

LEPC Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017
12:00 pm Walters State Community College

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Dr. Eric Powell of Walters State. Invocation was given by John Fritog. The pledge of allegiance was led by Dr. Eric Powell.

Old Business – Lindsey Horn presented information from the online survey sent to the LEPC members in October. Information included the percentage of individuals (who answered) that attend meetings, what aspect of the meeting they find most relevant, and how relevant the topics that are presented are to their business/family.

New business – Dr. Eric Powell presented on pandemics, epidemics, and endemics, their differences, and some statistics about the likelihood of such outbreaks, namely influenza, in the US and the impact that would have on our society.

The last pandemic was in 1918- the Spanish Flue which saw half the deaths in the first six months of outbreak. Dr. Powell gave a brief history of other well-known outbreaks such as the Black Death (Bubonic Plague), HIV/AIDS, Plague of Justinia, and the Antonine Plague.

Statistics show that for any given year, there is a 3-4% likelihood that a mild pandemic could occur, and a 0.3% chance that a harmful pandemic could occur. He explained that regardless of sector, one of the largest impacts of such an outbreak would be the economic setbacks from workers calling in sick, taking care of sick family, or afraid to come into work because they might contract the disease. The estimated death would be 2.5% for ages 18-40.

In the event of such an outbreak, it is estimated that there will be two million deaths.

The United States had mild pandemics in both 1957 and 1968 resulting in 100,000 deaths.

Isolation and Quarantine laws – when Ebola patient returned to Dallas, he was not honest about exposure to Ebola and family broke quarantine numerous times.

Federal government can issue Executive Order for quarantine for certain diseases: Plague, smallpox, yellow fever, Cholera, Diphtheria, viral hemorrhagic fever, infectious tuberculosis. It has been ninety-nine years since a federal mandated quarantine.

Dr. Powell also spoke about vaccines and how the process for creating vaccines is like predicting weather. Experts look at strands of viruses for around the world and test those against antibodies to see which strands react to determine the best options for vaccine. \$1 spent on vaccines gives \$10 in savings. In most recent study, vaccines prevented 32 million illnesses and saved over 700,000 lives. Adverse effects *can* happen but are rare.

At the end of the discussion, tables were asked to discuss whether they have thought about a pandemic situation and the effects of it, if they have a plan, and what they would do. Group discussions resulted in the topics of the economic impact – how industries such as production lines wouldn't be able to account for such a large percentage of its workers missing. The subject of first responders being vaccinated against numerous diseases was mentioned so as to keep those who would help others who are sick healthy and able to work. Education and the spread of information and resources was mentioned, as well as the health department discussing their plan in the event of an outbreak. Most individuals indicated that they had not thought about what would happen in the event of such an outbreak and loss of workers. Dr. Powell provided resources for plan templates as well as other information.

Dr. Powell then recognized Four Guys Stainless Steel Trucks for their contribution of lunch.

There were no other announcements and the meeting was adjourned.

The Morristown LEPC would like to thank *Four Guy's Stainless Steel Fire Trucks* for sponsoring the lunch from Subway.

Our next scheduled meeting to be held on April 11, 2017.