

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, Sept 12, 2017, 10:00 am**  
**Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA**

**Present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Melissa Nazzaro (Springfield Comm.), Carolyn Shores-Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Bob Hassett (Springfield CMED), Jamin Carroll (PVT), Sonya Schey (EOPSS), John Dearborn (WMFCA), Bob Barry (MEMA), Allison Hope (BCBOHA), Stephen Gaughan (EMS Rep/Hatfield FD), Paul Morrisette (WMFCA), Chris Bouchard (Beckett Highway), Michael Nelson (MDPH), John Mauro (Central Region HS), Ann Shea (MMC), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Michael Glisson (Granger Inc.), Ann Dunne (FRCOG)

This meeting is audio recorded.

The meeting was brought to order at 10:02 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 18, 2017 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve the July 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Bob Hassett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** - Tom Grady was not at the last EOPSS meeting, however Tom will be attending the upcoming Chairs' meeting and will receive updates from MEMA and the Homeland Security Office.

Melissa Nazzaro met with Adrian Santiago, Director of EOPSS on July 31, 2017. Melissa summarized the meeting in an email to the Council; and read the content at the meeting today.

“EOPSS is aware that the HSGP funding is going to be cut in FFY18. And are engaging in several strategies to both mitigate the impact as well as attempt to keep the cuts as small as possible.

- a. Their effort to minimize the cuts is focused on bringing awareness to the Commonwealth's needs and threat risk. They are working with MSP and other local/regional partners to capture the infrastructure and technology risk. We are reminded to bring large community events forward for threat assessment. They are hopeful that by better capturing the Commonwealth's risk and threat vulnerabilities, they can more effectively make the argument about how a reduction in HSGP funding will negatively impact the communities.
- b. The effort to mitigate the impact of these cuts is focusing on diversifying funding streams, both as a resource to EOPSS/HS Grants Division, as well as ensuring the communities know of the other grant resources avail. We specifically discussed some Federal Grant Programs (JAG, Assistance to FF, Public Health Preparedness, Dept. of Energy, etc.) that are going to continue to be avail and may be of interest to our WRHSAC members. He also mentioned that the funding

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divide of some of these grant programs in MA may be shifting as “sanctuary cities” lose access to certain programs due to changing grant requirements.

2. We discussed the FFY18 funding priorities, which have been identified as follows:
  - a. Active Shooter
  - b. Cyber Security
  - c. Radiation/Nuclear
3. As a spin off to the Active Shooter priority discussion, he mentioned Fatpot as a resource that the UASI has been using for years to assist with the sharing of real time activity in communities (described as a secure 911 call for service layer in Google Maps) to increase situational awareness among neighboring departments.
4. Finally, we discussed the outreach potential for reaching a broader audience. While the WRHSAC has been effective at maintaining participation from all disciplines and many local jurisdictions, they have not had the same luck in other Councils. We discussed why I think we have been so successful (a consistent “regionally focused” mission, with little personal agenda under strong leadership, and extended membership for most participants), and where I think there is still room for improvement (reaching the Municipal Leaders/mayors/councils/town managers). As part of this discussion, he mentioned that EOPSS is looking to make a bylaw change to increase commitment to participate by requiring members or their official designees to make a certain number or percentage of meetings each year. The goal is to keep people from holding a position but not participating. At this time, the bylaw revision is specifically for the Full Council membership, but they are also considering looking at sub committees.”

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Paul Morrissette updated the Council on regional training for new fire officers.
- POLICE: No updates.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan noted the Mass EMS Conference will take place on October 19 & 20, 2017 with October 18 as the pre-conference day. There is an active group working on updating the regional MCI plan.
- EMD: No Updates
- PUBLIC HEALTH: No Updates.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll noted the need for more communication between the City and PVTA regarding road closures, to help keep PVTA up to date on route detours due to roadwork.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported on the availability of BRI funding, and MEMA funding to update local mitigation plans. Chris is working with BRPC to streamline the “stream water river crossing” permitting process.

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- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported on the staff training on the new Inmate Management System, which has improved communications across the agencies. The Sheriff's Office met the EMAT request for aid due to the hurricanes, and deployed several registered nurses to assist in Florida and Texas.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Melissa Nazzaro noted the NextGen 911 installations are near completion. Springfield is due to be changed over next week.
- **HOSPITALS:** No updates.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness asked Raine for an updated newsletter. Carolyn will distribute the newsletter at the various upcoming quarterly association meetings.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Paul D'Auteuil is now in the Internal Affairs Office, and has not been replaced yet. Tom Grady will follow up.
- **MEMA:** Bob Barry noted the All Hazard Emergency Preparedness Conference will take place on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at the DCU Center, Worcester, MA
- **EMD:** No updates
- **EOPSS:** Sonya Schey reported that FEMA conducted a financial review of reimbursements and grant compliance. EOPSS is advising the regional Councils that FEMA is reviewing all the investment justifications, to ensure they are connected to Homeland Security. Massachusetts does a good job, and WRHSAC is a model for the State. FEMA will also be looking at the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), to determine the level of risk, in connection to the projects. EOPSS is ready to set up the FY2017 contracts with MAPC this will take 30-60 days.
- **Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Ann Shea reported on the dates of the upcoming Family Reunification Plan training sessions: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day  
Three separate sessions of this training will be held:
  - Wednesday, October 25, 2017—Springfield College
  - Thursday, October 26, 2017—Williams College
  - Friday, October 27, 2017—UMass Amherst

The training will be taught by the I Love U Guys Foundation, who will incorporate our template into the training.

