Team are required to complete ICS training in order to maintain NIMS compliance. This course is roughly aligned with the FEMA ICS-200 course and should prepare participants to complete the FEMA IS-200.HCa online exam.

Accreditation:  
This program was designed to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing, 244 CMR 5.00 for 4.8 contact hours of nursing continuing education.

Visit the DelValle Institute's Learning Center: <https://delvalle.bphc.org>



DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness • 788 Albany Street • Boston MA 02118 • (617) 343-1370 • [delvalle@bphc.org](mailto:delvalle@bphc.org)

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This training is being offered in Western MA on:

**Tuesday, March 14th**  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Baystate Health Systems Conference Center**  
361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke MA

**[REGISTER HERE!](https://delvalle.bphc.org/hica)**

for questions about registration, please contact [delvalle@bphc.org](mailto:delvalle@bphc.org)

## Save the Date -Upcoming Training - "Shelter Operations and Functional Needs Support Services"

The Region 1 HMCC will offer "Shelter Operations and Functional Needs Support Services" via the DelValle Institute in western MA (exact location TBA), on:

**Thursday, May 4th**  
**1-5 p.m.**

This 4-hour course will provide an overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) for general population shelters. The course provides an awareness-level overview for trained shelter staff in the basic shelter operations concepts related to the provision of FNSS that general shelter line level workers and supervisors may encounter during shelter operations.

Provision of FNSS enables individuals to maintain their independence in a general population shelter. Individuals requiring FNSS may have physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Others that may benefit from FNSS include women in later stages of pregnancy, elders, children, and people needing bariatric equipment.

We will issue further details later this winter. In the meantime, **please encourage your interested partners to save the date!**

## Web Links

[Region 1 HMCC homepage](#)

[Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council \(WRHSAC\)](#)

[Region 1 Multi-Agency Coordination Center \(MACC\) Project](#)

The Western MA HMCC is sponsored by the  
[Franklin Regional Council of Governments](#)

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[Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Preparedness](#)

**Tracy Rogers**  
HMCC Program Manager

413-774-3167 x 118  
[regionalprep@frcog.org](mailto:regionalprep@frcog.org)

**Mark Maloni**

HMCC Planning and Operations Coordinator

413-774-3167 x 154

[mmaloni@frcog.org](mailto:mmaloni@frcog.org)