CHHS has received $2.68 million from FEMA’s Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) for the state of Maryland to develop consistent resource management terminology for six jurisdictions in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The grant covers two projects: Resource Management-Key Resources, and Resource Management-Analysis and Partnerships. CHHS was awarded Maryland’s share of the RCPGP money to complete the full scope of that work over a 16 month period with 20 full-time employees, with at least half of the positions filled by current staff experienced in emergency planning and coordination. Lori Romer, Evacuation and Shelter Coordinator at CHHS and National Capital Region Planner for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, will be the project manager for this grant.

CHHS staff will primarily be focused on extensive data gathering from the six jurisdictions in the region, which is made up of Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. For each jurisdiction, CHHS will survey resource management capabilities and the resources tracked and categories assigned to each resource, while completing a gap analysis of those capabilities and key resources and providing appropriate recommendations to improve resource management. Staff will research the development of a data management system and report on the steps that need to be taken to ultimately link the states’ various resource management systems.
These have been exciting times for the Center. As the front page of this newsletter reports, we have just been awarded close to $2.7 million from the FEMA Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) to focus on coordinating interstate resource management issues in response to catastrophic incidents. While the grant requires us to work with five Mid-Atlantic States and Washington, D.C., the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has taken the lead within the region on the projects covered by this grant. Accordingly, we will work in tandem with MEMA on this project. The relationship between MEMA and the Center is longstanding and we are delighted to be closely affiliated with that agency on such an important endeavor.

With the addition of the grant from the RCPGP, the Center now has 50 professionals working on more than 30 different active projects, all of which are focused upon helping state and local governments, as well as courts, universities and hospitals, prepare for, and respond to, emergencies caused by natural and manmade disasters. We are presently hiring additional staff to meet the ever increasing demand for our services. We expect by the fall to have more than 60 professionals on staff and a revenue base well in excess of $5 million per year.

Since the last newsletter, the Center’s staff has been directly involved in coordinating real-time responses to major emergencies or events for which emergency planning is indispensable. Beginning with responses to Hurricane Gustav last fall, we have been integrally involved with federal, state, and local emergency planning, including preparations in December and January for President Obama’s inauguration and then with governmental responses to the H1N1 outbreak in the late spring of this year. Our work relating to each of these major events (and many other smaller ones as well) saw Center staffers manning emergency operations centers across the greater Washington D.C./Baltimore region, most often assisting in the coordination of inter- and intra-governmental responses to events that either did call (or could have called) for dramatically increased needs for public health and emergency services.

With regard to the H1N1 episode, I was especially proud to see our staff repeatedly asked to provide guidance to various levels of government and their lawyers on some of the complicated legal issues relating to mass catastrophes, including isolation and quarantine, the right to seize limited private supplies of medications for emergency use, and questions pertaining to the liability of health personnel responding to catastrophic emergencies. We pride ourselves on being among the nation’s leading experts in the law of public health emergency response, as is further evidenced by the legal bench books and hand books we have drafted on these subjects and by a series of tabletop exercises and mock hearings we are conducting requiring judges and first responders to resolve complex legal issues that almost always arise during a state of emergency.

The Center is grateful for the manifold opportunities to be so actively involved in the important work of protecting the nation’s citizens against the instability of catastrophic emergency events.

Michael Greenberger, JD
CHHS Director & Law School Professor
CHHS Staff

CHHS staff:
Front/first row (left to right): Jessica George, JD; Jillian Williams, JD; Atresha Karra, JD; Jodi Stern, JD; Heather Shaivitz, JD; Michael Greenberger, JD; Alexandra Podolny, JD; Jeanne Stringer; Charles Madden, JD; Dave Millar, JD; Nicole Kim, JD; Liz Cappiello, JD.  
Second row (lower left to right): Orit Zeewi, JD; Jessica Hurst, Kimberly Nagel, MA; Emily Cornette, JD; Brigid Ryan, JD; Kristen Skogberg, JD; Ellen Cornelius, JD; Adrian Wilairat, JD; Aileen Xenakis, JD; Ulka Ghanta, JD; Preeti Vijayakumar, JD; Sean Kates, JD; Joan Flaherty, JD; Annah Akasa, MS.  
Third row (left to right): David Brummett, JD; Talley Kovacs, JD; Megan Timmins, JD; Trudy Henson, JD; Clara Woody; David McDonough, JD; Michael Stallings, JD; Arianne Spaccarelli, JD; Colleen Clary, JD; Whitney Faust, JD, MBA; Robin Clark, JD; Jennifer Marrin, JD; Mary Lesser.  
Fourth row (lower left to right): David Mitchell, JD; Tristan Reed, MA; Nick Alexopulos; Markus Rauhhecker, JD; Michael Vesely, JD; Eric Oddo, MPA; David Myers, JD; Koorosh Orandi, JD; Amy Major, JD; David Mandell, JD.  

Not pictured:  
Josh Easton, JD, MA; Lori Romer, JD; Christina Crue, MS, MEP; Kelley Coyner, JD; Cal Bowman.
CHHS Assists Maryland and D.C. in Planning for President Obama’s Inauguration

Preparation for the January 20, 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama required months of coordinated planning by emergency officials across Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. CHHS staff assisted the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in this effort.

