

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Training and Exercise Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2016, 9:15 am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.**

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Barry (MEMA), Tom Lynch (BMC), Jeanne Galloway (WSHCHC), David Cruz (EOPSS), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), John Paciorek (DPD).

Chairman Tom Grady brought the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 19, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway motioned to approve the minutes from January 19, 2015. Bob Barry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A round of introductions followed.

FFY14 T&E Projects

Emergency Management Preparedness

FCSRT Basic and Specialized SWAT Training

Raine Brown stated that she has been communicating with the team. There have been some challenges in ordering the tactical gear needed for the training. It is hoped that the gear will be received by the end of week. The next tactical training will be in March. Raine believes that there will still be funds returned to the Council.

CBRNE/WMD

Franklin County MCI

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

Hazmat Emerging Trends for Public Health

Tom Grady reported that he has received great feedback on the trainings. Raine stated that this format of attending existing meetings has been more successful than stand alone trainings to reach Public Health members.

Mass Care Services

Mass Care Training Needs Survey

Raine stated that the RPAs are completing this work in conjunction with the Regional Shelter Project. Raine reported that she received an email a few weeks ago from Rachel Potts at MEMA. MEMA, DPH and the DeValle Center are coordinating a broad level shelter training.

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Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteer Training

Raine stated that BRPC is working on this project. The 15 to 90 minute trainings are being offered at existing meetings. Raine stated that Sandra Martin and herself are working on a video to promote the project. BRPC is interested in offering a training at the EMD meeting. Bob Barry stated that the next EMD meeting will be held in March and the next will be in June.

FFY15 T&E Projects

Active Shooter Symposium

Raine stated that the announcement was pushed out last week. There are about 460 registered already. There is room for up to 600. Anyone from outside the region is being placed on a waitlist. If there is room two weeks prior to the event the waitlist registrants will be notified.

Raine stated that she, along with Rick Winfield and Ken Callahan from the FBI are going to attend the National School Safety Symposium being held tomorrow at the University of Hartford. Two of the speakers will be speaking at our symposium will be there. This will give them an opportunity to meet the speakers and give input on the presentation for the Active Shooter Symposium.

Raine stated that the line up of speakers for the Symposium is changing a bit. One of the speakers indicates he cannot do his presentation in less than 3 hours. The FBI video will be shown. There will be a supervisory agent behavior analysis speaker and a fire EMS speaker. The Tactical response staff that responded to Newtown is not ready to speak about it the incident. The FBI is trying to secure a Fire Command responder from Newtown or a responder to the beer distributor shooting in Connecticut. Staff from EOPSS will be there as well. Raine will be reaching out to Senators and Representatives in the region but there will not be time for them to speak at the event.

2016 Exercise Series

Tom stated that a meeting was held two weeks ago with Agawam Police and Fire and MEMA. The relationship between Agawam first responders and Six Flags is strained. There was concern from Agawam first responders that the scope of the exercise was getting to large. Tom advised that the drill can capture many training aspects for teams that want to use the Six Flags facility to train certain aspects but the full scale exercise will be more focused. Bob Barry stated that the meeting went well. Bob explained that Tom did a nice job of helping Agawam first responders to understand that many of the regional teams want to participate in the drill but that Agawam first responders will be in charge of command and control.

Tom stated that Agawam is confident that they can handle an active shooter event if with there were mass casualties. Tom explained that some artificialities will be worked into the exercise so that all for the teams that want to drill can do so.

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Tom explained that Six Flags, as a private entity, likes to handle issues on their own and therefore is hesitant to allow Agawam Fire, EMS and Police on site unless necessary. Raine asked if the focus of the drill will still be communications. Tom replied that communications will remain the focus of the drill. Raine added that building a relationship with Six Flags will be beneficial for teams like the Tech Rescue Team to continue to use the facility for trainings. Six Flags can accommodate rapid water training as well as high angle rescues. The next planning meeting will be held on March 7th at MEMA in Agawam from 8:00 to noon.

Mercy Tactical EMS Training

Raine stated that the project went out to bid. Eric Stratton was the only respondent. The training will be offered in March.

Medical Tactical EMS Training

Raine has reached out to TEEX. The training will be offered in October, near the time of the EMS Conference. Linda Moriarty is discussing the schedule with other members of WMEMS to determine the best days. The training was proposed for 50 people but it can accommodate up to 200. Raine suggested that the Subcommittee may want to revisit the funding to allow additional people to attend.

Budget Review

Raine stated that the only concern for FFY14 is that the FCSRT will likely have to return funding. Raine will give an update on the FCSRT funding next month. The FFY15 projects are moving forward.

Old Business

Tom stated that he has received excellent feedback on the Rapid Medical Response training. He heard from people that attended that it is difficult to get this type of training or to get authorization to go to the trainings. Chiefs generally only authorize DHF approved courses. Tom has done some outreach to chiefs as a result. The training was very beneficial for the high risk warrant team. Eric Stratton is an excellent trainer.

New Business

Social Media Training

Raine stated that NERAC is offering a Social Media training and has asked if other Councils are interested in hosting a social media training as well. The consultant is coming out in April from Hawaii so there would be a cost savings if more Councils participate. Raine stated that the WRHSAC Council offered Social Media training a few years ago and there are online training modules available as well. Bob stated that he hasn't had any requests for further Social Media training.

Raine announced that Gretchen Johnson has accepted a position at UMASS and this will be her last meeting. Tom thanked her for her service and wished her well in her new position.

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John Paciorek passed out an estimate for Lantern software and laptops. This software allows digital evidence to be downloaded off of computers and phones. The MSP uses this system. The 3 day training for the software is included in the purchase. John suggested that any interested police departments buy the laptops and agree to pay for the \$750 annual maintenance fee to receive the software and training. John stated that the trained personnel would become a regional asset. Based on population numbers, it would be beneficial to have 5 trained staff in Franklin and Berkshire Counties and 10 in Hampshire and Hampden.

Raine asked if the purchase of new laptops is necessary to buy the software. John stated that he will inquire about that. Raine suggested that a mutual aid agreement be signed. Tom asked if the training will go over getting a warrant to download digital evidence. David Cruz asked how the transfer of the digital information will be coordinated. John stated that the information will be put onto a DVD. Tom asked John to get a commitment from Police Departments that are interested in the program to agree to sign an MOU to share the resource regionally and to check on the hardware question and report back next month.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No business unforeseen was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be March 15, 2016 at 9:15 am.

There being no further business Jeanne Galloway motioned to adjourn. Tom Lynch seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

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