

# THE PREPAREDNESS POST

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
YEAR 3, ISSUE 1

## Reorganization for Better Service *by Dean Penovich*

The Utah Department of Health's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Preparedness reorganized in January 2010 as a result of personnel changes and in an effort to economize due to funding issues. Leslie Johnson and Sharon Ormond retired after many years of employment with the Bureau. Mindy Johnson married and moved out of state, and Sharon Talboys elected to go to part-time status. We wish them all well.

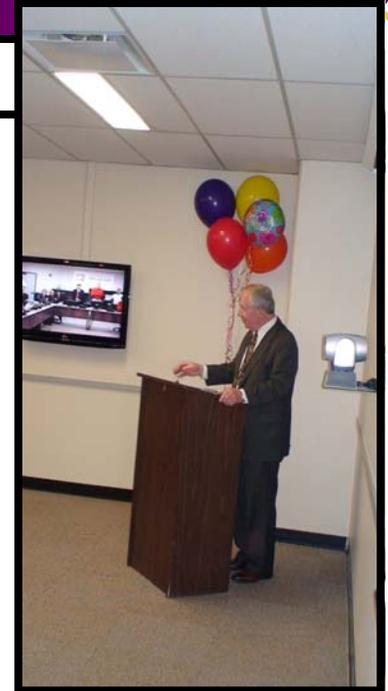
With this reorganization the Bureau now has two sections, EMS and Preparedness. All EMS and preparedness training, education, and exercises have now been joined into one new program, Professional Development. Other programs in the preparedness section include Emergency Management and Planning, Healthcare Preparedness, and Systems and Support.

Paul Patrick continues as the department's preparedness director and Dean Penovich serves as deputy preparedness director. Mike Stever continues in his role as the emergency manager. Kristin Gurley left

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) and has taken on the assignment of healthcare preparedness program manager. Dennis Bang manages the professional development program and Scott Munson has taken on the assignment of managing systems and support.

Other staff changes include Michelle Hale moving from EMS to preparedness to assist with systems and CDC grant support, Christine Warren, formerly with systems, is now the training coordinator, and Raul Garcia becomes exercise coordinator. Hannah Stream, who moved to the EMSC position, was replaced with new employee JoAnna Larsen, who will work as the preparedness planner. We also welcomed Michelle Muirbrook, who came to us from Vital Records and is now a part of the professional development team. Finally, Amy Melton Norman now provides administrative support to the entire Preparedness Section.

These changes will enable us to continue to move preparedness efforts forward within the state and with our partners.



Dr. Sundwall at the opening of the new UDOH DOC.

### To find Preparedness Training information:



<https://www.utah.train.org>

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## Worst Case: Life and Death Decisions in a Flu Pandemic

by Charla Haley

The 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak forced health officials to seriously consider what might happen when demand on hospitals during a worst-case public health emergency exceeds capacity. What if things get so overcrowded, doctors and hospitals are forced to decide which patients will be given access to lifesaving treatments? In the event of a major outbreak, how would hospitals handle the overflow?

Planning for this type of situation grew, in part, from the confusion that occurred in New Orleans hospitals following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Doctors struggled with how to prioritize patients for treatment. While many patients lived, some died. Lawsuits followed, and laws were changed to protect health workers from prosecution for their actions “in accordance with disaster medicine protocol.”

In Utah, health officials recognized that making life and death decisions during a public health emergency would put an additional burden on the system, unless some kind of planning was done beforehand. The state triage guidelines were developed by the UDOH with input from local health departments and a workgroup comprised of representatives from Intermountain Healthcare, MountainStar Healthcare, University of Utah Health Care and the Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association (UHA). (See the documents at [www.uha-utah.org](http://www.uha-utah.org).) Noting that application of the guidelines will require physician judgment at the point of patient care, the idea behind the proposals is to give priority to those patients for whom treatment would most likely be lifesaving. In other words, patients whose outcome would most likely improve with treatment would be given priority over those who would likely die even with treatment.

Utah’s pandemic triage guidelines outline categories of patients, such as the elderly, those with end stage heart failure and incurable cancer, who might be denied hospital care during a severe pandemic. In some cases, there is also the possibility of removing

certain patients from life support regardless of family permission. Rear Admiral Ann Knebel of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is quoted in a *New York Times* article asserting that it’s better to provide for the best outcome for the public at large. “You change your perspective from thinking about the individual patient to thinking about the community of patients,” says Knebel.

UDOH Executive Director, Dr. David Sundwall admits the guidelines will be a bitter pill for some to swallow. He says, “In any kind of triage situation, there won’t be adequate resources to go around. The medical community will be forced to make difficult decisions and I sincerely hope we never have to face allocating potentially life-saving services based on who is most likely to survive and improve.” Officials reiterate that these guidelines would only be activated in the event of pandemic influenza or other public health emergency declared by the Utah Governor’s office.