HSEMA serves as the lead agency within the DC PIC, and throughout the inaugural process plays an instrumental role in coordinating planning efforts among the many District agencies.

For two months leading up to President Obama’s inauguration, CHHS Staff Attorneys Preeti Vijayakumaran and Ellen Cornelius worked with HSEMA officials on a plan for sheltering District residents who might be displaced by emergencies arising from the inauguration, as well as a plan for the possible sheltering needs for any of the two million visitors attending inaugural activities. Specifically, the two CHHS staffers worked on the Sheltering and Mass Care Annex to D.C.’s Concept of Operations Plan, and co-chaired the DC PIC’s Human Services Subcommittee. Throughout this process, they coordinated 13 District agencies’ mass care operations. They also worked several shifts in HSEMA’s emergency operations center (EOC) and at the shelters.

CHHS Staff Attorney Megan H. Timmins was also assigned to HSEMA to assist in inaugural planning. She acted as a liaison between the DC PIC and the PIC and AFIC in a federal building designated “Inaugural Headquarters.”

For the four days prior to the Obama inauguration, CHHS Staff Attorney Adrian Wilairat was asked to support the management of the HSEMA EOC. On inauguration day, his primary duty was to assist the EOC manager by continuously monitoring, editing, and approving Emergency Liaison Officer reports submitted via WebEOC, a computer program facilitating communications among the represented agencies. Wilairat triaged these reports as high or low priority before releasing them to the EOC manager.

Before the inauguration, Wilairat and CHHS Law Fellow Markus Rauschecker also worked with HSEMA and other key District agencies to develop draft Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans for D.C.’s six primary public safety agencies that each could use in case of disaster on inauguration day.

During inauguration week, Rauschecker was one of four asked to oversee HSEMA’s COOP site at the D.C. Armory. Rauschecker’s

HSEMA
For recent presidential inaugurations, the District has formed the D.C. Presidential Inaugural Committee (DC PIC) to coordinate operational and emergency planning and to provide support to the President-elect’s Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) and the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (AFIC).
group ensured that the facility would be ready for use in the event that HSEMA's EOC had to relocate because of possible emergencies during the inauguration. While at the alternate site, Rauschecker monitored WebEOC, as well as television and internet news feeds for situational awareness. Rauschecker also spent time in the D.C. National Guard's Joint Operations Center acting as a liaison between the D.C. National Guard and HSEMA's emergency operations center.

Jodi Stern, CHHS Senior Counsel, also served as an inaugural planner. She was asked to work with the various District agencies, federal agencies, and surrounding jurisdictions to develop an evacuation walk-out plan and assist with a sheltering plan in case of a catastrophic emergency on the National Mall. Stern also worked with HSEMA officials on an inaugural operations plan to park 1200 buses at RFK Stadium and safely shuttle approximately 60,000 people to the National Mall.

During the week of inaugural events, Stern worked as an EOC planner and supported the EOC manager by developing Situation Reports, which gave all agencies access to pertinent information about incidents and issues that were happening. Situation Reports were drafted every several hours throughout the week; on the day of the inauguration, the reports were completed every hour and included current data, including the record number of metro riders over the course of the day and the successful completion of events as they ended.

**MEMA**

Lori Romer, Evacuation and Shelter Coordinator for CHHS, was the special assistant to Mel Blizzard, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency's (MEMA) deputy director, in the weeks leading up to the inauguration. During that time, Blizzard constantly received a myriad of communications from various agencies responsible for inaugural emergency planning. He entrusted Romer to monitor those communications for critical matters that included requests and questions from local emergency managers, FEMA, and the Secret Service. She also researched legal issues pertaining to the National Capital Region Mutual Aid Agreement, which aims to increase the ability of first responders from Maryland, D.C., and Virginia to preserve the safety of the entire region.

From January 17 through January 21, Romer also served as Health and Human Services director for an operations group comprised of emergency planners from the Maryland Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene; Human Resources; Agriculture; the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; and the American Red Cross. She oversaw crucial inaugural response services that ranged from shelter operations to pre-hospital care. Romer was also her group's liaison to top MEMA officials, relaying information and situational awareness through reports and briefings at meetings in the state's emergency operations center at MEMA.
CHHS Developing MARCE Emergency Plan

The Middle Atlantic Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research (MARCE) has recently tapped CHHS Director Michael Greenberger, Staff Attorney Mike Vesely and Law and Policy Analyst Trudy Henson to create its emergency response plan and develop training programs for its constituencies. MARCE is a coalition of researchers at regional medical schools, including, among others, the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Virginia. MARCE focuses on research to improve the nation’s public health response system, and it recently embarked on its second five-year project.

In the first year of the new project, CHHS will develop MARCE’s Emergency Response Plan, which will enable that institution to support public and private health centers’ response efforts during a biodefense or infectious disease emergency.

Once completed, CHHS will maintain and update the emergency plan for the remainder of the five year project.

CHHS will also coordinate and host a series of biannual, two-day conferences to enhance MARCE researchers’ interest and qualifications in biodefense and emerging infectious disease response. The conferences will feature seminars held by national and international experts and discussion-based exercises based on mock emergency scenarios.

