

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 06, 2016, 11:00 am
DPH, 23 Service Center Road, Northampton, Ma

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Brian McCartney (PVPC), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Ann Shea (Mercy Medical), Michael Nelson (DPH), Pat Smith (FRCOG), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Mark Maloni (FRCOG), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Kimberly MacPhee(FRCOG), Allison Hope (BCBOHA), JD Hebert (DMH),Michael Nelson (DPH), Monica Wynne (BMC), Mary Kersell (HCPHC), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

Ann Shea called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 05, 2016 meeting.

Tracy Rogers requested an amendment to the minutes.

Motion: Ann Shea motioned to approve the July 5, 2016 meeting minutes as amended. Larry Holmberg seconded. Mary Kersell abstained. Motion approved.

A round of introductions followed.

Raine introduced Ann Dunne – Admin. Services Financial Assistant

FFY2014 Project Updates

MACC Phase III – Final Report

Tracy Rogers reported 21 Franklin County Towns have signed the MOU, two are continuing discussions and three declined to sign.

Sandra Martin reported Berkshire County has worked well conducting outreach to emergency planners, and have worked together to create a MACC plan to meet the needs of the Southern and Central Region. Both regions have adopted the MACC plan. The Southern Region adopted the MACC, subject to change based on a planned MACC exercise to test its functionality. The Central Region adopted the MACC and met with the Central Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee to plan for the MACC.

Sheltering and Shelter Management Development- Final Report

Pat Smith gave a final report on Shelter Development. She indicated the related Training & Surveys results were previously distributed. Hampden County still has had no answer from Westfield State University (WSU) about whether they are willing to serve as a regional shelter. While some communities have made headway and are planning sheltering needs, Pat also noted there were many challenges working with communities. Pat suggested we identify where

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we can utilize funds most effectively to help communities. Training and exercise is needed next, and Pat will work to continue with the partnerships developed to keep the plans meaningful and engaging.

Sandra Martin reported in Berkshire County three or more first responders are ready to act as shelter managers. Some concerns were raised about finding staff to manage the shelters, and suggested we identify new volunteers willing to staff shelters, and create a list to be shared regionally. Although it is difficult to get volunteers to commit to a regional shelter call list.

Hampshire County experienced delays in identifying a regional shelter location making it difficult to determine which facilities in Hampshire County would be the designated regional shelter.

Raine Brown reminded the committee that if a project is not moving along as planned, our meetings are the format to take steps for projects to stay on target.

FFY 2015 Project Updates

Children in Disasters

Family Reunification:

Allison Hope reported she is formalizing the final report and received good feedback. The Head Start programs working with children from 2.9 yr – 5yr olds have robust plans in place and are engaged in running drills. There is a gap in getting administration buy in at the High School/Middle School level, partly due to time constraints. It was noted that drills require staff time, and last about 4 hours, making it difficult to get participation

However, the Mass State Police (MSP) have plans already in place for training in schools, and since plans exist, the schools should coordinate with their local police to plan a drill.

Both Sandra Martin and Larry Holmberg raised the question of what emergency plan is in place during school bus transportation time. At Hampshire Regional the bus driver is responsible for the safety of the children, and for the reunification plan with parents via the Bus Company. Sandra noted there is a potential gap “what if the bus driver is unconscious”. Larry reported the first responders would take over.

Mark Maloni asked for a reminder of the intended outcome of this project. It was noted that the project will develop a plan communities can use, incorporating existing plans already in place. It was suggested that a school be identified to go through a drill and fund it to fine tune

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our plan. Ann Shea suggested we wait until the end of the school year to run an exercise. Allison will contact the MSP to learn more about their plan.

Carolyn Shores Ness reported her school district has a new Superintendent and might be on board to run a drill. Raine express hesitation about rushing forward to drill with schools, as we are not ready and it hasn't been determined this how the funding will be used. Sandra asked if we can let people know the MSP plan exists and encourage schools to use it. Raine noted if the MSP plan is shown to be sufficient we should focus on promoting it with MSP approval.

Allison is meeting with the MSP on 9/9/16 regarding their plan. She asked for questions by email, to make the meeting more productive.

Medical Supplies:

Tracy is working on the EMT list, and will report on the completion date.

Debris Management Template

Pat Smith reported that she is building the Debris Management template based on the accepted Franklin County Debris Management Plan. Pat will continue to incorporate any additional input to be available at the next meeting.

Inter-Disciplinary/Jurisdictional Situational Awareness

Raine noted there is nothing to report, until after the full scale exercise at Six Flags takes place on September 13, 2016.

COAD Long Term Recovery

Alisson Hope discussed the importance of volunteer management and donation management. The Pioneer Valley COAD has not met recently, and Alisson plans to attend their next meeting.

Mark Maloni noted the need to re-evaluate the needs of the COAD's, and make the necessary tools available to help the COADs in planning and implementing best practices.

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MACC Phase IV

Raine reported the Town of Hadley signed the MOU to begin work in Hampshire County. Franklin County and the FRCOG MOU is in place and ready to begin. The timeline needs to be modified to accommodate the late start time due to the delayed signing of the MOU. Raine will address this.

Budget Review

Raine updated the committee on FFY2015 available funds; COAD continuation has \$15,000 encumbered, with zero remaining, Debris Management Template has \$4,000 available and Inter-Disciplinary/Jurisdictional Situational Awareness has \$5,000 in available funds.

Requests

No requests

Old Business

FFY2016 Update

Raine noted the approved FFY2016 Investment Plan Budget is in the meeting packet. It is anticipated that contracts will be awarded this month and the total funding for the Council is almost \$750,000. We also received just over \$400,000 in competitive grants to be shared with the Central Region. The planning process was considerably harder than previous years due to the competitive grant process.

Through the competitive grant EOPSS originally approved the following funding: \$300,000 for structural collapse rescue Equipment and just over \$100,000 for structural collapse training. Since the training was the priority for WRHSAC and the Tech Rescue Teams, Raine sought an amendment to allocate the funding as follows: \$86,000 for equipment and \$315,000 for structural collapse training. EOPSS has approved the amendment.

New Business

DHS CVE Grant

Raine noted the Council had been informed of a competitive grant opportunity to address countering violent extremism (CVE). A working group was formed to discuss ideas. A application was submitted with a focus on building community resilience. The project would partner with Dr. John Woodall, who spoke at last year's Children in Disasters Conference, and utilize his community resilience building model to focus in the municipalities of Springfield, West Springfield and Chicopee. Raine noted grant award notification will likely be the end October.

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Items unforeseen by the chair

Raine noted that Linda Moriarty is very sick, and also recognized committee members who are recently bereaved.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 11 AM at DPH, Northampton

There being no further business Ann Shea motioned to adjourn. Larry Holmberg seconded. Voted unanimously.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne
Admin Services Financial Assistant
Franklin Regional Council of Governments