

Wesley McDermott, MSPH, CEM, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Division of Emergency Operations, CDC

## COMPETITIVE DIVISION – PRACTITIONER

### Operational Readiness Initiative for Public Health Liaison Officers and Agency Representatives

In 2018 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emergency Management Program Manager directed the update of the qualifications, training materials, and operational guidance applicable to CDC Liaison Officers (LNO) and Agency Representatives (AREP). This initiative to advance the effectiveness of agency LNOs and AREPs underscores the critical contribution they make to the public health emergency management effort, and follows the 2017 revisions to the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and subsequent reorganization of the US Health and Human Services' (HHS) Incident Response Framework.

The proposed poster describes outcomes, discusses lessons learned, and highlights specific deliverables developed as part of this initiative:

- 1) *Position Checklists and Typing Descriptions:* Legacy LNO/AREP Job Action Sheets were reformatted as checklists to increase usability, and updated to reflect the new incident management structure. Updated typing descriptions detail the prerequisite experience, training, and leadership qualifications.
- 2) *Adapt Health and Human Services (HHS) Training Course and Conduct Pilot:* HHS' online LNO training was reformatted as in-person training with new interactive content, updated to current standards, and piloted with working group representatives; post-evaluation of the pilot informed revisions to the four-hour competency-based course.
- 3) *Field Operating Guide:* Updated operational and tactical response guidelines, frequently used forms, and other documents were combined with a newly-created public health resource directory and published as the "CDC Field Operations Guide."

These user-developed resources will be available for discussion with the CDC Project Lead, and digital versions will be provided upon request to state, local, tribal, and territorial partners.