DONATE TO CHHS

You can help fund CHHS’ ongoing work to ensure that special needs populations are ready for emergencies; to create emergency contingency plans for educational institutions, hospitals and non-profit organizations; and to make certain that we train public health professionals and first responders to ensure our safety in the event of a disaster through the endowment of homeland security fellowships.

You can donate to CHHS by visiting our website, http://www.umaryland.edu/healthsecurity, and clicking on “Give to CHHS.” You can also mail a check made payable to UMBF, Inc./CHHS to the following address:

Center for Health and Homeland Security
University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc.
620 West Lexington St., 2nd floor
Baltimore, MD 21201-1508

*Funds for the Center for Health and Homeland Security are administered by the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc
CHHS Director Testifies Before U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

In early February, CHHS Director Michael Greenberger testified before the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture to support legislation that targets unregulated over-the-counter financial derivatives, which many believe are largely to blame for the economic meltdown and the collapse of some of the nation’s most venerable financial institutions. Professor Greenberger congratulated the committee for including, among other things, two key components in the Discussion Draft of the proposed Derivatives Market Transparency and Accountability Act of 2009: a ban on “naked” credit default swaps, and mandatory clearing of OTC derivatives transactions. The legislation echoes Professor Greenberger’s recommendation that traditional and time tested tools of regulatory oversight and transparency now governing equity, debt and regulated futures markets be applied to OTC derivatives markets.

Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) said companies crippled by derivatives exposure, like American International Group, have put the American taxpayer on the hook.

“Just sitting back and doing nothing is not an option,” said Chairman Peterson. “Congress should act quickly and pass a bill that will bring much-needed transparency to derivatives markets.”

CHHS Staff Attorney Discusses Terror Report on Fox 45

Robin Clark was interviewed live on Fox 45 Morning News (Baltimore) to comment on a major report by the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism that concluded that the risk of a large-scale biological terrorist attack has increased substantially since 9/11. Clark, a Staff Attorney at CHHS, observed that the study’s warning “serves as a sobering reminder that terrorists still pose a serious threat to the public both at home and abroad.”
Montgomery County, MD has contracted with CHHS to develop Continuity of Operations plans for four of the county's municipalities and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NC-PPC). The municipalities are: Gaithersburg, Rockville, Takoma Park, and Chevy Chase. The plans will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

This new contract builds on the Center's already extensive work for Montgomery County, Maryland's most populous county. The funding for this effort comes from the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative's regional planning grant.

CHHS Director Speaks at International Economic Summit

CHHS Director Michael Greenberger was invited by Dominican President Leonel Fernandez to speak at an international economic summit on the causes and challenges of the global financial crisis. At the conference, Professor Greenberger joined Nobel Prize winner and Columbia University professor Joseph Stiglitz, billionaire philanthropist George Soros, other international experts on banking, investing, and the economy, and the presidents of Haiti, Honduras, and El Salvador.

“It is a problem that involves the G-192; that is, all member countries of the United Nations,” said President Fernandez.

The workshop, held in the Dominican Republic in November 2008, was hosted by the Dominican Government and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

To view a video of Professor Greenberger’s presentation, visit http://www.michaelgreenberger.com/presentations.html.

Visit us online at umaryland.edu/healthsecurity
CHHS staff working at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) assisted with the agency’s response efforts to Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna last fall. Between August 31 and September 7, 2008, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated to “Level 2” to support Maryland personnel deployed to the Gulf Coast and to prepare for Tropical Storm Hanna’s potential impact on Maryland.

CHHS Evacuation and Shelter Coordinator Lori Romer and Evacuation and Shelter Project Manager Erin Hahn both worked multiple shifts during the activation in the SEOC Planning Section, compiling situation reports, executive summaries, and incident action plans. CHHS Law Fellow Jennifer Martin and Law and Policy Analyst Rebecca Shore-Suslowitz assisted the operations branch in the SEOC as Tropical Storm Hanna moved through Maryland on September 6, 2008.

Following the activation, Martin was asked to prepare MEMA’s after action assessment, including organizing MEMA’s after action conference.

CHHS on the Road

CHHS Staff Attorney Michael Stallings made a presentation during “Public Health Without Borders,” the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) 136th annual meeting held in San Diego, CA in October 2008. One of four CHHS staffers to lead discussions at this conference, Stallings explained the elements of planning, implementing and exercising a viable COOP plan for local public health departments. Other CHHS presentations at the APHA annual meeting included “Practical Legal Preparedness: The Maryland Public Health Emergency Law Bench Book,” by Staff Attorney Arianne Spaccarelli and Evacuation and Shelter Project Manager Erin Hahn; “Everything You’ve Got: The Federal-State Relationship in Disaster Response,” also by CHHS staffers Spaccarelli and Hahn; and “Preparing Foster Care Stakeholders for Disasters - Information Sharing and Emergency Collaboration,” by Law Fellow Jennifer Martin and Spaccarelli, along with former CHHS staffer Meghan Butasek, who is now the director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the Baltimore City Health Department.
CHHS COOP Project Updates

CHHS develops and tests Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans for agencies and institutions in Maryland and in other jurisdictions across the country. Almost weekly, CHHS staffers reach key milestones in one or more of the numerous COOP projects on the Center’s plate at any given time. The following updates, though not representative of all of CHHS’ current COOP projects, chronicle the most recent milestones.

