In March, Aaron Leesch joined the South Dakota Department of Health as the Region 1 Coordinator.

Aaron earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a minor in Biology and a Master of Science specializing in Health Services Administration, both from the University of South Dakota.

Aaron has a wide ranging work history with Regional Health as an Epic Principal Trainer, the American Heart Association as a STEMI Manager, Avera Health as a SIM-SD Education Coordinator and EMS Director with the City of Vermillion. He has also been engaged with Disaster Training Day at USD for a number of years and has been very supportive in that effort.

Aaron will be working out of the Pierre office. He has family in Pierre and looks forward to putting down some roots in the capitol city.

For those of you who haven’t met Aaron yet, please take a minute to introduce yourself at Inter-Regional in June!

Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.

~Laura Ingalls Wilder

Wow!! What a spring! Records for snowfall and cold temps have been shattered all around the state. Well, the sun is out now and we are now blissfully into road construction season!

As you make your way through town navigating potholes and orange cones, you’ll notice the trees starting to fill in, the grass getting greener and real, not painted tulips are lining the walkways. Before we know it, we’ll all have funny tan lines, a little bit of color in our cheeks and no idea where the heck we left our winter coats.

I hope you all have a wonderful spring!

Sam Hill
Region 3 HPP Coordinator
The Region 2 Healthcare Coalition partnered with The Center for Preparedness Education from Nebraska to bring the Hospital First Receiver Instructor Training Course to Watertown March 13, 14 and 15. Members from Regions 2, 3 and 4 attended the training. Region 1 is hosting the same training May 29, 30 and 31 in Rapid City.

The 2 ½ day Instructor Course offered training and education to meet the needs of hospital decontamination teams. The course enabled educators to provide hospital staff with an overview of hazardous response issues and the dangers of contaminated patients entering their facility. It provided them with prevention, preparedness and response techniques to keep their hospital safe. The course followed OSHA’s Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers guidelines for awareness and operations level training.

Participants learned about the role of Hospital First Receivers vs First Responders, hazardous materials, routes of entry and signs and symptoms of contaminated patients. Participants learned the proper way to don and doff PPE with the use of Versaflos. They mapped out decon zones, set up tents and equipment and participated in a wet exercise using mock patients.

Join us for the South Dakota HPP Annual Inter-Regional Meeting

June 5th & 6th
Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shores
Oacoma, SD

A block of rooms are available under the S.D. Healthcare Coalition/HPP Meeting at Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shores.
Call and make your reservation today!
605-734-6376
For questions please contact Heather Messer at MESSERHE@dcmhsd.org or Carol Taylor at Carol.Taylor@state.sd.us.
LOCAL HEALTHCARE COALITIONS SETTING UP SHOP

The new CMS rules brought new partners to the table. Local, community-based coalitions have laid out the welcome mat by bringing stakeholders together for a more localized approach to preparedness, exercise and response. Here are just a few!

MILBANK AREA HEALTHCARE COALITION

The Milbank Area Healthcare Coalition is up and running after having their second meeting recently. This local coalition was organized and started to help all of us comply with the new CMS regulations concerning emergency preparedness. Our mission is to share and coordinate our plans so that we are better able to help each other out in times of disasters and emergencies. A disaster at any one of our facilities could affect the other facilities in our area.

Participants in the new coalition include the DON and CEO from both long-term care centers in Milbank and Wilmot. Also attending were representatives from EMS, Grant County Emergency Manager, Avera at Home/Hospice and our hospital trauma coordinator. We also have invited several others to the next meeting – the director of our POD, retail pharmacists and public health professionals. We aim to make these working meetings to help develop MOUs and policies that support our local preparedness and response. In the future we hope to coordinate a drill together.

SIOUX FALLS AREA HEALTHCARE COALITION

On March 15 the Sioux Falls Health Department, in partnership with local, county and state emergency management and the state Department of Health, conducted a full scale activation/notification exercise. The exercise began with activation of the City/County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The City Health Department then issued a notification/deployment request asking healthcare partners in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha and Lincoln County to report to the EOC to receive a briefing. Emergency Management set up their Rapid Tag system to register and badge all participants.

