

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 11:00 am
DPH, 23 Service Center Road, Northampton, Ma

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG); Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG); Larry Holmberg (HREPC); Cindy Hahn (ARC), Mary Kersell (HPHPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Dfld BOS/BOH), Nikki Nixon (PVPC), Pat Smith (FRCOG), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Tony Pettaway (SDHH), Ann Shea (MMC), Michael Nelson (DPH) Ward Johnson (RSD), Mark Maloy (BRPC), George Heake.

Linda Moriarty called the meeting to order at 11:06 am.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 2, 2014 meeting.

Motion: Larry Holmberg motioned to approve the September 2, 2014 meeting minutes. Tracy Rogers seconded. Motion passed.

A round of introductions followed.

FFY2013 Project Updates

Public Outreach/Project Awareness

Raine Brown stated that the video portion of the project is moving along. Raine offered to show a few of the videos immediately following the meeting if anyone was interested. The videos should be completed by the end of October. The RPAs are developing story boards.

Pat Smith stated that a sample of the WRHSAC newsletter was included in the meeting packet. This was compiled for municipal officials in mind. It was designed to give more information than the brochure that was created last quarter. It also lists the contact information for the Western Mass. EMDs. Pat asked for input on whether this should be updated on a regular basis. It would require a budget to maintain. Carolyn Shores Ness stated that the newsletter was well received at the Franklin Select Board Association and the Hampshire Select Board Association meetings. It is important to keep the profile of the WRHSAC projects in front of municipal officials. Raine stated that the website was designed to offer information and to cut down on printing costs. Carolyn stated that hard copies at meetings have value. Tracy stated that the DPW Departments are a good target audience for these updates as well. Raine stated that the updates can be accommodated within the administrative budget if approved by the Council.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to recommend to the Council providing a newsletter for municipal officials at least twice a year. Mary Kersell seconded. Motion passed.

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Mass Receiving Phase II

Josiah Neiderbach stated that the project is moving along. Task one will define the Evacuation Service Centers (ESC). The project will coordinate with the state initiatives. Pat stated that the draft definition was included in the meeting packet. An ESC will be a facility that can provide water, food, gas, charging stations etc. It will offer the essential goods and services in order for evacuees to keep traveling to their destination. There will not be mass care, mass feeding or a dormitory available at an ESC. However, food may be available as well as first aid. The location must be accessible from the major routes. The plan will also consider the availability of towing and other auto service needs. The plan will focus on evacuation and re-entry. An ESC will not be located at the same location as a shelter however the location could change purpose as the event progresses and needs change. Carolyn stated that she is concerned about the financial implications of an ESC. The plan should consider what triggers an ESC to open and who funds it. Larry Holmberg stated that the ESC must be able to accommodate pets and consider first aid for pets as well. Sandra Martin stated that an ESC will be considerably less expensive than opening a shelter. Linda Moriarty stated that the plan should outline what services an ESC will provide and the level of training needed to run it. Sandra stated that the services do not need to be provided free of charge. Ann Shea stated that similar facilities in other states that will be named differently should be noted in the plan as well.

MACC Phase II

Raine stated that this project is moving along. The ConOps has been redrafted following the conversation at the stakeholders meeting last month. The next stakeholder meeting will be Tuesday, October 11th at the Berkshire Sheriff's Department at 11:00 am.

COAD/ERC

Tracy Rogers stated that the monthly update was included in the meeting packet. The Sunderland Public Library Director is going to host a meeting with ten other libraries that are interested in emergency preparedness work. The meeting will be in November. Tracy stated that the MOA in the appendix of the ERC guide seems to be a stumbling block for local governments. The staff has chosen not to focus too heavily on that aspect. The Pioneer Valley COAD decided not to pursue 501(c)(3) designation at this time. It is hoped that the new DPH Regional Coordinator will be willing to be the point person for EMDs to contact the COADS. Michael Nelson stated that he is waiting for approval to be the point person.

Tracy announced that Cindy Hahn is leaving the Red Cross. Cindy stated that 12 positions across the state have been eliminated. She stated that she will miss working with the Subcommittee. Cindy will be moving back to Vermont and to be a consultant. Linda thanked Cindy for her hard work.