CHHS Drafts Legal Benchbook and Emergency Plans for Maryland Judiciary

Throughout September and October 2008, CHHS staff conducted tabletop exercises testing the readiness of COOP plans drafted by CHHS over the prior two years for each court jurisdiction in Maryland.

CHHS Law and Policy Analysts Amy Major and Sean Kates oversaw the project and traveled across the state running the exercises, along with a team of CHHS staffers including Staff Attorney Dave Mandell, Law and Policy Analyst Colleen Clary, and Policy Analysts Cal Bowman and Jessica Hurst.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), including former CHHS staffer Jessica Pitts, now the Director of the Office of Emergency Management and Court Security, will use feedback from exercise participants to further refine the content and format of the Judiciary’s COOP plans.

Upon completing the COOP tabletops, the Court COOP team finalized a Judiciary Bench Book addressing legal issues that could potentially arise during a public health emergency. The Bench Book will serve as a research tool for Maryland judges, allowing them to respond efficiently to complex legal issues during an emergency.

CHHS Completes COOP Plan for UMB

Late last fall, CHHS completed COOP plans for the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus. The plans cover each of the six professional schools - Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dental, Social Work, and Law - as well as the campus offices and departments that support them.

The UMB COOP plans are tailored specifically to the university’s needs as determined by an extensive planning and interviewing process in which CHHS staff met with professionals at each of the schools and campus offices.

The year-long planning effort came to a close when CHHS Director Michael Greenberger, along with CHHS Staff Attorneys Megan H. Timmins and Arianne Spaccarelli, presented copies of the final plans to UMB President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil.

CHHS also distributed final copies of the plans to each of the schools, campus offices, and UMB’s Emergency Management Team.

CHHS Begins Work for Community Colleges

In September 2008, CHHS broke new ground when it began COOP planning for Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. The project was led by CHHS Staff Attorneys Jessica George and Michael Stallings.

While CHHS has provided planning of this nature to undergraduate and graduate/professional schools, this contract is the Center’s first community college partner.

A first draft of the Carroll Community College plan was distributed to the institution in early January 2009, and a tabletop exercise simulating a tornado strike was conducted on January 30 to test the plan’s effectiveness.
A final COOP plan was delivered to Carroll Community College in March 2009.

Building on its relationship with Carroll Community College, CHHS began work with Montgomery College in early 2009 to develop a COOP plan. The final Montgomery College plan will be completed this summer.

CHHS Completes COOP Plan for Illinois Agency
CHHS’ COOP planning for the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) started in December 2008 with a CHHS-led kick-off presentation in Springfield, IL for IACAA staff.

The IACAA COOP planning effort was coordinated by CHHS Law and Policy Analyst Sean Kates and Policy Analyst Eric Oddo.

Under the supervision and guidance of IACAA Chief Executive Officer Dalitso Sulamoyo and Vice President of Programs Michelle Pulce, CHHS staffers Kates and Oddo teamed with Granada Williams (a partnering consultant) to generate a complete, comprehensive and cohesive COOP plan, designed to meet the small, yet complex structure of the agency. The plan was completed in January 2009.

COOP Plan, Tabletop Exercise Completed for Carroll County Health Department
In September 2008, CHHS conducted a tabletop exercise to test the COOP plan drafted by CHHS for the Carroll County Health Department (CCHD) located in Westminster, MD.

The tabletop planning team consisted of CHHS Associate Director Heather Shaivitz; Staff Attorney Michael Stallings; and Carroll County preparedness and response personnel Debbie Saylor and Tierney Youngling.


Montgomery County Taps CHHS for COOP Plan
CHHS’ COOP planning for Montgomery County, MD began last fall with a CHHS-led kick-off and training presentation for county staff and emergency personnel.

CHHS Law Fellow Brigid Ryan and Law and Policy Analyst Koorosh Orandi are heading up the Montgomery County COOP project, along with research assistants from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Completion of the drafting phase is scheduled for spring 2009, with CHHS conducting at that time the first of multiple planned tabletop exercises with county personnel to test the plans’ effectiveness.
CHHS Volunteers on Gulf Coast

CHHS Law Fellow Brigid Ryan and CHHS Policy Analyst Jessica Hurst traveled to the Gulf Coast in early January 2009 to join student volunteers from the Maryland Law School Katrina Project on its annual outreach and rebuilding effort that began shortly after the August 2005 storm.

Criminal Law Component

This year, CHHS staffer Ryan spent six days in New Orleans to help supervise University of Maryland School of Law students who interviewed pre-trial detainees for the public defender's office. The information they collected was used by attorneys to argue for reduced bail for non-violent offenders.

The criminal justice system in New Orleans has struggled significantly post-Katrina. For instance, more than one thousand prisoners from Orleans Parish Prison were evacuated to jails around Louisiana in the days following the hurricane. However, no record was kept of each prisoner's location.

“I met a man who had been detained for nine months without ever seeing an attorney or setting foot in a courtroom. He had been transferred six or seven times and no one realized that his charges had never been reviewed,” said Ryan, a CHHS lawyer who first volunteered at the New Orleans Public Defender’s Office as a law student in 2006.

