**Planning Update for the Health and Human Resources Subpanel of the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Committee**

**Background**

Advanced planning started in early May for events that may occur on the August 12, 2017 anniversary of the Unite the Right Rally and civil unrest in Charlottesville. TJHD is working with key ESF 8 partners (UVA Health System, Charlottesville Fire Dept., OEMS, and NW RHCC) to assure critical field medical resource needs are met and behavioral health (Region 10 CSB) services are coordinated using a structured planning process.

**Scope/Potential Impact**

Mass gatherings commemorating the one-year anniversary of the August 12, 2017 civil unrest may occur in the Downtown area of Charlottesville and on the Grounds of the University of Virginia. Size and scope of any gatherings is unknown at this time because the City has rejected all permit requests related to the weekend of August 11/12. City officials, first responder agencies, and government partners are preparing for worst-case scenarios out of an abundance of caution.

**Potential Threats**

1. Physical confrontation between opposing protesters
2. Active shooter
3. Damage to physical structures
4. Violence directed at uniformed/government officials
5. Mass Casualty Incidents
6. Disruption of usual business processes

**Regional Planning**

The Thomas Jefferson Health District is part of a Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle Regional Planning Group working to establish and implement plans for potential events in August. A Unified Command consisting of local and state law enforcement and the Charlottesville Fire Department leads the Regional Planning Group and meets bi-weekly to facilitate information sharing, including unclassified intelligence reports from the Virginia State Police Fusion Center.

The TJHD Emergency Coordinator communicates updates from ESF 8 to the Unified Command regarding the status of field medical tent assets, development of behavioral health services plan, and work with local hospitals and the Regional Healthcare Coalition Center to establish regular reporting for local and regional situational awareness.

**Emergency Support Function 8: Public Health and Medical**

TJHD is the lead ESF 8 agency for information sharing and coordination during the planning process and at the EOC in August.

* Beginning in May, TJHD facilitated meetings between Charlottesville Fire, the University of Virginia Health System, the Healthcare Coalition, and key partners in VDH to discuss field medical needs. TJHD is also providing Unified Command and the Incident Management Team with regular updates from ESF 8 at the bi-weekly Regional Planning meetings.
* TJHD is coordinating weekly check-in meetings to assure situational awareness between ESF 8 Coordinating Agencies.
* TJHD, VDH, and the NW Regional Healthcare Coordination Center will participate in a series of meetings with the UVA Health System Incident Management Team.

**Coordinating Access to Medical Assets**

TJHD is working with the Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition to secure access to the Region’s Stabilization and Treatment in-Place (STiP) tent for August 10 – 13.

* The NW Region Healthcare Coalition voted to approve deployment of the STiP and equipment needed for operations.
* The STiP will be located at the Staging Area to treat minor injuries in an effort to minimize surge on the two local hospital systems.
* The STiP and its components are a regional asset purchased with ASPR funds.

**Behavioral Health Services**

Public and behavioral health identified that coordinated access to behavioral health services as a significant gap in the response to the events of August 11 and 12. To assure success in 2018 the Thomas Jefferson Health District and the Community Mental Health and Wellness Coalition worked with nationally recognized subject matter experts to conduct Psychological First Aid and Skills for Psychological Recovery training in June 2018.

* Approximately 34 current and new Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers participated in the trainings.
* Leaders from the local clergy and faith-based community also participated, as they were actively involved in providing support in the immediate aftermath of the civil unrest in 2017.
* Approximately 15 -20 MRC volunteers will provide access PFA and SPR at the Emergency Operations Center and at a facility designated specifically for behavioral health services.
* Local providers and the faith-based community will provide access to services at a church located near anticipated areas of activity and at two medical tents located in the Staging Area.

**Joint Information Center Planning**

The Health District’s PIO is a member of the Joint Information Center Planning Group and is serving as the Assistant Public Information Officer for Medial Relations at the JIC in August. The PIO joined the team shortly after serving as the PIO during Albemarle County’s response to floods that occurred in May. PIO activities during the planning process and in August include:

* Designing and disseminating public messaging for behavioral health support resources
* Managing media requests and reports at community briefings
* Contributing to the development of the JIC Plan
* Serving as the Assistant Public Information Officer for Media Relations

**VDH and Local Health District Support**

VDH staff and local emergency coordinators expressed interest in supporting TJHD in August:

* Two local emergency coordinators will work at least one shift each at the Emergency Operations Center
* One local health emergency coordinator will be a Liaison Officer between the Medical Tent and the EOC
* One Regional PIO is working in the JIC
* State level coordinators for planning at VDH and DBHDS may work in the behavioral health services location to be the link between the EOC and behavioral health services