

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brenda Codella (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Barry (MEMA), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Tom Lynch (BMC), Ann Shea (MMC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Melissa Nazzaro (SComm), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Ed Lesko (BOH), David Cruz (EOPSS), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Chris Bouchard (Becket DPW), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), Carolyn Shores Ness (BOS/BOH), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Michael Nelson (MDPH), Robert Alberti (EPD), John Cartledge (NPD).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:05 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the March 15, 2016 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores-Ness moved to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2016 meeting as submitted. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed with unanimously

A round of introductions followed.

US Attorney Office – Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Victoria Grafflin introduced Brandy Donini-Melanson from the US Attorney’s Office to the Council. Victoria stated that CVE is a priority area that needs to be addressed. The White House created a framework around the issue. EOPPS is working with the US Attorney’s office and a multi-cultural bridge group building bridges around the issues of tolerance and faith. Victoria noted the name and topic are fraught with issues which can be a hindrance to projects seeking to address it. She noted, however, the given the Western Region’s success with other Whole Community related projects, CVE may fit readily into the Council’s efforts.

Brandy thanked the group for allowing her to come and speak. Brandy has been engaged with this issue for two years. In 2011 communities were put together with the concept of countering violent extremism and a theoretical framework was created.

Brandy stated that everyone plays a roll in this issue and would like to work with the Council to bring information and trainings to our region. The 28 page framework is online and she can provide the link if interested. The framework she provided highlights a few specific areas where the Councils may find a more natural fit around the issue. Workshops around non-violent activism and civic engagement are a suggestion. Conflict management workshops address how to help young people address violent conflict. Learning how to address and confront conflict in a non-violent way is a good training; and schools and after school programs are great places to increase trainings. Internet safety and digital competency are needed training areas.

Radicalization on the internet is prevalent. The level where people act is much quicker compared to the past leaving the window for prevention and intervention strategies much shorter. Parents need to understand the sites their children are visiting. Deep websites are reaching out to

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individuals to pull them into the underground radicalism. Internet safety presentations are being done in Springfield. It may be possible to leverage some work that is being done there.

Intervention, tolerance and respect around cultures are areas kids in school reported to them that need attention. Are their ways for the Council to dive into it deep and improve the areas where this is being trained? Are there ways to enhance levels of response to our trainings?

If we are willing to invest in violent extremism training, we will be one of the first. We could set a trend.

Carolyn stated that School Resource Officers are mandated by the state in all schools and would be a common sense group to train. Brandy would be willing to work with us to come up with a framework for the training. Carolyn asked if this may be an item to submit for the competitive funds. Sandra stated that training is a huge issue and parents need to have tools to stay current on training issues.

Ann Shea commented that after the Children in Disasters training, it was suggested that Dr. Woodall come back to discuss and train on community resilience.

The Framework for Prevention and Intervention Strategies slideshow was handed out at the meeting.

Updates from the Chair

Proposed Priorities List

Tom Grady shared EOPSS proposed priorities list which the Chairs received in their meeting with Secretary Bennett. The list is just a thought process for projects that might be considered for the new, competitive funding process.

Tom reported the four chairs meet with Secretary Bennett in his Boston office where he stated he was very impressed with symposium. It was a quality program. It encompassed the Secretary's vision of what Homeland Security should be doing. Other organizations asked how they could bring the training to their region. Secretary Bennett is happy to help bring the info to anyone. Police Chief, Mary Lyons, stated she has never been to a conference where she got more out of it. Tom attended a conference the day after the symposium at Williams College and they had already made changes based on the info they had learned. Berkshire County Fire Chief's had a lengthy discussion at their next meeting about their roll in this type of disaster and how they should respond to an event. Tom thanked everyone again for doing a very nice job organizing the event and how impressed people were with the quality and content.

Victoria Grafflin spoke with the Council about the priorities list. There are 11 items on the list, most of which are familiar to everyone and things we've been investing in for years. The list is a tool to help put together a plan and help focus on items for the competitive application process. EOPSS has decided to do a baseline funding of 80% and a competitive pool of 20% totaling \$750,000 open to all regions. Victoria is hoping to have written guidelines approved by the end

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of the week. Timeline for the process is competitive projects by the end of June. Council should have a planning meeting in May. Final applications for the known allocated funds should be submitted by the end of August. This is layered timing to allow for planning. Regions can work on project together and file jointly for competitive funds. Secretary Bennett appreciates the work and scope of work done by the Councils. The point of this process is to be sure that underfunded items be pushed if need be. Hoping all needs can be funded with the competitive process.

Sandra Martin asked if there are priorities. Victoria replied that she has not been told there are higher priorities, but most discussion was around tech rescue and active shooter. She also said there are no extra points for these topics.

It's a very new process and they will try to be as helpful as possible. This is an opportunity for our Council to get more funds since we are lower funded than other areas. Victoria noted that if competitive applications indicate stages it would be helpful in case EOPSS can't cover the whole project but might be able to approve a partial project.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update was given.
- POLICE: No update was given.
- EMS: Linda stated they still have no Director. They did not manage to get extra funds into the house project. Amendment 531 was filed.
- EMD: No update was given.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that the Zika Virus is still around. Be prepared and careful with mosquito control.