Civil Law Component

Many Gulf Coast residents who lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina are still working to secure permanent housing. When the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency adopted a “cottage program” in 2007, local zoning entities agreed to the establishment of cottage communities, on the condition that they would be removed by January 31, 2009 - a deadline that proved wholly unrealistic.

“I saw first-hand that the Gulf region is still very much in the rebuilding phase, more than three years after Katrina,” said Hurst. “But I also saw an overwhelming resolve from the people I met going door-to-door. They want to stay in their communities, and they want to rebuild.”

Hurst said that resolve was evident in Ola Mae Talley of Pascagoula, MS. Ms. Talley, along with many other Gulf Coast residents, is living in one of hundreds of modular cottages brought into the region to house people who lost their homes and who had previously lived in unsafe Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers.

“The best part of representing CHHS in Mississippi was advocating for people like Miss Talley,” said Hurst. “Studying the policy underlying community recovery is important. But being in the field - seeing the faces, hearing the stories - that is powerful.”

For more information on the Maryland Law Katrina Project, visit http://www.law.umaryland.edu/students/life/orgs/katrina/.

For more information on the Mississippi Center for Justice, visit www.mscenterforjustice.org.

Ola Mae Talley, resident of Pascagoula, MS, was displaced when her home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.
CHHS Builds on Relationship with BCHD

CHHS has expanded its scope of work on critical planning and preparedness projects for the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), and CHHS Law Fellow Jennifer Martin and Staff Attorney Jessica George are leading the effort. Martin has concentrated on helping develop a citywide pandemic influenza plan since late last year. In this capacity, she is assisting other Baltimore City agencies create individual agency Continuity of Government plans that would be implemented in the event of a panflu or other disease pandemic, and she is also working on a citywide operations plan for a pandemic scenario.

Baltimore City is currently in the process of developing a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan, and Martin is working with the Baltimore City Law Department in this regard. She is helping draft memoranda of understanding with city agencies and various private partners for use of facilities during mass SNS medication dispensing, and she is working to resolve legal liability issues related to private entities that might aide BCHD's mass dispensing effort.

As the Emergency Training Coordinator at BCHD, CHHS staffer George organizes trainings and drills related to emergency preparedness and response for BCHD employees. On April 9, BCHD participated in a Point of Dispensing (POD) drill run by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to test whether each health department in the state could successfully set up its POD system - a system to dispense medication to the public in the case of a public health emergency, such as pandemic flu. George is working on the after action report for this drill, and helping coordinate the next POD drill scheduled for June 24.

George is also organizing health risk communications training for BCHD public information officers (PIO), with the possibility of including PIOs from other city agencies. The training aims to teach PIOs how to properly communicate with emergency response staff when describing the health risks associated with responding to a specific emergency. The training is tentatively scheduled for late summer 2009.

Both Martin and George are working on a number of other projects at BCHD, including medical surge planning, Incident Command System training for BCHD staff, and FluMist clinic coordination.
CHHS Instrumental Part of Baltimore UAWG’s Success

CHHS is entering its third year of assisting the Baltimore Urban Area Homeland Security Working Group (UAWG) implement the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). UASI is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant program that supports the emergency preparedness efforts of high-threat, high-density urban areas across the country.

CHHS Law and Policy Analysts Josh Easton and David Brummett, and Policy Analyst Cal Bowman, support committees of traditional response disciplines, like police, fire, and health departments, that in turn provide subject matter expertise to the UAWG. CHHS staffers also provide overall grant program management to the UASI with more than $30 million currently implemented.

The role of CHHS with the UAWG has expanded to include new subject areas such as the Non-Profit Security Grant Program and the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program. CHHS staffers have been an instrumental part of the Baltimore UAWG becoming a national leader in several aspects of the UASI grant program, including garnering the highest score on the FY07 UASI grant application among all urban areas; obtaining an official policy change from DHS in 2008 that will benefit training and exercise programs in states and cities across the nation; and helping develop a community preparedness partnership with a national retailer.

CHHS Analyzing Policy at Maryland Governor’s Office of Homeland Security

In March 2009, CHHS Staff Attorney Dave McDonough was detailed by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to the Maryland Governor's Office of Homeland Security to help analyze policy related to strategic planning for homeland security.

McDonough works under Homeland Security Advisor Andrew Lauland, who reports directly to Governor Martin O’Malley. The Office supports the Maryland Joint Executive Committee, a group made up of Senior Leaders from Maryland cabinet agencies that oversee homeland security for the state.

Prior to his recent move, McDonough was briefly detailed out of MEMA to the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security before the inauguration of President Barack Obama. During that time, McDonough worked on Maryland’s Strategic Goals and Objectives for Homeland Security report, which was released by the Governor’s office in January 2009. The report outlines the Governor’s 12 core goals for a prepared Maryland and is available online at http://www.governor.maryland.gov/documents/HSgoals&objectives090115.pdf.
CHHS Coordinates Training Exercise for Maryland Hospital

In November 2008, CHHS joined with Doctor’s Community Hospital (DCH), a private, not-for-profit hospital in Lanham, MD, to conduct two trainings and a tabletop exercise. The trainings, which took place in February, were tailored for DCH and reviewed the National Hospital Incident Command System (HICS). HICS is an emergency command structure for healthcare and hospitals based on industry best practices that helps healthcare providers prepare, respond, and recover from emergency incidents. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) requires the use of ICS by all healthcare organizations.