A goal of the subcommittee is to bring the template to the National Conference level.

The Pan Flu Planning Subcommittee voted to transfer \$40,000.00 from the Pan Flu Planning budget to the Training & Exercise Subcommittee; to be utilized to host intervention/de-escalation themed trainings.

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The Hampden County MACC Phase V is underway, and PVPC are working with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office.

Debris Management Template: BRPC conducted outreach to the communities.

Tom asked Ann Shea to make a formal motion:

Ann Shea moved to approve the transfer of FFY2016 CVE allocated funds of \$40,000.00 from the Pan Flu Planning Subcommittee to the T&E Subcommittee. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Melissa Nazzaro noted that all FFY15 projects are completed, and the FFY16 WMLEC Gap Solutions project is underway.

Melissa Nazzaro announced she has accepted the position as the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) effective October 02, 2017. Tom Grady and the Council wished Melissa success, and acknowledged her dedication and expertise has helped make the Council so successful.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom asked the Council to vote on the following motions from the T&E Subcommittee meeting:

Operational ICS Training:

Steve Gaughan moved to approve \$21,000.00 for Operational ICS Training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded.

Raine noted we need a motion to cover the cost of the meals only as \$15,000 has already been approved.

Motion was amended as follows.

Steve Gaughan moved to amend the motion to approve \$6,000.00 of additional funds to support the Operational ICS Training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion was unanimous.

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Regional Sheltering Exercise Series: \$20,000.00 is already allocated

Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$47,500.00 additional funding to cover the cost of the full series of the Regional Sheltering Exercise Series. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

The FRCOG and BRPC will facilitate the trainings throughout the region.

Tom asked for three additional motions to cover the requests from the District 4 Hazmat Team and the District 5 Hazmat Team: Air Monitoring Class & Clandestine Labs & Gas Meters Class.

**Motion:** Paul Morrissette moved to approve \$6,950.00 for the D4 Hazmat Team for a customized air monitoring class. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The 8-hour training class will be presented by Federal Resources, to be held on December 27, 2017 at DFS Springfield.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$5,300.00 for the request for funds to cover two gas detection/metering classes. Paul Morrissette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Two 8-hour training classes will be facilitated by Christopher Wrenn. Chris is a subject matter expert who teaches meter technology throughout the country. The dates of the training will be January 29, 2017 for D-4 and January 30, 2017 for D-5 at DFS Springfield and the Silvio O. Conte Federal Building in Pittsfield.

**Motion:** Paul Morrissette moved to approve \$3,500.00 for the D5 Hazmat Team request for funds to cover the clandestine lab training. Carolyn Shore Ness seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The training will be held at the Silvio O. Conte Federal Building in Pittsfield on Thursday, November 02, 2017.

Tom noted there are several upcoming trainings, and registration is now open and can be viewed on the WRHSAC website.

Tom noted he received positive feedback from several Police Chiefs on the success of the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), informational symposium on active shooter incidents held in March 2016 at

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the Deerfield Academy. The next large conference is in the planning stages and will be held at UMASS on December 14, 2017, and will accommodate 600 people.

**Equipment/PPE:**

Raine reported the jersey barriers were delivered, and will be used this weekend at Founders Day in Lee, MA. Raine will add the jersey barriers and the hydration misters to the resource guide. Bob Hassett noted the benefit of the hydration misters at the Westfield International Air Show. This reduced the number of heat related incidents requiring assistance or hospital transportation.

Bob Barry noted the responsiveness of the region when MEMA makes a request for resources.

**CBRNE/IED:** No updates.

**Fiduciary Report:** Raine noted that FFY15 funds are at zero, and FFY16 is underway.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Public Health Alternate: Michael Nelson asked the Council to vote to accept Tracy Rogers as the Public Health alternate voting member. Jeanne Galloway will continue as the primary voting member for Public Health.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness made a motion to accept Tracy Rogers as the Public Health Alternate. Steve Gaughan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
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The request will be sent to EOPSS to continue the approval process.

Communication Rep & WMRIC Chair: Tom asked the Council to email any replacement suggestions to Raine and Melissa. Raine noted the communications representative must be from a dispatch center, the Vice-Chair of WRHSAC can be from any discipline.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

New Location: The next Council meeting will be held on October 17, 2017 at 10:00am at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA

Motion: Steve Gaughan made a motion to adjourn. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
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The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from July 18,2017

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- WRHSAC Projects Report: FFY 15 Homeland Security Grant, 9/8/17
- WRHSAC Projects Report: FFY16 Homeland Security Grant , 9/8/17
- Email from Melissa Nazzaro – Summary of July 31, 2017 meeting with Adrian Santiago.
- Memo from Michael Nelson dated 8/1/2017

Respectfully Submitted by  
Ann Dunne, Franklin Regional Council of Governments