



**Pacific NorthWest
Border Health Alliance**
Forging Ahead

**Seventh Annual Pacific NorthWest
Cross Border Workshop
Seattle, WA May 4-6 2010**

**Wayne Dauphinee
Executive Director**

Chronology

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) - 1991

Western Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee - 1996

Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) – 1996

Ad Hoc Cross Border Public Health Preparedness Working Group - 2002

British Columbia-Alberta MOU- 2004

British Columbia-Washington MOU - 2006

PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007

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PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007

PNWER

Objective:

To increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region; coordinate provincial and state policies throughout the region; to identify and promote "models of success;" and to serve as a conduit to exchange information

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British Columbia-Alberta MOU- 2004

British Columbia-Washington MOU - 2006

PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007

PNEMA

Objective:

Establish regionally-based emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures that will benefit all jurisdictions within the Pacific Northwest, and best serve their respective national interests in cooperative and coordinated emergency preparedness

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PNEMA Operational Plan – 2007

Ad Hoc Cross Border Working Group

Objective:

Establish an inter-jurisdiction collaborative approach to mitigate and respond to the public health impact of both routine disease outbreaks and catastrophic health emergencies across the Canada-United States border.

Accomplishments

- **Cross Border Workshops**
- **24/7 Emergency Contact List**
- **Electronic connectivity**
 - BCCDC added to CDC Epi-X electronic alerting system
 - Adjacent states and provinces added to Washington State SECURES electronic alert network
- **Cross Border Epidemiology Exercises**

Recognized need to:

- **Institutionalize** ad hoc working groups to ensure sustainability
- **Maximize** capacity to address extraordinary demands impacting the public health and health care delivery systems
- **Reinforce** existing informal communication/ collaboration between cross-border public health partners
- **Implement** WHO International Health Regulation

Today

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***Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance
(PNWBHA) - 2008***

PNWBHA:

Objectives:

To prevent and/or mitigate communicable disease outbreaks through integrated surveillance and early notification;

To respond to surge capacity demands on health systems and health resources efficiently and in a cost effective manner when public health emergencies arise; and

To assess current and explore future areas of operational responsibility that could result in efficiencies when providing health services.

