**Strike Force Grant Narrative Report**

**Report Date: December – April 2023**

The UI CPH Strike Force is considered an unofficial student organization and a zero-credit course.

**Position Hires**

Bonnie Rubin remains as the Faculty Sponsor and Tricia Kitzmann as the Program Coordinator

**Strike Force Membership, Recruitment and Media Presence**

Strike Force current active membership is 33 students, a reduction of 6 students from last report primarily due to academic and employment workloads. In total, 51 students have been recruited and have participated in Strike Force activities. *We are pleased that students, as they graduate, are seeking ways to continue being active in emergency response and event support including applying for jobs related to public health emergency response and preparedness. In addition, students who have graduated and returning to the College of Public Health for their masters’ degrees have indicated they plan to continue to be active in the Strike Force.*

The Strike Force was approved as a non-credit course in the College of Public Health starting Fall 2023 and is offered every semester. Currently, we are seeing 2-4 students registering for Strike Force as a course.

Students can choose to officially register for Strike Force, thus having this experience appear on their official transcript. The course is graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

Requirements to receive a Satisfactory include:

* Completing the FEMA IC 100, 200 and 800 on-line certifications
* Completed the HIPAA Compliance on-line certification
* Attending 50% of the monthly meetings
* Participating in at least one field experience event.

Course registration is not required to be a Strike Force member. If not registered as a course, the member will record their experience on their resumes.

Recruitment this past reporting period focused on mass emails to all registered CPH students, sent out by the CPH Student Services, announcements in the weekly Student Opportunity Update and by word-of-mouth by current Strike Force members.

**Required Training, Certifications and Student Participation Forms**

This is ongoing. Prior to being accepted as a member, students MUST complete the Student Participation Form, a comprehensive demographic/liability/responsibility form developed by UI Risk Management

The expectation is that new members will have completed all online courses within 60 days of joining the Strike Force. The required trainings and exercises help ensure that the Strike Force is capable of responding to public health emergencies.

The FEMA and HIPAA courses are on-line.

* FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100
* FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200
* FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-800.D: National Response Framework, An Introduction
* HIPAA - This is the CDC TRAIN site

Team members are presented Strike Force business cards upon completion of the University of Iowa Student Participation Form. They are presented the Strike Force t-shirt upon completion of the required training and certifications. Students are instructed to wear their Strike Force t-shirts at all field experiences in order to help the host and participants identify us, to create a team culture, and promote both public health in general and the College of Public Health Strike Force program.

**Strike Force Team Meetings**

Hybrid, in-person and Zoom only Strike Force meetings were held throughout the Spring semester on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, 6:00 – 8:00 PM These meetings discussed upcoming projects, projects and trainings for member participation. Updates from the work groups were provided. Meetings were well attended, with an average of 15 members. Total attendance for all 7 meetings was 107 students.

Monthly meetings are designed to have one meeting focused on business/field experiences with the other having a presentation or training aspect.

Completed Meeting presentations and trainings:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Presenter** | **# Participants** |
| Kick-Off and Orientation | B. Rubin & T. Kitzmann | 25 |
| Mass Casualty & Last Responder Program | Peter Teahan | 21 |
| UIHC Preparedness Program | Darren Pemberton, Director UIHC Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity (held at UIHC EOC) | 10 |
| CPR/AED Familiarization | Bruce McAvoy, UI Safety & Security | 9 |
| Experiences in Epidemiology and Public Health | Dr. Patricia Quinlisk | 19 |
| General Business Meeting | T. Kitzmann & B. Rubin | 17 |
| ICS Tabletop Exercise | B. Rubin & T. Kitzmann | 13 |
| Total Participants |  | **113** |

Future Presentations and Trainings:

* FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness, Virtual Instructor Led Trainings (VILT)
* CRASE – Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events
* Human Trafficking
* Mental Health First Aid
* Needs of Older Adults in Disasters Web-Based Training

**Exercises: Tabletop, Functional Full Scale**

* A tabletop Incident Command exercise based on a contaminated food outbreak on RAGBRAI was held in April – Participants: 13

**Organizational Continuous Work Groups**

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| --- | --- |
| **Work Group** | **# on Work Group** |
| Website Design & Updates | 2 |
| Social Media Development and Management | 2 |
| Orientation Checklist Project | 2 |
| Total Participation | **6** |

**Field Experiences**

The two major experiences were the *Spring Break Experience and the College of Public Health Stationary Tornado Exercise*, both sponsored by the Strike Force and its’ members.

1. Spring Break Field Experience – Functions and Integration of State, Regional and Local Response Agencies. March 2023 Participants: 6
   * Itinerary included:

* Iowa SEOC tour and overview
* Overview, tour and drill observation with the 71st Civil Support Team (WMD)
* Meeting state legislative representatives
* Participating in panel discussion with DHHS public health leaders including Dr. Kruse
* Tour of the Iowa Laboratory Facilities (SHL, IDALS & Medical Examiner)
* Observation and participation in Central Iowa Health Care Coalition Public Health Work Group
* Tour of Polk County EOC and Health Department
* Evenings with representatives of IPHA, Drake University Public Health program and the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative

