

CHARTER

FEDERAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING INTERAGENCY GROUP

for Public Health and Medical Disaster Preparedness and Response

Purpose

This charter establishes the organizational structure and guidelines and identifies authorities for the Federal Education and Training Interagency Group for Public Health and Medical Disaster Preparedness and Response, herein referred to as the FETIG.

Authority

Section 304 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (P.L. 109-417) (PAHPA) and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21, Public Health and Medical Preparedness as well as other applicable laws and executive directives.

Function

The function of the FETIG is to serve as the coordinating mechanism for public health and medical disaster preparedness and response core curricula, training, and education across Federal agencies, departments, and other stakeholders. The FETIG will:

- Make recommendations regarding the establishment of an academic Joint Program in Disaster Medicine and Public Health housed at a National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. (Note: “academic” includes training and education (degree and non-degree) programs)
- Oversee the development of core competencies and commonality of knowledge, procedures, and terms of reference to ensure education, training and academic standardization within the Federal Government and communicate these to Federal, State, local, and tribal entities; academia; and the private sector
- Facilitate the translation of research findings to disaster-related medical and public health practice
- Inform a research agenda in public health and medical disaster preparedness and response based upon Federal, State, local, and tribal priorities.

Public health and medical disaster preparedness and response activities address unintentional, intentional, or naturally occurring events, any of which may include Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and/or Explosive incidents. The Joint Program shall lead Federal efforts to develop and propagate core curricula, training, and research related to medicine and public health. The Center will be an academic center of excellence in disaster medicine and public health, coordinating resources and co-locating education and research in the related specialties of domestic medical preparedness and

response, international health, international disaster and humanitarian medical and public health assistance, and military medicine.

Structure

The following departments/agencies shall have representation on the FETIG: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Department of Transportation (DOT), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), US Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of State (DOS), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Labor (DOL) and others as defined by the FETIG. The FETIG shall be co-chaired by the undersigned Assistant Secretaries of HHS and DoD or their designees. Representatives to the FETIG will be designated by each of the above Assistant Secretaries and agency heads. Departments or agencies should have adequate representation by their relevant department/agency components. The FETIG shall not be larger than 30 members. Recommendations will be made by consensus of the FETIG.

External advice, consultation and recommendations may be provided by organizations such as the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB), the Institute of Medicine (IOM), academia, State/local/tribal government, private industry, international agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Meetings

The FETIG shall meet at least twice annually and may convene more frequently on an as-needed basis at discretion of the co-chairs. The co-chairs may establish working groups to assist the FETIG on specific topics within its range of operation. Working group membership may be drawn in whole or in part from the FETIG, seeking external subject matter experts when appropriate. Such working groups shall report directly to the FETIG with its findings and recommendations. A quorum for the FETIG to meet shall consist of a majority of FETIG members. The co-chairs shall provide administrative and staffing support to the FETIG.

Annual Cost Estimate

The total estimated annual cost for running the FETIG includes administrative and travel costs associated with FETIG meetings, when funds are available.

Reports

Meeting minutes will be recorded, approved by the co-chairs, and distributed among FETIG members. The FETIG will provide a consensus document on public health and medical emergency preparedness education and training to assist in the drafting of the National Health Security Strategy every four years beginning in 2009.

Termination Date

This charter shall terminate five years after the date it is established. At that time, the charter period may be extended by the signatories for additional time if deemed appropriate.

APPROVALS

The signature below indicates that I understand and agree to the structure, authorities and guidelines for the FETIG group.

Date

Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services

Date

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense

Date

Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security

Date

Undersecretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs

Date

Assistant Secretary (TBD), Department of Transportation

