

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Training and Exercise Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015, 9:30 am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.**

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Bob Barry (MEMA), Carolyn Shores Ness (BOS/BOH), David Cruz (EOPSS), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Tom Lynch (BMC), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Ann Shea (MMC), John Paciorek (WMA PC), Dennis Annear (NWMIMT), Ed Lesko (HPHPC), Nick Kraft (MAPC).

Chairman Tom Grady brought the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 20, 2015 meeting.

<p>Motion: Sandra Martin motioned to approve the minutes from October 20, 2015. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

FFY14 T&E Projects

Emergency Management Preparedness

FCSRT Basic and Specialized SWAT Training

Raine Brown stated that EOPSS approved the changes proposed last month. The team is planning to send members to the Academy in January.

Rapid Medical Response Training

Raine said that the first session was held in Hampden County. It was fully subscribed and well received. The Berkshire County training will be held in January.

NWMIMT NY Wildfire Academy Trainings

Raine reported that all of the NWMIMT team members that were able to go have attended the training.

CBRNE/WMD

Franklin County MCI

Raine stated that seminar is scheduled for April 1st in the evening and the drill will be held on April 2nd. The scenario will be conducted at the Deerfield Railyard.

Hazmat Emerging Trends for Public Health

Raine related that two sessions were held yesterday. One session was offered in Hampshire in the morning and one in Franklin County later in the day. Berkshire is scheduled in December and Hampden County is yet to be scheduled.

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Medical Management of CBRNE

Raine explained that there have been some challenges in selecting a suitable location to hold the training. The dates have been set as January 12 & 13, 2016. As soon as location is finalized, Raine will open registration.

Mass Care Services

Mass Care Training Needs Survey

Sandra Martin stated that a survey was rolled out to the Berkshire REPC this morning. An email version of the survey will be sent out to the other REPCs.

Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteer Training

Sandra reported that the Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteer plan is being reviewed and updated.

Budget Review

Raine stated that FFY14 is on track to be spent down. Some funding may be returned from the NWMIMT NY Wildfire Academy Trainings and the FC SWAT Team. The FFY15 funds are largely unallocated at this time.

Old Business

Anti-Terrorism Exercise – develop objectives

Raine stated that there is a conference call scheduled for Thursday. Raine asked for input on the objectives. Sandra suggested focusing on the areas identified for improvement from the first exercise series. Raine stated that Six Flags New England has identified communications in the park as an issue. There are dead spots within the park. Suggestions included an MCI incident, communications specifically with EMS and hospitals, building first responder familiarity with the park, focusing on functional needs. Dennis Annear suggested having the NWMIMT members involved. Ann Shea indicated that many hospital emergency staff would also like to be involved. Raine asked that any further input on the objectives be sent to her by Thursday at noon.

Raine stated that Six Flags has no issue with the use of simunitions during the exercise. Raine explained that there is a Tennessee Gas pipeline that runs through the park. Carolyn shared that she would like to include the pipeline and the gas company in the scenario. Raine indicated that all of the rides will be operational except for the water rides in both May and October. Raine stated that Rick Winfield from the FBI and Six Flags would like the scenario to occur at the entrance gate where there is often a bottleneck at the start of the day. Six Flags has a good screening process but there are some weak points. The scenario could include a scenario with an inside assist and the person of interest could be in a Six Flags employee uniform. The scenario could also include people stuck on a ride. Another consideration is to include people with

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disabilities. The FBI and Six Flags would like the advertising of the training to focus on practicing response and stay away from words like terrorists. Ed Lesko stated media should be invited but kept in a staging area. Tracy said that if the scenario includes a Hazmat component that it can be used by the REPC's for their annual training requirement. Raine clarified that EOPSS has approved having a full scale exercise without holding a functional exercise first. Raine asked if the Council was okay with that as well. Council members were in agreement that a full scale exercise without a functional exercise was acceptable. Ann Shea stated that she has contact information for people with functional needs that are willing to participate in exercises. Sandra stated that parents with children should be included as participants as well. Raine asked if there were any concerns about the location. Ann stated that people will travel if given enough notice. Discussion ensued.

Active Shooter Symposium

Raine stated that she has had a few meetings with Rick Winfield and Ken Callahan from the FBI to discuss the Active Shooter Symposium. The FBI will coordinate the expert speakers. EOPSS has approved the project. Raine explained that law enforcement, fire, EMS, and other first responders will be invited as well as, churches, schools, businesses, etc.

Raine stated that the Symposium will begin with the viewing of the FBI active shooter video and then a specialist will speak about the behaviors of a shooter. Next a Police Chief that was involved with a shooting will speak and then possibly a survivor of an event.

Raine explained that there will not be enough DVDs to give out to everyone but there will be incident command items. The Council may want to consider some other give away items such as the notebook and pens that were given out at the Anti-terrorism training.

Raine reported that she looked at the new auditorium at the Deerfield Academy. It is a very nice space with excellent acoustics. The drawbacks are the limited mobility and the dining hall is a five minute walk from the auditorium. John Paciorek announced that parking arrangements can be made so that attendees will be able to park on the grass and golf carts will be available for anyone that needs assistance. The facility is being offered at no charge. Coffee and light pastries can be offered in the auditorium in the morning. Raine asked if Deerfield Academy should be noted as a sponsor on the advertising posters. Tom answered that it would be good to show the support of the private sector. Discussion followed.

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New Business

No new business was discussed.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No business unforeseen was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be December 15, 2015 at 9:30 am.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty motioned to adjourn. Tom Lynch seconded.
Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

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