

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 11:00 am
DPH, 23 Service Center Road, Northampton, Ma

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG); Mary Kersell (HPHPC), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Michael Nelson (DPH), Erica Johnson (PVPC), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Jean Jack (MRC), Mark Maloni (FRCOG), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), J.D. Hebert (DMH), Ann Shea (MMC), Pat Smith (FRCOG), Corinne McKeown (BMRC).

Linda Moriarty called the meeting to order at 11:06 am.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 1, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to approve the September 1, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Tracy Rogers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A round of introductions followed.

FFY2014 Project Updates

MACC Phase III

Tracy Rogers announced that the kick off meeting for the Franklin County project is scheduled for today at 3:30.

Sandra Martin stated that the public outreach is ongoing in Berkshire County. A meeting for the Southern Region in Berkshire County went well and they have agreed to move forward with the project. Topics of the MACC will be presented at the REPC meetings.

Jeanne Galloway stated that she has heard that there is division amongst the EMDs in Hampden County about the MACC project. Raine stated that there seems to be misinformation in areas where the project has not yet rolled out. There has been agreement to move forward with the project in the areas that the project is being rolled out. Raine has been giving updates at the quarterly EMD MEMA meetings. The next quarterly meeting is Thursday and Raine stated that she will speak to the misinformation such as the MACC is hoarding resources or that MEMA does not support the project. Sandra stated that the MACC is not a command and control project.

Mary Kersell stated that some initial outreach about the MACC project for the Hampshire County phase has been ongoing at the REPC meetings.

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COAD ERC Continuation

Tracy stated that the monthly update was included in the meeting packet. A conference call was held with the COAD Officers and MEMA to discuss the next steps of the project. The Pioneer Valley COAD took a tour of the MEMA facility. The Windham Regional Planning Commission in Southern Vermont has reached out for information to help them form their own COAD.

Mary stated that the Faith Project write up that was written by Tracy, Sandra and herself, has been published on the FEMA blog.

Children in Disasters

Raine stated that the conference was well attended. The speakers were well received. Linda Moriarty agreed. There were at least two nursing classes that attended the conference. The conference succeeded in raising awareness of issues regarding children in disasters.

Pat Smith stated that the executive summary is being compiled and will be presented at the November meeting. The executive summary will help guide the next phases of this project.

Corinne McKeon stated that she is helping to form a Children Response Team in Berkshire County.

Ann Shea stated that the FEMA Pediatric training will be offered in December.

Sheltering and Shelter Management Development

Pat stated that the project is underway. The counties are looking at their next steps for their regional shelters. Outreach is being conducted to form shelter management teams. The regional shelter plans are in different states of completion in each County. It is the goal of the project to bring them all up to the same level. Franklin, Hampshire and Berkshire are moving along. Hampden County is behind due to some staffing issues at PVPC. Raine stated that this project has a short time frame and PVPC is expected to honor their contract.

Companion Animal Expandable Cache

Raine reported that the project is almost completed.

Website Resource Guide Map

Raine stated that the PJ has been sent to EOPSS for their approval.

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Budget Review

Raine stated that there are no foreseeable challenges for the FFY14 projects. There is \$10,000 allocated for Public Outreach. The resource map may not use that entire budget. There may also be leftover funding from the Children in Disasters Conference because the Subcommittee only paid for two of the speakers.

Raine stated that she included the FFY15 budget plan in the meeting packet.

Requests

No requests were presented.

Old Business

Linda stated that a proposal for an unaffiliated volunteer training was included in the meeting packet. Sandra brought it forward at the Training and Exercise (T&E) Subcommittee meeting last month. The T&E Subcommittee requested that the proposal be changed to trainings at existing meetings rather than an exercise.

Sandra explained that the Public Health Coalitions and the Medical Reserve Corps had a grant to develop a plan for unaffiliated spontaneous volunteers. The plan now needs to be updated to reflect the regional sheltering plans and the MACC project. It will be a multi-staged training. The introduction will be a 15 minute overview and introduction. Then there will be a 45 minute training on Just-In-Time volunteers. Then a 90 minute in depth training will be offered. These trainings will be offered in each County. Sandra requested a video be produced for this project.

The Planning Pan Flu members came to a consensus to support this training.

New Business

Raine stated that Jon Davine is conducting an Emerging Trends training focused on Boards of Health needs. He will offer the trainings at existing public health meetings. Jon's email indicated that the training was funded by the FRCOG but it is funded by WRHSAC. Discussion followed.

Tracy stated that a meeting will be held in Pittsfield on Tuesday to further discuss the governing board for the HMCC. Discussion ensued.

Linda stated that WMFCA presented Russ Sienkiewicz, the former chair of the WMRIC Subcommittee with a plaque in appreciation for his work on emergency communication systems.

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Items Unforeseen by the Chair

No unforeseen business was discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2015 at 11 am at DPH.

There being no further business Ed Lesko motioned to adjourn. Ann Shea seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Gretchen Johnson
Homeland Security Program Manager
Franklin Regional Council of Governments