CHHS Law and Policy Analysts Sean Kates and Trudy Henson organized and ran the DCH trainings and tabletop exercise, which were designed to test DCH’s emergency operations plan with a focus on HICS command structure and implementation.

“The audience was receptive and participated fully,” said Kates. “This training should go a long way in preparing the hospital staff for emergency operations.”

The tabletop exercise, held in February 2009, was designed to focus on specific aspects of an incident and tested DCH’s response to an internal incident. Close to 40 participants from DCH, including doctors, nurses, and executive-level hospital administrators, attended the tabletop exercise. Other community stakeholders, including local law enforcement and health officials, participated as well. As the final step in the contract, Kates and Henson prepared an after action report addressing the strengths and weaknesses that arose after the exercise.

Local, National Media Tap CHHS for Swine Flu Analysis

At the onset of the swine influenza A (H1N1) outbreak in late April, the media sought experts from CHHS to explain how government at the federal, state, and local level was responding to the unfolding pandemic.

In a live interview on Fox 5 in Washington, D.C., CHHS Staff Attorney Megan H. Timmins (pictured above) said DHS and CDC were in a “strong surveillance and monitoring mode” only a few days after the first cases of swine flu were reported in Mexico. Staff Attorney Arianne Spaccarelli was quoted in an evening news story on WBFF-TV in Baltimore on April 27, and Staff Attorney Robin Clark was interviewed live on WBFF’s morning show the next day. CHHS Director Michael Greenberger discussed swine flu’s impact on the economy for “The World,” a nationally-syndicated program on NPR. To view these CHHS television appearances and an archive of other recent televised commentary, log onto http://www.youtube.com/mdchhs
CHHS Director Advises UN Commission on International Financial Reforms

Late last year, CHHS Director Michael Greenberger was asked to serve as a Technical Advisor to the United Nations Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System, chaired by Professor Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University. The commission’s goal was to engage in a review of the global financial infrastructure and to develop steps UN member states should take to “secure a more sustainable and just global economic order” in the wake of the current economic crisis.

Professor Greenberger joined the international coalition of experts for the commission’s first official meeting in January. After several additional meetings, the commission has drafted a final report, which was distributed to UN member states in April.

The commission has offered recommendations that would transform the global financial architecture to the benefit of all countries - developed and less developed, wealthy and poor.

“What was once benignly described as ‘irrational exuberance’ is now exposed for what it was: unbridled greed and pervasive corruption enabled by governments that lost sight of their responsibility to protect their citizens,” said Miguel D’Escoto Brockmann, president of the UN General Assembly. “The credibility of the dominant stakeholders has been shattered. Trust, that most precious and essential element in human exchange, has vanished.”

Williams Wins FEMA Award

Jillian Williams, a Staff Attorney at CHHS, was part of a team that received the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Administrator’s 2008 Excellence Award. The team, from the Office of National Capital Region Coordination, was honored for creating an innovative approach permitting FEMA to meet statutory credentialing requirements for Federal Emergency Response Officials (FEROs) in the Federal Executive Branch ahead of the deadline set by Congress.

Through uniform standards of credentialing FEROs, the initiative was designed to prevent a supplemental attack carried out by terrorists who present themselves as first responders in order to infiltrate the scene after an initial attack.

According to FEMA, “the Excellence award recognizes consistent, excellent service of FEMA employees. This award recognizes sustained superior performance, significant operational improvements, or notable innovation that supports the new FEMA vision and one or more FEMA missions.”

CHHS staffer Jillian Williams
FBI’s Anthrax Case Focus of CHHS Sept. 11 Commemoration

While many questions still remain unanswered about the investigation of a U.S. Army scientist who the FBI has claimed was responsible for the anthrax attacks in late 2001, a forum held Sept. 10, 2008 at the University of Maryland School of Law shed light on the case from the perspectives of science and journalism.

The event, “Did the Researcher Do It? The FBI’s Anthrax Case Against Dr. Ivins,” was the eighth annual Sept. 11 commemoration sponsored by CHHS. Scott Shane, a reporter from The New York Times, and Claire Fraser-Liggett, PhD, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM) and the director of the Institute of Genome Sciences at the SOM, served as panelists. CHHS Director Michael Greenberger gave opening remarks and moderated the forum.

Shane has followed and enterprise the anthrax story since 2001 when investigators first pointed the finger at Ft. Detrick anthrax scientist Dr. Steven Hatfill, who has since been exonerated and awarded millions of dollars in damages based on his assertion that he was subjected to a highly flawed investigation. And now, despite the FBI’s emphatic claim that the late Bruce Ivins - another Ft. Detrick scientist - was the anthrax killer, Shane continues to uncover as many details as he can about the government’s case.

“[The investigators, in early September 2008,] did tell me they did not have any single piece of evidence, any smoking gun that absolutely linked Ivins to the letters,” Shane told an audience of more than 100 students, faculty, and media representatives who attended the forum.

