

HICS FORM 202: INCIDENT OBJECTIVES



1. Incident Name: NWWIHERC Membership Meeting		2. Operational Period: February 7, 2025 0930-1130	3. Incident Location: In person at Barron County Justice Center EOC, WI with Virtual Option
5. Attendees in person and via Zoom: See attached list of organizations represented at the meeting.			
TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
Call to Order	Called to order by Darren Van Blaricom, Vice-Chair at 0930		
Welcome and introductions	Everyone in person introduced themselves. Welcomed all on Zoom.		
Additions to the agenda	None		
Minutes	Minutes from the December meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. Motion by Tom Hall and seconded by Ian Fisher to approve the December meeting minutes as written. Motion approved.		
Fiscal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship Form for 2024-25: We have already awarded \$16,900 or \$20,375 budgeted, so if you'd like to attend a conference prior to June 30, 2025, please submit an application sooner than later. The application can be found on our website under "Resources" www.nwwiherc.org 		
Regional Sharing and Updates	REAL Events or Exercises since December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Manning shared that there was a lockdown at Tamarack Health-Hayward due to a potential security threat related to a patient arriving by private vehicle. Discovered an issue with the computer program that controlled access doors. Have continued to do weekly testing since then and will soon move to monthly testing. Ian Fisher and Sarah Barahona reported on a sprinkler line freeze at Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake that happened during the last major cold snap. Resulted in 15 minutes of water flowing which flooded the registration area and has closed 5 rooms in the Emergency Department for now. Remediation is under way including industrial hygienist and air testing. Have utilized some Urgent Care and vacant OB beds to supplement the ED until repairs are made. Shell Lake Police Department held an active shooter exercise. Price County will be doing some Shelter training with the Red Cross in March. Hospitals , reminder, OPEHC is not collecting MATCH information this year.		
	Open Discussion Regarding FULL Hospitals		

- Dr. Haley led us in a discussion about the current surge we are seeing and asked the question, “what are some real-life things the HERC could be doing to support the situation”?
- Acknowledged there are no ‘easy answers’, many are complex systematic problems that will take many partners to attempt to fix.
- Recognition that hospitals are very full with many ED Boarders with acute needs. ICUs and specialty care clinics are also stressed. Concerns about patient flow which impacts the continuum of care. Realization that due to the current capacity it would only take a small event for there to be a significant crisis. Concerns about the stress on and morale of staff.
- Discussion about creation of a work group to explore the cascading effect that impacts all of our partners.
 - Recommendations:
 - How can we communicate with the public to “hold off” on non-emergent visits to the ED and EMS calls **without** discouraging people who really need emergency care from calling? Hard line to walk.
 - Can we educate skilled nursing home Providers regarding the skills and capabilities of care home staff to prevent transfers to Emergency Departments? Or make use of telehealth in a better way?
 - Can we encourage the creation of a shared transportation service to help get nursing home residents back to their facilities overnight (vs. staying in an ED bed overnight?)
 - Can we advocate or work with regulators, insurance companies, funding sources for changes?
 - Placement in care facilities is getting more difficult due to behavioral health and AODA issues.
 - Concerns about ongoing volunteer EMS agency staffing. Need to be able to pay staff a better wage. [EMS-Reliability-Report_March2023.pdf](#)
 - Are there any public health initiatives that could assist?
 - Continue to struggle with shortage of Mental Health beds in the region following the close of HSHS.
 - Would still find benefit in some type of coordination center to assist with finding beds. Northwest Connections does this for mental health patients including providing secure transport. What would it take to create this if not statewide, at least regionally?
 - Hospitals have found benefit in holding twice daily huddles via Teams to manage surge issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we find the courage to have some of these hard conversations? Thank you all who participated in this discussion. Continue to be creative and think out of the box for possible solutions.
Upcoming Training and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birkie is coming up February 19-22, 2025. Hoping for more snow!! Preparedness Practicum February 26, 2025, Brooklyn Center, MN. Great all-day conference. Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security March 10-12, Oneida Hotel, Green Bay, WI. CMS Partner Exercise: Tuesday, May 6, 0900-1130 Watch for more information soon! MN/WI Family Reunification Exercise, May 15: hosted by EMSC/Childrens Hospital in Milwaukee. Particularly looking at cross border participation and reunification. MRSE Exercise: June 3, 2025, 0830-1130 Decon Training for First Receivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 20, 0800-1700, Burnett Medical Center, Grantsburg April 3, 0800-1700, Amery Hospital, Amery April 10, 0800-1700, Cumberland Healthcare, Cumberland <p>Each class is limited to 20 people. Watch for information on when registration is open to everyone!</p> Training and Education opportunities are posted on the www.nwwiherc.org website under "Calendar". WEM Course Offerings: https://www.trainingwisconsin.org/schedule.aspx
RTAC Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHTLS (Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support): Two courses completed. Ladysmith, January 18, Birchwood, January 19.
Agency Partner Updates	<p>Western WI Public Health Readiness Consortia (WWPHRC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Exercise completed with 21 jurisdictions and over 500 participants. Those responsible for the Exec Summary and IP, please have them to Aimee by February 12. Save the Date for Regional Exercise 2026, January 27, 2026. Continue to monitor State dashboards showing Respiratory Illness, Wastewater Testing, data trends. Recent HAN regarding Ebola outbreak in Africa. Please continue to ask the travel question in all triage assessments! Some concern raised regarding incidents of necrotizing encephalitis with Influenza A. (Pediatric patient). <p>Wisconsin Emergency Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Northwest WEM Region is seeking a new Regional Director. James Williams has moved into a new position. <p>Medical Reserve Corps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications have been restored after a brief pause in the past few weeks. Efforts to teach Stop the Bleed and Psychological First Aid to volunteers.

