

Bureau of Health

Memo

To: Patrick M. Connor, Executive Director, CSTE

From: Kathleen Gensheimer, M.D., M.P.H., State Epidemiologist, Maine **Date:** 10/1/2002

Re: Consultancy, Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness (A-CPHP) Application Review Committee Meeting - Washington, D.C., September 18, 2002

The purpose of this consultancy was to facilitate the continuing development of an integrated national system of Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness (A-CPHP) to train front-line public professionals who will respond to bioterrorist incidents and other emerging infectious diseases. There are currently 15 A-CPHP. The purpose of the RFA is to expand the network by establishing up to four new A-CPHPs nationwide.

The Framework Document, formally titled: *Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness: A Network of Schools of Public Health Partnering with State and Local Health Agencies and CDC to Protect the Nation from Biote"orism, Infectious Disease Outbreaks and Other Emergent Public Health Threats*, is an agreed-upon plan of action between the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), schools of public health funded as Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness (A-CPHP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in addressing the training needs of state and local public health professionals in bioterrorism and emergency preparedness.

The Framework Document helps assure standardization of A-CPHP activities across the country. This document is comprised of *Core Activities*, which identifies 9 specific activities that each A-CPHP will engage in, and *Central Functions*, which identifies activities of the larger A-CPHP network, including ASPH and CDC, focusing in 6 areas: partnerships, education and training, communication, evaluation, accountability and oversight and advisory. Two key themes are underscored throughout the document: developing and strengthening the partnerships between schools of public health and state and local public health agencies and the importance of evaluation and accountability for the activities identified.

Applications were received from 13 schools of public health and ASPH anticipates funding up to four new centers in the current application cycle, at approximately one million dollars per center, to be provided over a three-year time period.

This project is an important effort to partner schools of public health with state and local public health agencies to provide education and training to enhance the capacity of public health professionals to respond to a bioterrorist threat or emergency. It was a pleasure to represent CSTE in this collaborative effort, as it will be the state and local health agencies who will benefit from these enhanced training efforts.

RECEIVED OCT 8 - 2002