Sophisticated scientific analysis that led the FBI to the Ft. Detrick lab where Ivins worked came from research conducted by Dr. Fraser-Liggett. Through genomic tests that began in 2002, she was able to trace samples of anthrax from crime scenes back to a single-source flask that had been in the custody of Ivins. Shane reported, however, that co-workers of Ivins have asserted that hundreds of people had access to that flask, which is why Dr. Fraser-Liggett believes that scientific conclusions are the only certainty right now.

“I have a great deal of confidence that the dried powders in the letters has likely been traced back to the source flask with a high degree of certainty, but like any forensic work this really is more a question of exclusion rather than an issue of making attribution in the absolute,” Dr. Fraser-Liggett said.

Ivins committed suicide in July 2008, allegedly days before he was to be indicted for masterminding the anthrax attacks. The U.S. Department of Justice had originally said the case would be closed in August 2008, but as of the date of the forum, the department said the case could stay open into 2009. The forum’s panel of experts was hardly surprised.

“I never felt that the science alone would ever solve this investigation,” Dr. Fraser-Liggett concluded.
Staff Updates

New Staff Members

Colleen Clary, JD, joined CHHS in August 2008 as a Law and Policy Analyst after working at CHHS as a research assistant during law school. Clary earned her JD from the University of Maryland School of Law cum laude with a certificate in Health Law and her BA in History cum laude from Le Moyne College. As an undergrad, she served as a volunteer emergency medical technician for a local ambulance corps. While in law school, she interned at the Office of the District Attorney in New York, clerked for the Hon. Carl Putzer, and was a summer associate at a Baltimore law firm. Clary is currently working on the Maryland Judiciary COOP plans and a mass fatality gap analysis for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Jessica George, JD, joined CHHS as a Staff Attorney in September 2008. She currently works as the Emergency Training Coordinator for the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), where she leads efforts for training BCHD staff on various aspects of emergency preparedness. Prior to BCHD, George led CHHS’ effort to create a COOP plan for Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. She graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in May 2008, where she worked as a research assistant for CHHS during her third year. While in law school, George completed the University of Maryland’s South Africa Externship as a David S. Brown International Fellow. In Cape Town, she worked at the Women’s Legal Centre, a women’s rights constitutional law litigation firm, and the Legal Aid Board, South Africa’s equivalent of the Public Defender. In addition, George spent a semester working as a legal intern with the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where she worked in the Child Protection Division. During law school, George also devoted significant time as a volunteer for the International Rescue Committee’s Refugee Youth Project and Family Mentoring Program. Prior to law school, George served as a Department of State Foreign Service Intern at the United States Consulate in Naples, Italy. In addition, she volunteered as a Research Assistant at the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy. George graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2005 with a BA in Sociology.

Ulka Ghanta, JD, rejoined CHHS in October 2008. Ghanta previously worked for CHHS as a Law Fellow in 2006 when her primary responsibility was working with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency on COOP planning for state and local agencies in Maryland. Ghanta currently works in the Grants Division of the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency. Prior to CHHS, she served as a Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, specializing in energy, environment, civil rights and homeland security issues. She has a BA in International Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a JD from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Trudy Henson, JD, joined CHHS as a Law and Policy Analyst in September 2008. Originally from Georgia, she received her BA in English Literature from Berry College and an MA in English Literature from the University of Georgia. She attended the University of Maryland School of Law and graduated cum laude in 2008. During law school, she worked on the Journal for Health Care Law and Policy and interned for the Atlanta district office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. She began interning at the Center in 2007 and joined CHHS as a Law and Policy Analyst upon graduating from law school. Henson has worked on a variety of CHHS projects, including emergency response plan testing and training for hospitals, and developing recommendations for facilities managing mass fatalities.
Staff Updates (continued)

Kimberly Nagel, MA, joined CHHS in March 2009. She is the National Capital Regional Planner for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, coordinating efforts between local and state emergency management. Before joining CHHS, she worked for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management as a regional planner. Prior to that, she spent five years as a homeland security contactor focusing on training and exercises and federal policy development. Nagel holds an MA in Public Policy from Regent University.

Eric Oddo, MPA, joined CHHS in September 2008. He is a graduate of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where he earned a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in National and International Security Policy. While at the Maxwell School, Oddo earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Security Studies through the Syracuse College of Law’s Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism program. In May 2008, Oddo was part of a six-student team that consulted the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee on the current state of security screening effectiveness on mass transit systems. In June and July of 2008, Oddo traveled to Israel, where he earned Executive Certificates in Counterterrorism Studies and Arab Culture and Environment from the Interdisciplinary Center at Herzliya.

Oddo completed his undergraduate coursework at SUNY-Oswego, earning BAs in Political Science and Criminal Justice. His professional experience includes three years with the Bank of New York-Mellon, where he served as a Client Management Administrator. Oddo is currently a member of the DHS COOP training program.

Brigid Ryan, JD, joined CHHS in July 2008 as a Law Fellow. She is currently working on developing a COOP plan for Montgomery County government agencies. Ryan earned her JD from the University of Maryland School of Law where she served as a member of the International Moot Court Team, president of the ACLU, and co-founded the Maryland Katrina Indigent Defense Project. During law school, Ryan interned for U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, worked as a law clerk at the Public Defender Service for Washington, D.C., and interned at the Legal Resources Center and the Legal Aid Board in Cape Town, South Africa. She is the recipient of the William Donald Schaefer Scholarship, David S. Brown Fellowship, Maryland Public Service Award, and the Martin Luther King Diversity Award. Prior to attending law school, Ryan served as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Bolivia, where she worked as a beekeeper.