I never get  
the flu

## **2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit** *by Dean Penovich*

### **Engaging a Community for a Successful Public Health Response**



Every year, public health professionals and other partners at the federal, state and local levels gather to share ideas and best practices for planning for disasters and other public health emergencies. Last month, Utah Department of Health employees and representatives from Utah's local health departments attended the 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to public health professionals, conference attendees included tribal, territorial and international representatives. Many of the sessions focused on lessons learned as a result of the H1N1 pandemic.

The summit provided an opportunity to discuss key issues, including the National Health Security Strategy (NHSS) and how its implementation will affect future ASPR and CDC cooperative agreements. Participants also discussed and evaluated the H1N1 response and shared ideas that might improve the public health response to future pandemics.

Attendees were treated to speeches from the nation's leading public health officials. Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS), and Dr. Nicole Lurie, DHSS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), participated in the opening session, focusing on the response to the H1N1 outbreak. Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), delivered closing remarks and discussed ways to move public health forward by assessing progress, gaps and future strategies. Audience members heard firsthand the vision for strengthening the public health preparedness enterprise at the local, state and national levels.

Presentations from many of the sessions can be found at <http://www.phprep.org/2010/Agenda/Schedule.cfm>. Utah presentations included those by Mike Stever, UDOH Emergency Manager and a joint presentation by Kevin McCulley, Association for Utah Community Health, and Linda Stearns, Oquirrh View Community Health Center.

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**UDOH Web sites:**

[health.utah.gov](http://health.utah.gov) (main)  
[health.utah.gov/preparedness](http://health.utah.gov/preparedness)  
[health.utah.gov/ems](http://health.utah.gov/ems)



**Promote business, community and workplace preparedness:  
[www.BeReadyUtah.com](http://www.BeReadyUtah.com)**

**Professional Development Zone**

**Would You Call Yourself a Leader?**

*By Christine Warren*

Leadership isn't about position or title, power or authority, celebrity or wealth, family or genetics. It's also not something best left for a chosen few. Leadership is everyone's business! Leadership is about relationships, personal credibility and what you do in your role as a leader. It's about an observable set of skills and abilities that are useful regardless of the situation. And as a skill, with the right motivation, desire, practice, feedback, role models and coaching, leadership can be strengthened, honed, and enhanced.

If you find yourself in a challenging situation that requires setting a good example for others, looking ahead to the future, taking initiative to change the status quo, building teamwork and trust, and encouraging others to succeed - then you are in a situation that requires leadership. You are a leader.

The first place to look for leadership is within yourself. Be reflective. Consider what others see in you that would make you a good leader. You might want to focus on the qualities you lack to make you a good leader. Honestly measure and assess your current leadership strengths and weaknesses. As you stay determined to overcome your leadership obstacles and enhance your leadership qualities, you will make a difference within your personal and working environment, and within the community you serve.

Take the challenge and liberate the leader within yourself. Make a plan for improvement and commit to learn, stretch, and develop as a leader. Through your leadership journey, you will feel more empowered and capable to accept the challenges of leadership.

Adapted from an article by Barry Posner, *The Leadership Challenge*

**Upcoming events—March—July 2010**

Date	Conference/Course/ Exercise	Contact	Location Registration
March 25	<b>Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) Course</b>	Lanette Sorensen <a href="mailto:lannettesorensen@utah.gov">lannettesorensen@utah.gov</a> (435) 994-1277	<b>Jordan Valley Medical Center</b> <b>NO COST</b> Register on U-TRAIN <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> #1007471
April 2	<b>2010 EMS Conference:</b> Sponsored by Utah Valley Regional Medical Center	(801) 357-2135	<b>PROVO</b> <b>\$50 per person for Friday</b>
April 5	<b>Refugee Conference</b> Healing Trauma Today Preparing for Disasters	Rich Foster Rfoster@utah.gov	<b>Horizonte Center</b> <b>Salt Lake City</b>

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**Upcoming events—March—July 2010  
(continued)**

Date	Conference/Course/ Exercise	Contact	Location Registration
April 6-8	Lt. Governor's Commission on Volunteers Conference <a href="http://www.volunteers.utah.gov">www.volunteers.utah.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.volunteers.utah.gov">www.volunteers.utah.gov</a>	Hilton—Salt Lake City <b>\$119 by 3/15/2010</b> <b>\$129 after</b>
April 8	Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) Course	Lanette Sorensen <a href="mailto:lanettesorensen@utah.gov">lanettesorensen@utah.gov</a> (435) 994-1277	American Fork Hospital <b>NO COST</b> Register on U-TRAIN <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> #1007471
April 13-14	Animals in Disaster Workshop <b>UDOH Co-Sponsor</b>	Utah Animal Response Coalition Dr. Warren Hess Assistant State Veterinarian <a href="mailto:wjhess@utah.gov">wjhess@utah.gov</a>	Marriott University Park— Salt Lake City
April 19-20	University of Tennessee Food Vulnerability Assessment	Dr. Chris Crnich <a href="mailto:ccrnich@utah.gov">ccrnich@utah.gov</a>	<b>FREE</b> <b>SLC –Dept. Agriculture</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl - Main Conference Room of the UDAF Bldg.
April 22-23	Utah Responds: MRC/ UDOH Hospital Preparedness Conference <b>Co-Sponsors: MRC UDOH Preparedness</b>	Lanette Sorensen, Chair <a href="mailto:lanettesorensen@utah.gov">lanettesorensen@utah.gov</a> Liz Tubbs Co-Chair <a href="mailto:Elizabethtubbs@utah.gov">Elizabethtubbs@utah.gov</a>	<b>UDOH / MRC Co-Sponsor</b> <b>Snow Bird</b> Register on UTRAIN <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a>
May 10-12	Utah Public Health Association Conference <a href="http://www.upha.org">www.upha.org</a> <b>UDOH Co-Sponsor</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>	ZERMATT – Midway
May 12-16	Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness, and Response Training Summit	<a href="http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org/">www.integratedtrainingsummit.org/</a>	Nashville, Tennessee