	<p>WISCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John will be reaching out to each hospital to see if they would like training done on-site or virtually. (I understand with the high Influenza, COVID, RSV, etc. that in person may not be an option) • WISCOM Radios – should always be on and on the HRCORD 1 Clear talkgroup. Please DO NOT switch off the talkgroup unless instructed to do so. • WISCOM vs EMS B Radios – WISCOM radios DO NOT replace the EMS B radios that hospitals are required to have for communications with ambulances. • WISCOM as patient Report method – some hospitals are looking at this as an option. However, it should not be replacing the EMS B radio and the main WISCOM radio should not be used. The HRCORD1 radio is needed to serve as the redundant communications back-up to utilities/phones lines, etc. going down/offline • WISCOM 2.0 rollout – The NW WI/Region 1 is still a few years out and as updates become available for release, they will be passed along. When it starts to rollout it will have different timetables/funding/plans based upon the different discipline (i.e. Police, FIRE, EMS, Public Works, Hospitals, etc.) • Training needs survey: https://forms.gle/GmmcnFvgdXat9
Old Business	<p>Hazard Vulnerability Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year there were more conversations around evacuation as an elevated risk particularly given the current hospital capacity (absorbing evacuated patients). • Aimee shared a snapshot of the HVA from January 21, 2025 This will be sent out to the membership next week and posted on the website.
New Business	<p>Other Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robb Paulson from WWH went to a Baldwin Township meeting regarding proposed solar fields being discussed in St. Croix County. Some questions and concerns were expressed regarding the health and safety of these large solar fields. Elle Klasen from SCC public health provided input that there are no peer-reviewed health hazards of solar fields. Blastomycosis is present in the soil of St. Croix County. St. Croix County Board of Supervisors February 4th has more information and discussion around the solar fields: https://sccwi.portal.civicclerk.com/event/26/files/agenda/1503
Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Briseno-Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) Emergency Preparedness Specialist • Katherine Johnson is out with a sick child today and will reschedule.
Adjourn	Motion to adjourn Elise Anderson and Angel Maloney. Motion approved. Adjourned at 11:25 a.m.
Next Meeting:	Next Meeting: Friday, April 4 , 2025, 0930-1130 at Barron County EOC, 1420 Hwy 25, Barron, WI with Virtual Option