She holds a BA in Spanish Literature (2001) and a BA in History (2001), both from the University of

Professor Michael Greenberger, founder and director of CHHS, was highlighted in a Frontline program that aired in February 2009 on PBS, entitled “Inside the Meltdown.” The program provided a blow-by-blow account of the missteps that threw Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, and American International Group (AIG) into financial turmoil, and followed the Bush administration’s and Congress’s response to the economic crisis in September/October 2008. To watch the Frontline special in its entirety, visit http://www.michaelgreenberger.com/recommended.html

www.umaryland.edu/healthsecurity
Maryland at College Park. During her undergraduate studies, Ryan spent a semester at the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, and worked on an archaeological dig in Caesarea, Israel.

**Kristen Skogsberg, JD**, joined CHHS in February 2009 as a Law Fellow and is currently working with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland State Police on communications interoperability issues in Maryland and the National Capital Region. She is a 2008 *cum laude* graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, where she completed a certificate of concentration in health law. During law school, Skogsberg’s involvement in the Healthcare Delivery and Child Welfare Legal Issues Clinic earned her the Ward Kershaw Fund Award for outstanding advocacy. She also served as an associate editor for the *Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender, and Class*. Skogsberg graduated from the University of Virginia in 2005 with a BA in Economics.

**Moving On...**

Nicole Chappel, JD, left CHHS in November 2008 to be a senior consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, where she works as the Special Assistant to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of National Capital Region Coordination. Chappel was a Staff Attorney at CHHS and the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the National Capital Region Senior Policy Group.

Michael Craven, JD, left CHHS in November 2008 to become the Web Content Coordinator at Maryland’s Peoples Law Library (peoples-law.info), a law website for self-represented litigants run by the state law library in Annapolis. While at CHHS, Craven was an emergency planner working on COOP and pandemic influenza planning at the Baltimore City Health Department.

Erin Hahn, JD, recently accepted a position as an analyst at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, in the National Security Technology Department, and the Protection Operations and Analysis Section. While at CHHS, she served as the Center’s Associate Director and then became the Evacuation and Shelter Project Manager at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.
Jennifer Martin, JD, left CHHS in May to become the Assistant Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD). A familiar face at BCHD, Martin worked on pandemic influenza planning and Strategic National Stockpile planning at the Department since last winter as a Law Fellow with CHHS. Her previous CHHS assignment was at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, where she helped draft a Strategic Risk Management Plan for Coast Guard Sector Baltimore as part of the 2008 DHS Port Security Grant Program.

Daniel E. Meyerson, JD, recently accepted a position as a Communications Program Specialist for the United States Department of Commerce. Meyerson now holds joint responsibility for management of that department’s Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant program. For two years, Meyerson was a Senior Policy Analyst at CHHS and supported statewide interoperability governance in Maryland that earned more than $25 million in federal grant funds for the state and advanced interoperable communications policies within the state and the region.

Saj Popat, JD, left CHHS in October 2008 for a position as a Program Analyst for the District of Columbia’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA). Popat also worked at HSEMA as a Law Fellow for CHHS; in that capacity he helped draft the "Pandemic Influenza Operating Plan for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources in the District and the Mayor’s Authority to Evacuate the District in the Event of an Emergency."

Benjamin Pulz, JD, a former Staff Attorney at CHHS, recently joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an Intelligence Analyst. Pulz is currently an embedded analyst on an operational squad in Washington, D.C., where he is responsible for producing a variety of operational analytical products as well as products that are distributed throughout the United States Intelligence Community.* While at CHHS, Pulz worked with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) where he focused on COOP planning and port security. Pulz’s COOP efforts included helping to manage Maryland’s COOP program and training, developing and assessing the COOP plans of state and local agencies. Pulz also helped create the MEMA COOP plan and the State Emergency Operations Center relocation plan.

Rebecca Shore-Suslowitz, JD, recently accepted a position as a COOP Analyst at a.i. solutions, Inc., located at the NASA headquarters in Greenbelt, MD. While at CHHS, Shore-Suslowitz served as a Law and Policy Analyst and worked at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency in a strategic planning capacity.

* The views expressed in this article do not necessarily represent the views of the FBI.

Upcoming DHS COOP Trainings

June 23-24 .................Jacksonville, FL
July 15-16 ....................Albany, NY
July 21-23 ...............Maryland (MEMA)
July 28-30 .................Sacramento, CA
August 24-27 ..........Sacramento, CA
September 29-30 ........Warwick, RI

For more information and a complete list of upcoming trainings, visit: http://www.umaryland.edu/dhscoop
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CHHS conducts a tabletop exercise at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD.
Professor Greenberger talks with UMB President David J. Ramsay.

CHHS NEWSLETTER
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CHHS staffer Amy Major presides over a tabletop exercise for the Montgomery County, MD courts.

CHHS staffer Jessica Hurst discusses a tabletop exercise with an official from the Howard County Circuit Court.
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