Jeanne Galloway reported that one of the shelters received a grant to offer treatment to people dealing with addiction while in the shelter.

- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported they are giving one last push for the Double Pole Bill. It may be going no where. Verizon strike will affect all public works jobs. They may be looking at crossing picket lines to get construction projects complete.
- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa stated that the Verizon strike is having an effect on 911 repairs. Repairs were delayed because their work pool is so small. There was a conversation at the SIEC Meeting stating western Mass has moved over to fiber lines. They don't care how the SIEC's connection is getting back to Chelsey as long as it follows FBI guidelines.

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Melissa stated that the Communications Drill is at Six Flags on April 27 and registration is 100 percent required.

- HOSPITALS: No update was given.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn stated that she is still receiving positive feedback from the Active Shooter Symposium. Cyber Security is an issue they are concerned with for local government. What can we do and is there training on this topic? Hans Olson has convened a working group to address this issue. Carolyn would like to see a level training to help the local towns and government. Carolyn would like to discuss at planning meeting. Victoria stated they are looking at creating a cyber security team that will come and help where something has been compromised. Carolyn would also like to address training for local towns on pipeline protestors.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Paul D'Auteuil stated through email that the Hell's Angels spring party will be held in Lee next weekend. It is an annual fundraiser for the organization.
- MEMA: No update was given.
- EOPSS: Update was given in an earlier conversation.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the Subcommittee has coordinated Psychological First Aid training in June as an initiative of the Children in Disasters project. Work on the sheltering and reunification work is on going.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Melissa Nazzaro reported that the FCECS study is complete and they will be discussing the report at today's meeting.

Funding for the WMLEC trailer is approved and bids are being reviewed to make sure they meet the specifications.

The Committee had discovered some issues with towers and are working on addressing them while still under warrantee.

Training and Exercises:

Tom G reported that the training & exercise subcommittee met before the Council meeting and considered the following items.

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Raine reported that the Active Shooter Symposium costs are over budget by \$3,552.00.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$3,552.00 to cover cost over budget costs for the Active Shooter Symposium. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$4,500.00 to cover additional costs for the Pediatric Psychological First Aid Training. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Ed Lesko moved to approve \$6,781.00 in FFY14 T&E funds be moved back to the Council for spend down by July 31, 2016. Carolyn Shores-Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve additional FFY15 funds for a total of \$18,000.00 for Medical Response to Bombing Incidents training. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine noted that the CAMET project for Springfield is complete. Final invoices are being processed.

CBRNE/IED: Mark Babineau noted the CBRNE subcommittee met on March 18. The Western Mass Regional Tech Rescue (WMTRT) attended the meeting. The team is doing an outstanding job and conducting team trainings on a regular basis. WMTRT requested repurposing of funds the subcommittee has allocated for them. The changes include: utilizing remaining FFY14 training funds to purchase equipment; moving FFY15 equipment funds to training; and utilizing all FFY15 funds to conduct structural collapse training.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to move the remaining \$32,651.00 FFY14 Tech Rescue Training funds to equipment. Carolyn Shores-Ness Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to shift \$55,000.00 from Tech Rescue FFY15 equipment to training. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve all spending all FFY15 Tech Rescue Training funds on structural collapse training. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that the only concern for FFY14 funding is that the \$6,781.00 funds returned from Training & Exercise subcommittee. She requested that any ideas be presented at the May meeting. If no other projects presented, the funds could likely be spent on more equipment for WMTRT. FFY14 will wrap up on time band be spent down to zero.

Raine asked the Committee how they would like to approach FFY16 planning considering the competitive funds option. Does the Committee need to brainstorm how to plan or do we need to create a broader survey of what projects to consider for the competitive funding?

Carolyn would like to see trainings on cyber security and officer training on civil disobedience. Both items have become an issue for our towns. Tom G would like requests for training to come from the subcommittees.

Melissa stated that if we know our funding is decreasing by 20%, should we look to see if projects we normally fund may be a good option for the competitive funding process? The proposed timeline for notification on projects funded is by the end of July. Melissa feels that we need to be sure the projects we have started get funded before we start new projects. Mark asked if there was a cap on the amount of competitive funds we can receive. Victoria replied we can be awarded the whole \$750,000. Secretary Bennett would like to see projects that have a state wide reach.

Old Business

National Homeland Security Conference - Raine noted that no WRHSAC members have expressed interest in attending. Tom G stated it can be removed from the agenda.

New Business:

Raine introduced a request from Nick Child for a letter of support for DEP's River Geographic Response Plans.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to support the letter and request from Nick Child. Carolyn Shores-Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

Tom G stated he received an email request from Chief Wynn asking if remote attendance to the Council meetings would be allowable. The Council had previously posted to not allow it. We would have to change the Council bylaws to allow remote attendance. Linda responded there is a conference phone and a Go To meeting account available. Many people travel quite a distance

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to attend meetings. Tom requested Council to think about it and bring it back to the table next month.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Brenda Codella
Administrative Services Assistant
Franklin Regional Council of Governments