Representatives from emergency management and public health provided briefing on:
- Healthcare coalitions
- Local hazards
- Incident Command Structure
- Key response partnerships, resources and the importance of community collaboration
- Importance of disaster exercises
- SERVSD

The exercise ended with a presentation by Chris Qualm, Administrator for the Office of Licensure and Certification. Mr. Qualm provided a information on the CMS Preparedness Rule and how his office is conducting surveys for compliance. State surveyors were present to help answer any questions posed by agencies that attended the exercise. This exercise, which included many partners that were new to the preparedness, fulfilled the participating agencies CMS requirement for partition in a community exercise.
Perspectives in Crisis, Disaster and Catastrophe:
An emergency management experience.

May 22 and 23, 2018, Sioux Falls

For those of you who have been out of touch with international news, the annual emergency management conference is quickly approaching. Perspectives in Crisis is going to be one of the most heavily attended conferences that we have presented since its inception back in 2011. The conference has grown from a four session, one-day event to a multi session two-day event. This year will be even bigger and better. We will feature, for the first time, a pre-conference workshop for our new partners. This will be presented by myself, along with Dr. Heidi Cordi from the American Academy of Disaster Medicine. Prepare for some great information and of course, excellent jokes.

Important and serious note:
The conference is currently at capacity and is waitlisted. If you have registered for the Sioux Falls location and cannot attend, please email me at greg.santamaria@sanfordhealth.org and let me know. That way we can open up for those on the waitlist. We do normally have a 10% no-show, so if you have a conflict, please advise ASAP.

Conference details:

May 21, 2018 – 1PM to 5PM - Pre Conference - Emergency Management 101
Greg Santa Maria, NR-P and Heidi Cordi, MD will present a four hour session that is geared toward the new healthcare emergency manager. With the new CMS rule engaging so many more partners, this program is a perfect addition to your preparedness arsenal. Topics will include information on regulatory agency requirements, defining disaster, statewide levels of activation, phases of emergency management, the risk assessment, incident command and NIMS expectations, creating an emergency operations plan, training and exercise plans, coalitions and partnerships and more. There is no charge for this workshop for SD partners and the healthcare coalitions urge all new partners to attend.

May 22, 2018 – 8AM to 5PM – Conference Day One
Day one of the conference will consist of a series of presentations that will provide emergency preparedness from multiple perspectives.

Karen Donnahie- Karen Donnahie, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator from Valley Health, is our lead-off batter and will be discussing how Valley Health system, who received 232 patients during the Las Vegas shooting, practiced preparedness before the event and what they are doing now with that which they have learned from the event.

Amanda Sralla- Amanda is the Chief Nursing Officer from Connally Memorial Hospital. Connally Memorial was the closest receiving hospital to the Sutherland Springs church shooting. Amanda will cover preparedness and response from the perspective of her facility.

Dr. Kenneth Kingdon- Dr. Kingdon is a military surgeon who also works at Connally Memorial. He will give his perspective on patient counts, conditions and management during the shooting event.

Glen Simpson- Glen is from Community Ambulance in Las Vegas, and will discuss EMS transitions from a field support operation to a literal war zone.

Levi Scriven- Levi is from Floresville, Texas. Levi was the EMS branch commander at the Sutherland Springs shooting and will discuss operations at that event from an EMS perspective.

Dr. Sean Donovan- Dr. Donovan responded to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. He will share his experience providing disaster medicine in a failed infrastructure.

Dr. Kevin Schulz- Dr. Schulz is the EMS Medical Director for the Houston Fire Department. Dr. Schulz will talk about the response to Hurricane Harvey this past year and how Houston managed that event.

And that’s not all folks...
Perspectives in Crisis, Disaster and Catastrophe:
An emergency management experience.

May 23, 2018 – 8AM to 12:30PM - Conference Day Two

Joseph O'Hare- Joe is the superintendent of field operations for Boston EMS. Joe will talk about the Boston Marathon bombing and the EMS operations surrounding it. He will also cover the manhunt in the days after and what Boston EMS is doing now in regards to large scale event response.

Mary Devine- Mary is from the City of Boston and will discuss how Boston coalitions work, how hospitals responded together after the bombing and what they are doing now.

Las Vegas Shooting Survivor Panel- Local residents who were at the Las Vegas shooting will share their stories of survival and their perspectives as patients in a mass casualty incident.

