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Public Health Department

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System



September 5, 2008

Mr. Tim Quigley, Director
CADRE-Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley
1933 The Alameda, Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95126

Dear Mr. Quigley,

For the past several years, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department has undertaken a comprehensive effort to prepare and train medical/health professionals and staff to effectively respond to emergencies. As you know, a key component in preparing for any large-scale medical/health emergency includes working with our community partners to prepare, respond and recover from an emergency event.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department is conducting a series of local community partner trainings focusing on risk communications activities during medical/health emergencies. We would like to formally invite CADRE to be one of our key partners in helping us reach out to other community organizations to invite to these trainings. We have also invited the Human Relations Commission and the Social Services Agency to help in this outreach effort as well.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department is able to conduct these trainings because of a CDC grant. This grant is one part of our Advanced Practice Center (APC) work in emergency preparedness. By conducting these trainings for local community organizations, our goal is to increase understanding of the importance of emergency and risk communication activities and the role of communications during an event.

We plan to hold a fall and spring training for managers and other staff in community-based organizations. The community partner trainings will cover key principals and components of risk communications during a public health emergency event:

- How communication is different during an emergency event;
- How communications fits into the overall emergency response efforts (Incident Command System (ICS)/Joint Information Center (JIC) structures), including how community organizations can work with the JIC in communicating important information, and;
- What community partners can expect from lead agencies responding to the event and what may be asked of community organizations during a medical/health emergency.

We are excited at the possibility of having CADRE as one of our partners in this effort. The tentative dates that we have in mind are either Wednesday, December 3rd or Thursday, December 4th between 10 am and 3:30 pm. Please let us know if your agency will be able to participate by assisting us in the promotion of this event. Our public communications staff will follow up with your staff to work on details such as confirming a final date and venue. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact us at 408-885-7515.

Sincerely,

Marty Fenstersheib, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Dedicated to the health of the whole community

The Public Health Department is a division of Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, owned and operated by the County of Santa Clara.