1. College of Public Health Stationary Tornado Exercise, March 23

* Strike Force Participants: 13 CPH Floor Coordinator: 7
* This exercise was an informational, in place drill, planned for no more than 45 minutes to complete, to be held at the University of Iowa College of Public health Building. Exercise play was limited to occupants of the CPHB and Drill exercise team at the time of the exercise. A week prior to the statewide severe weather drill, the UI CPH Strike Force and CPHB Floor Coordinators visited every classroom, office, conference room and open areas to determine readiness of the building’s occupants in case of a tornado warning and to provide information on tornado warning response while in the building and personal emergency preparedness. The exercise was approved by the CPH Dean and Executive Committee and designed in conjunction with the Director of UI Emergency Management, the CPH Associate Dean for Finance and Administration and the Assistant Dean of Student Services. Materials created for this exercise included: the initial proposal for drill approval, HSEEP Exercise Plan, Player scripts, Floor plan maps and contact tracking forms, distribution brochure “Are You Prepared When a Tornado is Coming Toward the College of Public Health?”, media and signage alerts, a template for the AAR, and Participant Evaluation surveys (documents can be provided).
* Impact By-the-Numbers:
  + Total staff, faculty, and students informed: 197
  + Number of CPH readiness brochures distributed: 297
  + Total time to complete the drill: 30 minutes
* Strike Force After Action Summary
  + The instructions were clear and thorough. It was especially helpful to have the floor plans with the script and tracking sheets.
  + Recommendations: The majority of occupants who did not know where safe areas are in the CPHB were students. Everyone agreed **there** needed to be more information provided to the students on how to response since there are so many who have never lived in a tornado area. Ideas to address this were presented and forwarded to the CPH facilities director and the UI Director of Emergency Response.

**Additional Field Experiences**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Experience** | **Sponsor** | **Participants** |
| POD Exercise | Johnson County Public Health | 2 |
| Coralville Tornado Emergency Shelter volunteers | Johnson County EMA/Red Cross | 2 |
| National Female High School Wrestling Data Analysis | National Coaches Wrestling Association | 3 |
| UIHC Pediatric Mass Casualty Drill | D. Pemberton | 1 |
| Preparedness Inventory Project | Johnson County Public Health | 5 |
| Local Food Pantries | City and County | 2 |
| Iowa City School District Bike Rodeos | Bicyclists of Iowa City | 2 |
| Total Participants\* | \*Includes Exercises & Spring Break | **36** |

**Future Field Experiences**

* Back the Black, Make It OK campaign, Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, May 2023
* International Delegation from Morocco, Emergency Preparedness Best Practices sponsored by Global Ties Iowa – UIHC, May 22
* Project AWARE, July 2023
* RAGBRAI Coralville Overnight July 2023
* Lakeside Laboratory Field Experience, Milford, IA, August 2023
* Johnson County Historic Poor Farm, Iowa City, IA – throughout summer and early fall
* Bike Rodeos – Iowa City School District – multiple dates

**New Partner and Outreach Connections**

* Lori Cranston – Associate Dean for Finance and Administration
* Jennifer Banta – Johnson County United Way, Community Organizations Active in Disaster
* National Coaches Wrestling Association
* Bicyclists
* Darren Pemberton – UIHC Director of Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity
* Doug Vance, UIHC Director of Safety & Security
* Johnson County EOC Disaster Response Planning Group Call List (for April tornado response)
* Christine Estle, Administrator, Jefferson County Public Health
* Helen Eddy, Director, Polk County Health Department
* Dr. Robert Kruse, DHHS Medical Director
* Beth Lewis, Training specialist, Iowa HLSEM
* 2LT James Leaman, and L LTC Thomas Karpuk, 71st CST
* Kayleigh Jones, Workforce development Coordinator, Division of Human resources, DHHS
* Brent Spear, DHHS
* Don Simmons, Scientific Director, SHL, Ankeny, IA
* Melanie Banta, Director, IDALS Laboratory, Ankeny, IA
* Aaron Hallengren, Morgue Team Leader, Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner Laboratory
* Peter Teahan
* Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals
* Johnson County Public Health donated two complete sets of Incident Command vest, complete signage for POD events/exercises and multiple clipboards. These supplies are available for other CPH and UI departments to use.
* Multiple organizations (Linn County Public Health, Johnson County Emergency Management and University of Iowa Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness, UIHC Preparedness, 71st CST, Iowa DHHS, Polk County Public Health, Cerro Gordo County Cerro Gordo County Public health, Adams County Public Health, HACAP, UCARE, Davis County Public Health, Calhoun County Public Health, Jefferson County Public Health) are aware that Strike Force is available as participants for upcoming planned full-scale exercises.

Loaned total of 7 I-pads to two separate CPH departments for survey use.

**Future Outreach Connections for Summer and Fall 2023**

* Present at regional HLSEM Meetings
* Share information about the Strike Force and how local EMAs can work with their LPHA to access the Strike Force during emergency situations.
* Present at PHEP / HPP Regional Meetings
* Share information about the Strike Force and how local EMAs can work with their LPHA to access the Strike Force during emergency situations.
* Participate in the Community Organizations Active in Disaster monthly calls
* Actively participate on county EOC emergency planning calls

**Thoughts on How to Sustain the UI CPH Strike Force**

The UI CPH Strike Force has established itself as a responsive and respected partner to the University, local and state public health and response agencies and multiple non-profit public health related organizations (see attached comments). The mission of the Strike Force to provide hands-on, experiential opportunities to the CPH students has been more very successful. So, the desire to continue the Strike Force for the long term exists and is warranted.

Partners continue to forward potential grant opportunities that are appropriate for the Strike Force and partners to apply for and potentially succeed in getting funding.

The possibility has been discussed with the CPH Workforce Group to expand the Strike Force to College of Nursing and College of Engineering students, since these colleges also have community and population health programs. If this were to be done, it would be expected to determine a shared funding formula.

While working with the University of Iowa Director of Emergency Planning, an introductory conversation with the Director of Emergency Planning at Iowa State University transpired exploring the concept of a Strike Force at all three Regent’s Institutions. It this were to be pursued, it would be expected there would be a shared funding/support model.

Attachments:

Results of Host and Student surveys related to Strike Force field experiences and overall experiences.