Panel Discussion- The panel will discuss the topic of coalition-based response and what partners should be thinking about. We will be particularly focused on things that occur outside the box and how to manage the issues that appear in real time. Developing dynamic thought processes, communication and partnerships will be the order of the day.

For you foodies....
Breakfast will be served both days at 7:30AM and lunch will be catered in by the Pot-Belly sandwich shop. If you have ever eaten there you will know that it is worth coming just for lunch. So come for the food and CEUs, but stick around for the great information that will be shared. Yes, there will be salads for you veggie folks out there.

CEUs
Speaking of CEUs, we have applied for nursing and physician CEUs for the conference and will also be applying for EMS credit as well.

Finally
I wanted to point out that this conference is a picture of collaboration between the coalitions and is our biggest annual event. It's a place where we can all come together in an informally-formal learning environment and take away best practices that we can use to save lives. Over the years, we have grown into organized coalitions and the conference has grown with it. Collaboration between the State DOH, the four healthcare coalitions, Sanford Health, the American Academy of Disaster Medicine and you, our coalition members, has made this a great success.

Thanks to everyone who continues to make this possible. I dedicate this quote to you! - Greg

"Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the trouble-makers, the round pegs in the square holes.... The ones who see things differently--they're not fond of rules.... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things.... They push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world are the ones who do."

-Steve Jobs

I thought you might like to see the flyer from the very first event in December of 2011.
Introduction to the Incident Command System for Healthcare/Hospitals

This online FEMA course introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features, principles and organizational structure of ICS. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This course uses the same objectives and content as other ICS courses with healthcare/hospital examples and exercises. Click here to begin this class.

SAVE THE DATE - Health Sector Emergency Preparedness Course

The FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has developed a one-day, 8 hour Health Sector Emergency Preparedness Course. The course is designed to provide training to health care providers and suppliers in the achievement of the four core elements outlined in the September 2016 CMS rules. The CDP will provide this training to HCCs. The course will cover:

- Understanding specific healthcare provider and supplier emergency preparedness requirements as outlined in the CMS Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers Rule.
- Developing knowledge and skills in achieving relevant emergency preparedness elements for your healthcare provider or supplier type. Recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), to include the advantages and disadvantages of each level.

August 14, 2018 - Pierre, SD

More details to follow!

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

The Blue Cell will deliver a one-day workshop based on the concepts of HSEEP. HSEEP provides a set of guiding principles for exercise programs as well as a common approach to exercise program management, design and development, implementation, evaluation and improvement planning.

The workshop will be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s guidance for a number of the ten officially recognized response disciplines: Law Enforcement, Public Works, EMS, Governmental Administrative, Fire Service, Public Safety Communications, Hazardous Material, Health Care, Emergency Management, Public Health

Region 4 - June 4th, Chamberlain-Oacoma
Region 1 - June 18th, Rapid City
Region 2 - June 25th, Aberdeen
Region 3 - TBD

To register, contact your HPP Regional Coordinator.

Post it here!!

Is your facility hosting a training event?
Did you hear about a great webinar?
Do you have a suggestion for new classes?
If you have training opportunities that you would like to share with the coalitions, please email Sam Hill at Samantha.Hill@state.sd.us.
Happy Spring Everyone – Finally?

It’s certainly been a long but active and productive winter, especially when it comes to our preparedness coalitions. I commend all of you on being so helpful and welcoming to the many, many new coalition members and other healthcare organizations seeking preparedness assistance or advice. In recent months, you’ve added surgical centers, hospice, long-term care, home health, clinics, mental health centers, dialysis centers, rural health clinics and others to our mix.

We’ve seen small nursing facilities reach out to hospitals for guidance and help with evacuation exercises. We’ve seen hospice providers work with coalition nursing facilities on surge planning and evacuations. South Dakota’s coalitions have provided templates, guidance documents and other tools to assist new partners with their first “plan.” Many of those seeking assistance have recognized the value of belonging to a healthcare coalition and are now full-fledged, fully participating coalition members.

This leadership and collaboration by our coalition members will foster an even greater level of preparedness in South Dakota’s healthcare community. Thank you again for everything you do for preparedness. It will make a difference.

Sincerely,
Bill Chalcraft
Administrator
Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

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