

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Training and Exercise Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 20, 2018 , 9:00 am
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA**

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Barry (MEMA), Bob Laford, (UMASS), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Bob Hassett (Spfld Emergency Management), Tom Grady (BCSO), Ann Shea (MMC), Brian Rust (Cooley Dickinson), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Mary Kersell (NWMIMT), Jon Davine (Northampton FD/EM, D-4 Hazmat), Karla Schoenthal (MMC), Ann Dunne (FRCOG),

This meeting was audio recorded.

Chairman Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

A round of introductions followed.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting.

<p>Motion: Bob Laford moved to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting. Ann Shea seconded the motion. Motion passed by a majority. One abstention.</p>

Budget Review

Raine reviewed the FFY16 budget and noted the funds were spent down on the Officer Down Recertification Training. Raine will request approval from the Council to spend down the remaining \$7,000.00 from the Regional Sheltering Exercise Series.

The FFY17 funds of \$115,513.00 includes the regional hazmat team funding, and should be spent by July 2019.

FFY16 T&E

Sheltering Exercise Series

BRPC is completing the final after action report (AAR) for the Central Planning Committee. The AAR for Hampden and Hampshire County are completed. Franklin County is experiencing some challenges, and Tracy Rogers expects to complete the AAR by December 2018.

Pioneer Valley COAD TTX – October 22, 2018

The exercise went well. Approximately 30 players participated. The after action report draft was distributed, and the AAR conference is scheduled for Dec. 05, 2018.

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Deerfield River Flooding Tabletop Exercise – Nov 03, 2018

The tabletop exercise was successful with participation from many towns along the Deerfield River Corridor. Tracy noted the regional plans developed by WRHSAC are not well known to the municipalities, and suggested holding local municipal meetings to raise awareness and to make the templates available. The after action report is in process, and the after action conference is scheduled for Dec. 11, 2018.

Campus Safety/Security Training – Update

The event will be held at UMass on Thursday, January 10, 2019, the venue accommodates up to 400 people. Raine noted that registration is low, and asked the committee to encourage participation in their municipalities and regions.

Officer Down Recertification Training – Oct 23-25, 2018

The training was very successful, with full attendance. There is an interest in holding another session in the spring 2019. The cost for the 3 day training is \$29,000.00. Tom suggested waiting until new business to discuss a motion.

Cybersecurity Conference.

The cybersecurity preparedness conference will be held at UMASS, Amherst, on December 05, 2018. As registration has slowed down, Raine has outreached to the Massachusetts Municipal Association and other agencies to encourage participation. She asked the committee to assist with sharing information about the conference.

Debris Management Chainsaw Safety Training - \$7,130.00

EOPSS approved the training, and Raine will prepare an EHP once Mike Smith selects a location. The training will likely be held in March 2019. Each session can accommodate 12 players.

Special Events Incident Management – TEEX MGT 440

The training will build on the June 2018 training, and will take place in March 2019 at MEMA, Agawam, MA.

Old Business: None

New Business:

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Hazmat Team Narcotics Field Testing Operations Course

Jon Davine presented a request to conduct Narcotics Field Testing Operations course for District 4 & 5 Hazmat Teams. Jon noted he had the opportunity to observe the glove box field testing in action. He saw the many benefits of the approach. The training would be a great addition to the Hazmat teams as they are responding to many fentanyl calls and other white-powder calls. This specific training is certified through the National Sheriffs Association. Upon completion of the training, District 4 & 5 will be the only Hazmat Teams in the Commonwealth certified to complete this in-field testing.

Jon is requesting \$19,000 from the FFY17 funds allocated for the Hazmat Teams for two sessions of the one day training. Each session can accommodate 20 people. Through two sessions all of District 4 can be trained. Jon would like to look at the upcoming FFY18 funds to host two sessions for District 5.