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FEMA Faith Based Conference 2015

Tracy stated that the FEMA Liaison has reached out to ask if Tracy and Vivian Orłowski would speak at the May 6th workshop in Canton, MA. Raine stated that Vivian is no longer working on this project and it would not be appropriate for her to speak on its current progress. Tracy stated that FEMA would like two people to present and give a 90 minute presentation. This is also not a current task with designated funding to develop a presentation and cover travel to the workshop. Raine suggested that Tracy send a notification about the workshop to Mary Kersell, Sandra Martin, Noreen Suriner and herself to decide the best course of action. Raine stated that funds are available for this project in the FFY2014 plan. Tracy stated that FEMA may offer some reimbursement for travel expenses.

ERC Quarterly EMD Presentation

Raine stated that she received an email from Noreen asking for help to get on the EMD Quarterly meeting agenda. Raine asked if the project is ready to be presented. Tracy stated that she was comfortable with giving a presentation on the project.

Mobile Generators

Raine stated that the lowest bid price for the generators was \$27,000 each. The project was allocated \$65,000. Two generators will be purchased. Raine asked for input on where to house them. There is currently a generator in Westfield and North Adams. Discussion followed. It was decided that the Holyoke Fire Department and Franklin County Sheriff's Department be asked to house the generators.

FFY2014 Project Updates

Raine stated that the FFY2014 Contracts have been signed.

MACC Phase III

Raine stated that Phase II funding will end in December 2014.

COAD Summit 2015

Raine stated that this project was allocated \$10,000. Tracy stated that a list of ideas for workshops has been compiled. A date and location have not been finalized yet.

COAD ERC Continuation

Raine stated that this project was allocated \$10,000. A portion of this funding could be used for the FEMA workshop presentation.

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Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 11:00 am
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Public Outreach Continuation

Raine stated that this project was allocated \$10,000.

Children in Disasters

Raine stated that this project was allocated \$20,000. Linda stated that she will talk to DPH about available resources. Sandra stated that some members of the subcommittee had recently attended a TEEK class in Needham and it was very well done. Ward Johnson stated that the Berkshire County Trauma Team also offers a psychological first aid training. Linda stated that there is a faith based team that offers child care assistance to parents in shelters so that they can fill out paperwork, wait in line, etc. Sandra stated that the Berkshire MRC has a proposal for a training as well. Raine stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee has allocated funding for training. This funding was dedicated to identify the gaps in our region to conduct a follow up.

Sheltering and Shelter Management Development

Raine stated that this project was allocated \$50,000. The intention of this project was to assist forming shelter management teams and to assist towns. However, Franklin and Hampshire Counties were more active with the Regional Sheltering projects than Hampden and Berkshire so further thought on how to move forward with this project is needed.

Companion Animal Expandable Cache

Raine stated that this project was allocated \$7,000. This project will purchase regional supplies that will be stored in Springfield. Raine will coordinate with Bob Hassett.

Requests

Richmond Consolidated Go Bag Request

Ward Johnson thanked the Subcommittee for considering this request. The Richmond School has 163 students. The school is located near the New York border and very close to Route 295. Some have described this area as a major transportation route for drug trafficking from New York City into this area. The Richmond school is in a vulnerable position where the reality of a lock-down or evacuation is significant. In September, the Richmond School Crisis Team met to refine the Crisis Plan and the Go Bags were identified as a gap. It would be ideal to have a Go Bag for all twelve classrooms. Ward stated that the other schools in the school district are equipped with Go Bags. Larry voiced concern about providing supplies for a single school. Linda stated that it has been a priority of the Subcommittee to supply these types of resources to schools and she was not concerned with setting the precedent for a single school rather than a district. Carolyn stated that she supports the request because a full plan has been developed and

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the Go Bags have been identified as a need. Raine stated that a letter of support from the School Union and the State Police would be advisable.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve up to \$1,000 to purchase Go Bags for the Richmond School. Tracy Rogers seconded. Motion passed.

Raine stated that the request will be presented to the Council on October 21st. Linda stated that Ward or a representative should attend the Council meeting.

Old Business

Regional Shelter Equipment Loaning

Raine stated that she has been inventorying the new shelter equipment. She stated that she has some concerns regarding loan of computers, transfer boards, hand washing stations, etc. It is much easier to loan a trailer and have it returned. Access of the equipment is a challenge as well. Discussion followed. Linda tabled the discussion until next month.

New Business

Tracy asked if anyone has considered the implications of the new gun safety law. Carolyn stated that a resource officer now has to be available to the school district. The towns are not sure how to fund the new expense. Ward stated that teachers are also mandated to have two hours of training on suicide prevention every year.

Items Unforeseen by the Chair

No business unforeseen was discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4th at 11 am at DPH.

There being no further business Tracy Rogers motioned to adjourn. Tony Pettaway seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 am.

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