5. Prepared by : Natasha Brunell and Aimee Wollman	

Meeting Attendance in person and via Zoom: 0930-1130, February 7, 2025

NWWIHERC-Aimee Wollman

NWWIHERC Clinical Advisor-Dr. Kari Haley

Guest: James Briseno- Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council

Emergency Management:

- Eau Claire County-Val Desio
- Price County-Roxanne Kahan
- Rusk County-Tom Hall
- St. Croix County-Natasha Brunell

EMS/Air Medical

- Life Link III-Joe Belany and Ty Wiegman
- Mayo Clinic Ambulance-Kirk Gunderson
- Northwestern Municipal EMS-Nicki Gullickson
- Tilden Volunteer Fire-Kathy Shear

Home Care/Hospice:

- Aurora Community Health-Candace Wolf
- Aveanna Home Health-Robbi Pearce
- Heartland Hospice-Laurice Hillman
- Hearts of Gold-Barbara Jensen
- Mayo Home Health and Hospice-Samantha McDonald

Hospitals

- Advent Health-Amanda Brommer
- Amery Hospital-Alisa Lang, Kari Clark, and Darren Van Blaricom
- Burnett Medical Center-Todd Snyder
- Essentia-Superior- Angel Maloney
- Hudson Hospital-Krista Miller and Darren Van Blaricom
- Marshfield Medical Center-Ian Fisher
- Marshfield Medical Center-Eau Claire-Marcus Walden
- Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake and Ladysmith-Ien Novak and Sara Barahona
- Mayo Clinic Health System-Eau Claire- Bobby King

- OakLeaf Surgical Hospital-Chris Kirchman
- River Falls Area Hospital-Jake Olinske
- Spooner Health-Jenna Green and Pam Sedivy-Bemis
- Tamarack Health-Ashland and Hayward-Mark Manning
- Western WI Health- Robb Paulson
- Westfields Hospital-Darren Van Blaricom

Local and Tribal Public Health:

- Ashland County-Liz Kulbacki
- Bad River Tribal Health-Robert Houle
- Barron County Public Health- Karla Potts-Shufelt, Laura Sauve
- Bayfield County Public Health- Pete Morrisette
- Burnett County Public Health-Jessica DeMontigny
- Chippewa County Public Health- Jennifer Lenbom
- Douglas County Public Health-Cindy Freeberg
- Eau Claire City-County Health Department-Joe Kalscheur and Maddie Kalscheuer
- Pepin County Public Health-Heidi Stewart and Mark Larsen
- Pierce County Public Health-Darby DeGross
- Polk County Public Health-Jason Bosak
- Red Cliff Tribal Health-Natasha Trush
- Rusk County-Talhia Lueck
- Sawyer County Public Health- Joyce Knowlton, Julie McCallum and Mary Slisz-Chucka
- St. Croix County Public Health-Mary Wienke and Elle Klasen
- Washburn County Public Health-Jennifer Gilbertson, Elise Anderson and Mary Slisz-Chucka
- Western WI Public Health Readiness Consortium-Brittany Fry

Skilled Nursing Facilities/Assisted Living /Adult Family Homes

- American Lutheran Home-Menomonie-Randall Rennock
- Care & Rehab-Barron-Len Fast
- Chippewa Manor-Jill Gengler
- Cornell Health Services-Alex McConnell

- Ellsworth Health Services: Nancy Shafer & Doug Tembreull
- Glenhaven-Kevin Larson
- Meadowbrook of Bloomer-Kaiya Shrader
- St Croix County Health Care Center- Sandy Hackenmueller
- The Deerfield-Tim Coenen