Motion: Bob Laford moved to approve \$19,000.00 from FFY17 funds for District 4 to hold the two sessions of the one-day Team Narcotics Field Testing Operations Course. Tracy Rogers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Raine suggested a provisional vote be made to allow her to act quickly once the FFY18 contract is in place and use the Hazmat Team funds there for two sessions of the training for District 5. Tom Grady noted that since there are additional training in exercise funds available in FFY17, why not use those first and when FFY18 is available make a switch in allocations to note regular T&E funds were used for the Hazmat Teams.

Motion: Bob Barry moved to approve \$19,000.00 from FFY18 for District 5 to hold the two sessions of the one-day Narcotics Field Testing Operations Course, and to give Raine the flexibility to flip FFY17 funds with FFY18 if necessary, to secure the training dates. Tracy Rogers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jon plans on holding the District 4 training in December 2018 and District 5 in January.

Rescue Task Force Training.

Following the success of the Officer Down Training, Raine received several requests for more rescue task force training. Because the Active Threat Integrated Response Class (ATIRC) training is federal funded, it will not be available in this region again until 2020. However, there are several local facilitators offering a similar 3 day training course. The cost would be approximately \$ 30,000.00 for 30-50 people. There seems to be more of a focus on the train the trainer approach at the state level. EOPSS will discuss the future of the program at a strategy meeting on December 07, 2018.

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Discussion followed regarding the standardization of clothing and equipment for all municipalities, and it was agreed to keep the topic on the agenda, but to not take any action at this time.

Vehicle Based Rescue Training

This training suggestion arose out of the Officer Down Rescue Training where a vehicle was used during a rescue scenarios. As vehicles have slightly different configurations, a training was proposed to practice rescues using multiple style vehicles as a one day training. While it is linked to the Rescue Task Force Training, the training is designed for all law enforcement and first responders.

After a discussion on policy and procedures and the need to provide a standardized approach, it was agreed to keep the topic on the agenda.

Emerging Threats

The training was well received in March 2018. The facilitators are interested in providing another training. Some suggested topics include the integration of disaster medicine into the field and testing for narcotics in the field. Tom stressed the importance of coordinating with WMEMS, JHAT, Fire and EMS Services, and suggested setting up a planning meeting to include all the disciplines. Training needs to be consistent across the disciplines. We could incorporate mass casualty field training, and bring the various disciplines and groups together. Raine will coordinate across disciplines and set up a planning meeting to discuss possible topics.

Ann Shea - Retirement

Ann announced she is retiring on December 28 2018. This is earlier than anticipated, as she had previously announced she will be retiring the end of June 2019. Ann introduced Karla Schoenthal who will attend the meetings on behalf of Mercy Medical.

The committee returned to the topic of hosting another session of the Officer Down Rescue Instructor Training in Spring 2019.

<p>Motion: Tracy Rogers moved to approve \$29,000.00 to hold another Officer Down Recertification Training. Bob Barry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Mary Kersell reported on the recent deployment of the Incident Management Team to Florida. The team is well trained and was able to take on several different tasks under the local incident command team. Mary thanked the Council for all their support of the IMAT team and noted how well prepared and trained the team is.

The IMAT team also participated in the recent Vigilant Guard exercise.

Tom and Raine attended the statewide training & exercise committee meeting in Westborough. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss statewide coordination and how to manage and share resources.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 9:00 am, Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

Tom wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked the members for their dedication and continued hard work.

There being no further business, Bob Barry moved to adjourn. Tracy Rogers seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- T&E Subcommittee Minutes from October 16, 2018 Meeting.
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Program T&E Budget Report – 11/16/2018
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- WRHSAC FFY16 Regional Exercise Series, BRPC, October 2018 Status Update
- WRHSAC Pioneer Valley COAD TTX, November 2018 Status Update
- WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Exercise Series FFY2016.
- Request from Jon Davine – Hazardous Materials Response Division – District 4 Hazmat Team

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments