



# INDIANA DISTRICT 2

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE, INC.

## Indiana District 2 Health Care Coalition Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 12, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Location:** LifePlex, Plymouth, IN

**Called to Order by:** Lydia Spencer

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### Board Members:

**Chair:** Lydia Spencer

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair:** Emily Neufeld (*absent*)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair:** Dr. Jason Bailey

**EMA Representative:** Kip Shuter

**EMS Representative:** Tony Doyle (*absent*)

**Member-at-Large 1:** Kim Brown

**Member-at-Large 2:** Aaron Bolinger

**Secretary:** Angela Hostetler (*absent*)

**Readiness and Response Contractor:**

Mark Philson

**Planning Coordinator:** Jenn Tobey

**Clinical Advisor:** Dani Briney

**Training and Exercise Coordinator:**

Courtney Matthew

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### 1. Call to Order

Chair Lydia Spencer called the meeting to order.

- Officer roll call completed; quorum established.
- Members were reminded to sign in and verify contact information via sign-in sheet or QR code.
- Previous meeting minutes from February 12, 2026 were reviewed with no discussion.

### New Member Introductions

- Kammi McGill – Parkview Kosciusko Surgery ONE
- Lisa House – Parkview Kosciusko Surgery ONE
- Members were encouraged to welcome and connect with new attendees.

### Opening Remarks

Due to recent severe weather events, the usual icebreaker was replaced with a moment of reflection.

- March 6: Tornadoes in southern Michigan resulted in fatalities and significant damage.

- March 11: Tornado impact in Starke County, IN caused property damage; no fatalities reported at this time.

A moment of silence was observed in support of affected communities.

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## 2. Spotlight Presentations:

Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH), *Jennifer Strasser, Field Veterinarian*

- **Avian Influenza Outbreak Overview**
  - Ongoing outbreak since October 2025 primarily affecting LaGrange County, Elkhart County, and Noble County
  - 111 commercial farms impacted to date.
  - Recent resurgence after a temporary decline in early February.
- **Key Points**
  - High transmission rate, especially in:
    - Turkey flocks (rapid mortality)
    - Layer chickens (significant production loss)
  - Spread influenced by: 1) Migratory birds and 2) Wind and proximity of barns
  - Backyard flocks require additional resource-intensive response.
- **Control Measures**
  - Quarantine zones:
    - 5 km quarantine area
    - 10 km control area
  - Over 5,000 movement permits issued
  - ~16,000 tests conducted by Purdue Lab
  - Strict biosecurity protocols:
    - Disinfection zones
    - Controlled disposal via bio-bagged landfill transport
- **Operations & Challenges**
  - Significant manpower required across:
    - Field response
    - Laboratory testing
    - Permit processing
  - Landfill capacity limitations required rerouting disposal to Allen County
  - Fire departments assisting with depopulation efforts (foam application)
- **Human Risk**
  - No confirmed human transmission in this outbreak
  - Low risk to humans; monitoring continues

- **Outlook**
  - Anticipated decline with:
    - Warmer weather
    - End of migratory season

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Gene Reed, Kosciusko County EMA**

- **Program Overview**
  - CERT is a FEMA-supported volunteer program focused on:
    - Disaster preparedness
    - Community response support
    - Life safety and incident stabilization
- **Key Concepts**
  - Priority of response: Self, Family, Others
  - Emphasis on 72-hour self-sufficiency post-disaster.
- **Capabilities**
  - CERT volunteers may assist with:
    - Light search and rescue
    - Fire suppression
    - Disaster medical operations
    - Traffic control and scene support
    - Communications and documentation
- **Training Opportunities**
  - CPR/Stop the Bleed
  - NIMS/ICS
  - Radio communications
  - TIMS (Traffic Incident Management)
- **Local Program Update**
  - 8 trained members currently
  - ~15 additional participants in training (expected May completion)
  - Deployment model: Activation through dispatch → coordinator → volunteers
  - Ongoing work on:
    - Liability structure
    - Integration with public safety partners
- **Discussion Highlights**
  - Importance of integration with fire/EMS for operational support
  - Potential use in hospitals for surge support and patient direction
  - Encouragement for counties without CERT programs to develop one

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### 3. Funds Review – Mark Philson

#### Current Balances:

- Checking: \$54,925.18
- Savings: \$135,446.35
  - Includes H5N1 funding of \$100,000 that is earmarked for projects

#### Budget/Grant Updates:

- NSGP-NSS grant submitted, awaiting response
  - Deliverable submissions on-track, will be looking for member feedback
  - Additional 16% funding restored to align Budget Period 1 and 2
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### 4. D2 Communications Drill Report – Mark Philson

#### Preparis Alert Participation

- Participation Rate: 37%
- Some members receive live alerts but not test messages
- Investigation ongoing with vendor
- Preparis presentation
  - On-site group completed a test exercise of Preparis to check ability to receive
  - Dr. Bailey created and sent a test message to members, and all members in the room were asked if this had been received
  - Eric Holsopple provided insight on why members may not be receiving the message due to settings on their phone and through their carrier

#### Radio Communications Drill Participation

Participation rates:

- Hospitals: 100%
- Emergency Management: 100%
- Health Departments: 71.43%
- Dispatch: 100%

#### Reminders

- Members encouraged to:
    - Verify contact information
    - Complete missed drills promptly
    - Utilize Preparis appropriately when sending alerts
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## 5. Old Business – Mark Philson

### Coalition Website

- Site will undergo updates and restructuring
- Updated policies are currently available on the website

### Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)

- Members were reminded to:
    - Update monthly
    - Include real-world events
    - Report non-routine incidents (such as floods, evacuations, cyber events)
  - A reminder email is sent on the first Friday of each month.
  - Timely updates improve district-level situational awareness and decision-making.
  - “One team, one mission, one fight” was emphasized as the approach to maintaining situational awareness across the district.
  - Members needing the link should contact Mark Philson.
  - Rick Brown (IDOH) provided situational awareness through email regarding a global Stryker incident that may affect care delivery systems.
    - Potential impacts discussed included:
      - Image transmission
      - System communications
      - Surgical counting processes
    - The state and ASPR are seeking feedback on local impacts.
    - Members were advised to watch for an email requesting information.
    - Responses may be sent directly by email, and HVA documentation can be completed on behalf of facilities if needed.
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## 6. New Business

### BP2 Deliverable Review - Mark Philson

- Many coalition activities discussed throughout the meeting support Budget Period 2 deliverable requirements.
- The coalition also performs activities beyond required deliverables and now must report those additional efforts.
- Examples include:
  - Monthly communications testing
  - Ongoing radio checks
  - Routine preparedness coordination

- These activities strengthen coalition performance and provide stronger reporting to ASPR.

### **State Emergency Operations Center Activation**

- Members were thanked for updating EMResource during the recent activation.
- Coalition leadership reminded members that:
  - Information requests sent through the coalition are legitimate
  - Some facilities may receive follow-up calls for bed counts or other situational data
- Members were encouraged to continue sharing significant issues so they can be escalated to the state if needed.

### **Training Update - Jenn Tobey**

- The district training binder was available for review, and several updates were provided.
- Class Updates
  - The TEEEX crowd management class was canceled due to the federal government shutdown.
    - Participants already signed up will receive first priority when rescheduled.
  - Additional classes added:
    - ICS 400
    - ICS 300
    - In-person NIMS classes
    - SKYWARN training
  - Online federal testing is temporarily unavailable during the shutdown, but local training efforts will continue.
  - Goshen Hospital is being considered as host site for a May training.
  - A livestock emergency for first responders course was recently attended and may be hosted locally in the future.
  - A Training Identification and Preparedness Planning (TIPP) course was strongly encouraged.
    - This course helps align training and exercise priorities with HVA and THIRA processes.
- HazMat Technician Course
  - A private company will provide an 80-hour Hazardous Materials Technician course beginning in April.
  - Originally limited to Kosciusko and Elkhart participants, the class now has five open spots available.

- Goshen will help lead decontamination team efforts using the district trailer.
- CMS Bootcamp
  - The CMS Bootcamp was rescheduled to April 30.
  - The original session was canceled despite strong registration.
  - This course is recommended for organizations involved with Medicare/Medicaid compliance and emergency preparedness requirements.
- Upcoming Weekend ICS Courses
  - Kosciusko County is offering a weekend ICS 300 for volunteers unable to attend weekday classes.
  - Additional ICS 400 and other training offerings have also been scheduled later in the year.

### **MRSE/Exercise Planning – Courtney Matthew**

- The planning committee met the previous Friday for a midterm planning review of the upcoming MRSE exercise.
- Progress was made on exercise objectives and planning elements.
- Next steps include:
  - MSEL meeting
  - Final planning meeting
  - Exercise execution

### **Resource Committee - Kip Shuter**

- The committee is reviewing items that should be removed from resource inventories due to:
  - Expiration
  - End of lifecycle
  - Prior distribution in earlier years
- Example items include expired trauma kits.
- A draft letter has been completed and sent to the Executive Board for review.
- Additional discussion on training and equipment is planned for the next Resource Committee meeting.

### **Governance Committee**

- Emily Neufeld was absent, but an update was provided.
- Work continues on governance revisions, with focus on:
  - Membership structure
  - Membership policy
  - Voting policy
- Current policy language remains confusing and is under review.

- Until legal guidance is received regarding the relationship between the 501(c)(3) structure and the Executive Board, current structures will remain separate.
- A revised policy draft is expected in the future.

### **Commitment to Participate Agreement (CPA)**

- Hospitals and EMAs have begun receiving updated participation forms.
- The “Commitment to Participate Agreement” will be required every two years.
- Completion of the CPA is required for an agency to be eligible to vote.
- Agencies that choose not to complete the CPA may still:
  - Attend meetings
  - Receive minutes
  - Receive coalition information
  - However, they will not be eligible to vote.
- The form must be signed by someone above the designated representative; individuals may not sign their own participation form.

