

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Robert Barry (MEMA), Robert Hassett (SFD), David Cruz (EOPSS), Jamin Carroll (PVT), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), John Pond (WMFCA), Thomas Lynch (BMC), Ann Shea (MMC), Ed Lesko (HPHPC), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), John Paciorek (WMCOPA), Michael Wynn (PPD), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Brian McCartney (PVPC), Nick Kraft (MAPC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:12 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

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

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2015 meeting as submitted. John Pond seconded. Motion passed.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady stated that there is a THIRA meeting scheduled for November 30, 2015 in Framingham. Tom will attend. There is a State Strategic Response Group meeting scheduled in December in Framingham as well. Tom announced that the MEMA Conference in Worcester was well done and well attended. There were dynamic speakers with a focus on Executive Leadership in crisis. There was excellent real life experience from the speakers. Tom stated that he was surprised by the amount of people who stayed all day.

Tom Lynch announced that he is planning on retiring at end of June. He stated that he has talked with Tom and Raine. Tom plans to stay on for a few more months. He will work with the hospitals concerning a new representative. The integration of hospitals with the Council has been great. Tom and Raine have been exceptional.

Carolyn Shores Ness said that Tom will be missed. She stated that Tom has been very active with the Council. Tom Grady stated that he first met Tom at a training before the Council had been formed. Tom Grady stated that he was very impressed with Tom Lynch's thought process on leadership.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update was given.

- POLICE: Mike Wynn stated that he was listening to a radio report about how the Baltimore Police Department was woefully unequipped. Mike stated that our police departments have a lot less equipment than Baltimore Police Department.

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- EMS: Linda Moriarty announced that the Director of Emergency Services has resigned. His last day was November 13, 2015. Carolyn asked about the funding issue. Linda stated that \$100,000 was added back. Linda stated that they are waiting to hear about the supplemental budget. The last Director was able to get each EMS an additional \$30,000. Linda stated that strategic meetings are occurring to discuss an alternate funding stream. The stakeholders are going to meet with the commissioner. Carolyn stated that funding EMS is important especially due to the increase in OPIOD incidents. Carolyn suggested presenting what we produce with the funding that we receive. Tom stated that the relationship between OEMS and DPH has become strained.
- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that the 104th National Guard is planning an Air show in August. This will be a regional event for us. The Thunderbirds will be there.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that DPH will be participating on a conference call concerning the bird flu. Select Board, Boards of Health, Emergency managers, Police, Fire, EMS, etc. are encouraged to participate.

Ed stated that the HMCC is meeting on a monthly basis. The group is about half-way through creating the structure.

Ed reminded everyone to get their flu shots.

- TRANSPORTATION: Raine stated that Jamin sent an email that he is on his way. He was just leaving a Security meeting about the events in Worcester and Paris. PVTA is asking bus drivers to be extra attentive.
- DPW: No update was given.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that the second phase of the Rapid Medical Response Training in Berkshire is scheduled for January 25, 2016. Tom stated more information will be emailed.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro stated that the October SIEC meeting was cancelled. The November meeting will be held tomorrow.
- HOSPITALS: Tom Lynch stated that all the hospitals in the region are experiencing an increase of OPIOD overdose cases. It is a real strain on the hospitals' resources.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn stated that Mohawk Area Public Health met yesterday. They had an Emerging Threats training. She stated that it was a great training, the attendees were so involved that the training ran over by a half hour. The evaluation sheet was not passed out so it is being emailed.

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Carolyn stated that there is region-wide excitement for the Debris Management Template. These templates and trainings are so important.

- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update was given.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that the two offerings of the MEMA Quarterly meeting will be on December 9th at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be the winter forecast.
- EOPSS: No update was given.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the FFY14 projects are moving along well. The FFY15 projects are starting to move forward.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Melissa stated that all the Interops projects are moving along.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. There is an Anti-Terrorism drill planned for May and a full scale exercise in October. Both events will be hosted by Six Flags New England.

The Active Shooter Symposium is being scheduled for March. The location of the event is still being coordinated. Non-traditional first responders will be encouraged to attend including schools, churches, businesses, etc. It is important to think through the role that private partners should play in this type of an incident.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated she is working with Bob Hassett to finish off the CAMET Trailer project.

CBRNE/IED:

John Pond reported that the Tech Rescue Team had a tower training last week on an Eversource tower in Springfield. The training went well. Tom stated that he would like to see a training at the Wind Farm in Brody. Raine stated that Six Flags New England is happy to host specialized teams to train at their facility. They can offer rapid water scenarios during the summer months.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that all of the FFY14 projects are on track. Some funding may be returned in April or May 2016 but those funds can be used to buy equipment identified on the secondary project list. FFY15 projects are beginning to move forward.

Nick Kraft stated that MAPC is looking closely at tech rescue equipment to be sure that the equipment is compatible and to combine purchases when possible to reduce cost.

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Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Tom stated that EOPSS is planning a conference in the spring to have all of the Councils meet together to give updates.

Tom stated that law enforcement is promoting the See Something Say Something motto. Mike Wynn explained that a disgruntled customer of Berkshire Medical Center began posting to his Facebook page and then created a page specific to his issue. A lot of resources were used on dealing with this one individual.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

No business unforeseen was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Tom sincerely thanked the Council for all that they do. He stated that the mission of the Council is to train and learn. He is confident that our region is able and ready to respond. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

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