Opportunities

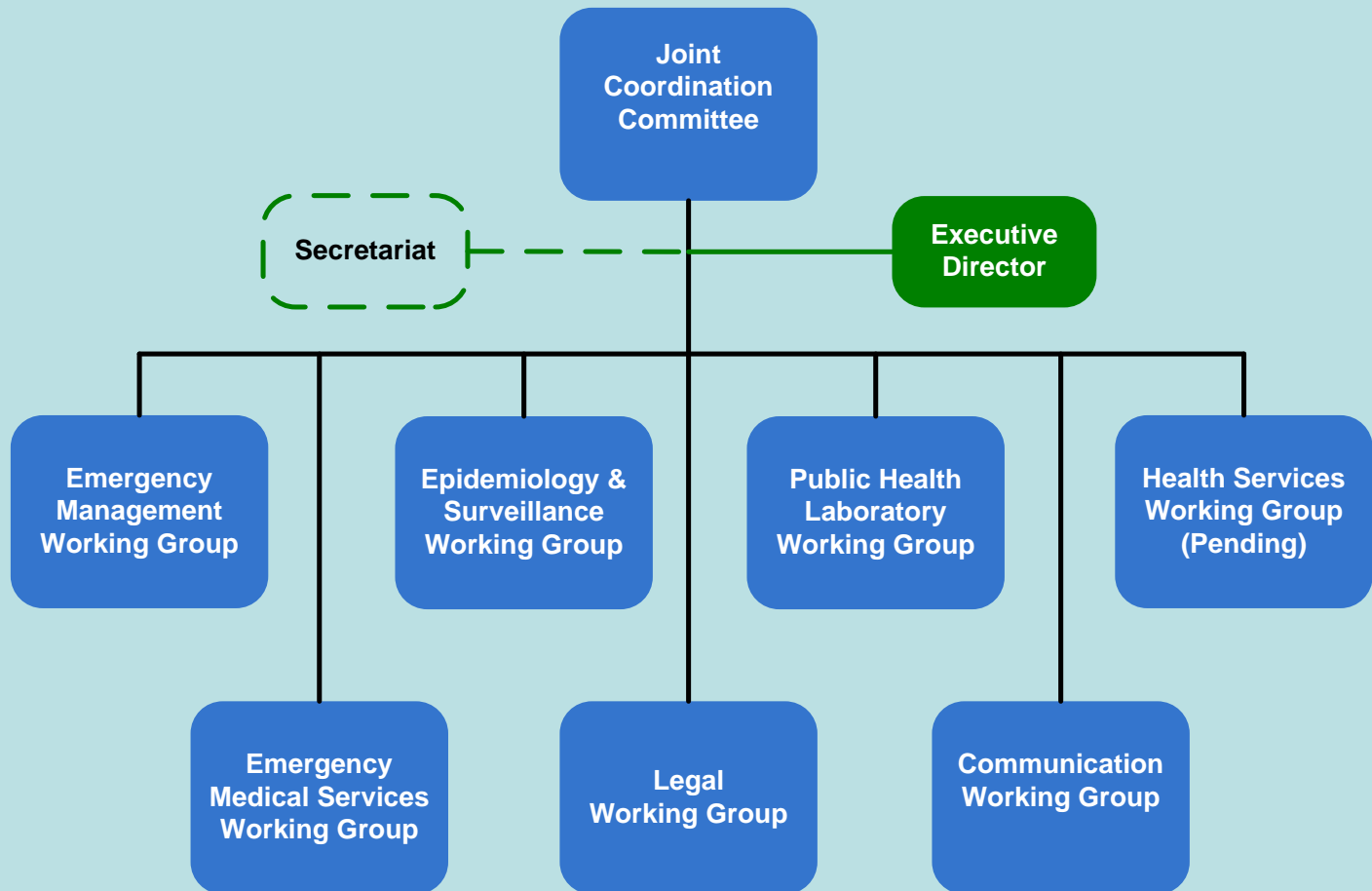
Build on established practice

Seamless transition - routine to emergency operations

Enhanced interoperability through regular use

Platform for collaborative work on chronic disease and healthy public policies

Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)



JCC Membership

Core

- Co-Chair (Canadian and United States representatives)
- Signatory Representatives (9)

Expanded

- Working Group Leads (8)

Liaison

- Representative from the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Representative from United States Public Health Service

Goals

- Identify opportunities to improve collaborative early warning infectious disease surveillance and information sharing between the participating jurisdictions, including the type of information to be shared.
- Develop plans to address surge capacity demands on health systems and resources when public health emergencies arise, including a 24/7 response protocol.
- Assess current and explore future areas of collaboration that could result in efficiencies in the provision of health services
- Conduct an annual Cross Border Public Health Preparedness Workshop.

2009/10 PNW Accomplishments

- **Operational Plan for Moving EMS Staff and Resources Across the BC –WA Border**
- **BC-WA MOU to Share and Protect Health Information to Assure Prompt and Effective Identification of Infectious Disease and Other Public Health Threats**
- **PNWBHA V2010 Public Health Preparedness Coordination Group**
- **BC-WA MOU on Sharing of Laboratory Resources (Pending)**
- **PNWBHA Web Site www.pnwbha.org**

2009/10 PNW Accomplishments

- **Operational Plan for Moving EMS Staff and Resources Across the BC –WA Border**

To ensure the timely and efficient movement and utilization of emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff and resources across the Washington and British Columbia border.

2009/10 PNW Accomplishments

- **BC-WA MOU to Share and Protect Health Information to Assure Prompt and Effective Identification of Infectious Disease and Other Public Health Threats**

Facilitates the sharing of health information for the purpose of preventing, detecting, or responding to a public health event recognizing that neither jurisdiction commits to information collection, use, and/or disclosure beyond that which is authorized by each jurisdiction's respective laws. Information shared will not include personal information, except in rare instances when that information might be needed to protect an individual or the public's health.

2009/10 PNW Accomplishments

- **PNWBHA V2010 Public Health Preparedness Coordination Group**

The purpose of the Coordination Group was to ensure integrated cross border public health preparedness for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games by:

- maintaining inter-jurisdictional situation awareness;
- identifying potential border health issues;
- reviewing and/or resolving cross-jurisdictional health emergency management issues; and
- providing leadership in the identification of 2010 border health legacy initiatives.

2009/10 PNW Accomplishments

- **BC-WA MOU on Sharing of Laboratory Resources**

Agreement will facilitate mutual aid and cooperation during a disease outbreak, food borne contamination or suspected biological or chemical terrorism that spans borders, or requires the expertise or capacity of the other Party's laboratories.

2009/10 PNW Accomplishments

- PNWBHA Web Site www.pnwbha.org

The Alliance web site is intended to keep members informed and current on:

- Alliance activities
- Regional health news
- Conferences/workshops notices
- Status of agreement and arrangements
- Publications/articles of interest

Challenges

- **Funding**

- No dedicated funding stream
- States/provinces/territories volunteer to cover respective costs



**Pacific NorthWest
Border Health Alliance**

<http://www.pnwbha.org>