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## **7. Good of the Order**

### **Public Health**

#### **Elkhart County**

- Elkhart County Health Department access is currently impacted by nearby road construction.
- Members visiting the health department were advised to use 10th Street to Mason Street as the only current access point.
- Concerns regarding access disruption were raised with the city.

### **Emergency Management**

#### **Marshall County**

- No major updates reported other than ongoing flood monitoring from recent rainfall.

#### **St. Joseph County**

- Reported on the outdoor weather alarm system that has been worked on for the past few years.

#### **Elkhart County**

- Recent flooding affected northern Marshall County, northern Kosciusko County, and southern Elkhart County.
  - Several roads, including US 6, were closed due to high water.

- Coalition EMA partners also assisted with monitoring and support related to the Michigan tornadoes and the Starke County tornado event.
  - Josh Shook, formerly of Elkhart County EMA and now with St. Joseph County, Michigan EMA, was specifically mentioned in relation to response efforts.
  - Regional partners have been checking in with Starke County EMA and offering support.
- FEMA will not provide assistance for January winter storm damages.
- The county is still awaiting information regarding possible state disaster relief support.
- National Weather Service Support
  - Strong praise was given to the National Weather Service for support during recent severe weather events.
  - The NWS “huddle” communication method on Slack was specifically highlighted as extremely useful for real-time weather coordination.
  - Members were encouraged to join or rejoin NWS communication channels as needed.
- Weather Information Sources
  - Ryan Hall’s weather livestream and WeatherWise app were also discussed as useful supplemental weather awareness tools, particularly due to real-time storm chaser feeds and live storm tracking.
- Outdoor Warning / Weather Radios
  - Discussion occurred regarding nighttime tornado warnings and possible review of outdoor warning siren practices.
  - Elkhart County EMA emphasized its push for NOAA weather radios.
  - In the two days leading up to the meeting, 95 of 100 available radios were distributed in both English and Spanish.
  - Radios were delivered to elderly, disabled, shut-in, and single-parent households as needed.
  - Additional funding has been secured to purchase more radios.
  - Midland was identified as a vendor offering strong pricing for bulk radio purchases.
- Mutual Aid / Cross-Border Coordination
  - Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio partners continue building stronger cross-border coordination.
  - A multi-state seminar/tabletop exercise is planned for May 8 involving Indiana and Michigan partners.
  - The exercise will focus on healthcare coalition coordination and emergency response across state lines.
- Management 305 Course

- The district is moving forward with planning for the FEMA Management 305 course but funding will be less than originally anticipated.
- Members interested in participating were asked to reach out.
- The course is intended to build local and district incident management capability, not out-of-state deployment.
- Two part-time positions are open:
  - Part-time planner
  - Part-time resource support position

### **Kosciusko County**

- Continuing development of CERT programming and partnerships, including with a large church interested in disaster recovery support.
- Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan adoption is underway across incorporated communities.
- Considerable time is currently being spent obtaining local approvals.

### **Fulton County**

- Working on updates to aging plans and improving training tied to those plans.
- Also engaged in planning discussions related to:
  - A potential large egg-producing facility
  - Data center planning and ordinance development
- Prince William County, Virginia was recognized as a helpful outside resource for data center planning information.

## **Hospitals**

### **Beacon Health**

- Much of Beacon's current focus is on support to Three Rivers and related operations.

### **Goshen Hospital**

- Eric will provide a presentation in May regarding a recent hospital evacuation/emergency event.

### **Starke County Hospital**

- Reported that they were very fortunate in that no damage to their health system from the tornados.

### **Other Hospital Partners**

- Additional thanks were extended to hospitals that responded to recent coalition and state information requests.

## **Public Safety (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement)**

### **Goshen FD**

- New deployment truck introduced

- Launching 24/7 fly-car ALS response
- Expanding capabilities due to high ambulance utilization

#### **Lutheran EMS**

- The district recently experienced the unexpected loss of a paramedic.
- Multiple agencies—including Tri-County, Tipp, Turkey Creek, and others—provided mutual aid and support, highlighting strong regional interoperability.

#### **Indiana Department of Health**

##### **Michelle Superczynski:**

- Federal grant participants have their third-quarter call on March 25
- An IPPW meeting is scheduled for April 8 in Lafayette
- IDOH recently completed its Administrative Preparedness Plan and can share it as a reference for agencies developing their own plans

#### **INDOT**

- INDOT crews were fully engaged during the recent severe weather events.
- Crews responded to downed trees and roadway impacts, including on State Road 39.
- US 6 remains closed due to flooding in a low-lying area.
- INDOT also deployed crews and partnered with:
  - Department of Correction
  - Department of Natural Resources
- Lake Village Fire Department was recognized for strong incident command and coordination during storm response.

#### **IPSC**

- Pursuit training at ILEA will occur on March 18 and March 25
  - These will conclude spring classes.
- Members were reminded that radio key renewals are completed through the ASK portal on the IPSC website.
- A Radio Fundamentals class will be held March 24–26 at the MAAC Center.

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### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Lydia Spencer.

#### **Next Meeting:**

April 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM

LifePlex, Plymouth, IN