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Upcoming events—March—July 2010

Date	Conference/Course/ Exercise	Contact	Location Registration
May 13-15	<b>UAEMT Conference</b> <a href="http://www.uaemt.org">www.uaemt.org</a>	Jim Hansen, EMS RC jwhansen@utah.gov	St. George <b>\$175.00 by 4/10/2010</b> <b>\$220.00 after</b>
May 16-19	UCLA CPHD <b>Conference on Public Health and Disasters</b> <a href="http://www.cphd.ucla.edu">www.cphd.ucla.edu</a>		Torrance, CA <b>\$395 before April 16</b> <b>\$475 after</b>
May 18-20	<b>Public Safety Governor's Summit</b> <a href="http://www.publicsafety.utah.gov">www.publicsafety.utah.gov</a>	Judy Hamaker-Mann (801) 556-7652 <a href="mailto:jhamaker@utah.gov">jhamaker@utah.gov</a> Patrice Thomas (801) 244-0071 <a href="mailto:pthomas@utah.gov">pthomas@utah.gov</a>	Ogden, UT <b>\$150</b>
June 17-18	<b>EMS Leadership Conference</b> <b>EMS Training/Education</b> <b>EMS System Improvement</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a> Allen Liu <a href="mailto:aliu@utah.gov">aliu@utah.gov</a>	TBD
June 22 1—3 p.m.	<b>WEBINAR:</b> Difference Between Mass Casualty and Disasters Presentation by UCLA CPHD <b>Sponsor: UDOH Preparedness</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>	<b>NO COST</b>
July 20-22	<b>Workshop: Mass Antibiotic Dispensing (MAD) and Public Information &amp; Communication (PIC)</b> <b>Sponsor: UDOH Preparedness SNS and Federal SNS</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a> Don Wood, SNS Coordinator <a href="mailto:donwood@utah.gov">donwood@utah.gov</a>	Weber/Morgan Health Department <b>NO COST</b>

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**Additional Training from Homeland Security**

To register for Homeland Security Trainings go to UTRAIN at: [www.utah.train.org](http://www.utah.train.org)

**Homeland Security Training**

**April 6-7 - Emergency Planning and Special Needs** Location: East Capitol Hill Bldg. - Copper Room

**April 15-16 - ICS-400 Advanced** Location: Box Elder Co. Sheriff Off. - Brigham City

**April 19-20 - ICS-400 Advanced (afternoon/evening)** Location: Price (Reg.6)

**April 20-21 - Homeland Security Planning for Local Government** Location: East Capitol Hill Building - Copper Rm.

**April 28-29 - ICS-400 Advanced/sponsored by CSEPP** Location: East Capitol Hill Bldg. - Copper Room

**May 4-5 - EOC Management and Operations/sponsored by CSEPP** Location: Capitol campus

**May 11-13 - COOP Devolution Planning Workshop** Location: Capitol campus

**May 25-26 - ICS-300 Intermediate/sponsored by CSEPP** Location: Capitol campus

**June 8-9 - G-703 NIMS Resource Management and Operations/sponsored by CSEPP** Location: Capitol campus

**June 22-23 - G-362 Multi Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools** Location: Capitol Campus

**June 29-30 - ICS-400 Advanced/sponsored by CSEPP** Location: Capitol Campus

**Community Support Liaison Contact info:**

Liaison jurisdiction map at: <http://homelandsecurity.utah.gov/homelandsecurity/Liaisons>

**Region 1:** Kimberly Giles (801) 209-7542

**Region 2:** Kim Hammer (801) 209-6238

**Region 2a:** Jesse Valenzuela (801) 707-0930.....(Salt Lake County area liaison)

**Region 3:** Jeff Gallacher (801) 209-5236

**Region 4:** Scott Alvord: (801) 703-1924

**Region 5:** Mechelle Miller (801) 707-1631

**Region 6 & 7:** Martin Wilson (801) 664-5861

**Supervisor:** Ty Bailey 801-232-3812 [tybailey@utah.gov](mailto:tybailey@utah.gov)