

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 2014, 11:00 am
DPH, 23 Service Center Road, Northampton, Ma

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG); Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG); Mary Kersell (HPHPC), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Tom Lynch (BHS), Michael Nelson (DPH) Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Ann Shea (MMC), Erica Johnson (PVPC), Dianne Person (BRPC/BCBOHA), Deb Clapp (DPH), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS).

Linda Moriarty called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 4, 2014 meeting. Tracy Rogers made a correction regarding the COAD Summit.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve the November 4, 2014 meeting minutes as corrected. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Children in Disasters conversation with Deborah Clapp

Linda Moriarty introduced Deb Clapp from DPH. Deb is the EMS for Children Project – Program Manager at DPH. Raine Brown stated that Deb was invited to speak today to bring her expertise into the committee’s discussion about children in disasters. It was hoped that the FEMA pediatrics course could be offered but it will not be available until next October due to the high demand for it. The Subcommittee wanted to pursue other more timely options. Raine reached out to Deb and she offered to attend this meeting to brainstorm some ideas. Deb attended the FEMA training with some of the Subcommittee members in the early spring. Deb stated that she worked for a year and a half on a FEMA pediatric disaster planning task force. Deb stated that children are often lumped into a single group as are companion animals and elderly. However, there are vast differences in the care needs of children ages 0-20. Re-unification is a major issue especially for children that are not talking yet. Post disaster planning is also an important issue because children are affected by disasters long after the event is over. There is the consideration that not all the children can be sent to the same hospital during a major event. Only 44% of hospitals have considered pediatric issues in their disaster plans. There are transportation issues as well. All of these issues and more need to be planned for and coordinated. DPH has some good resources. Deb stated that she can put together a proposal for a one day conference. Deb asked for feedback on how to tailor the training to the most important gaps and needs of the region. Carolyn suggested that the conference be offered to municipal officials, hospitals, schools, planners and first responders to give a broad overview of the subject to create a better awareness of the gaps.

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Sandra Martin stated that the Subcommittee likes to offer a deliverable such as a check list or templates for the Towns to utilize. The best case scenario would be the creation of a pediatric specialized team similar to the DART teams. Larry Holmberg suggested keeping the initial conference to four hours. Ann Shea stated that she attended the two day FEMA course and it was very helpful. Deb suggested doing some break out group exercises. Deb stated that child care facilities are required to have a disaster plan but there is no requirement to have those plans shared with first responders. Ann stated that a check list of things to consider when developing a disaster plan would be very helpful. Raine stated that the funding for this phase of the project is \$20,000 and needs to be spent down by July 2016. Any training related to this project will go through the T&E Subcommittee. Discussion ensued. Raine stated that she will draft the Project Justification and send it to EOPSS. Raine will coordinate with Deb to draft the Scope of Work to review at the January meeting. Raine explained that an inter-governmental contract can be drawn up after that and the project will not need to go out to bid. Linda Moriarty suggested forming a working group to help keep the project moving in a timely manner.

<p>Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to move forward with this project with DPH as discussed. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.</p>

FFY2013 Project Updates

Public Outreach/Project Awareness

Raine stated that this project is moving forward. Most of the videos are complete. There are a few smaller videos that have been proposed. The RPAs are reaching out to the list of stakeholders and requesting to be added to agendas. The videos will be posted to the WRHSAC website soon. Raine will send out the links to the videos when they are posted.

Mass Receiving Phase II

Josiah Neiderbach stated that the project is moving along. The monthly progress report was included in the meeting packet. Josiah passed out a handout outlining the Evacuation Service Center (ESC) capacity estimates. The RPAs have been working on calculating the size and capacity that the ESC would need to provide. Feedback is encouraged on the assumptions. Sandra stated that the biggest issue to decide on now is if tankers will be brought in to dispense gasoline. During Hurricane Sandy the State of New York did not charge for the gasoline dispensed. The other option is to look at placing the ESC's near existing gas stations and leave the tanker issue until the next phase of the project. Larry stated that the local roads will become overwhelmed very quickly if tankers are not brought in. Larry stated that the total evacuee numbers for each county seem off. He would assume that the numbers in Hampden County would be much higher than Franklin County.

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Linda suggested looking at both the tanker scenario and the gas station scenario. Mary Kersell stated that it is possible to hook up multiple hoses from a single tanker. A discussion followed concerning ways to charge for the tanker gasoline.

MACC Phase II

Raine stated that she contacted Fortress to discuss what could be accomplished with the current budget. A status of the project was included in the meeting packet. The Joint Information System (JIS) was not a deliverable in the project's quote, at that time it was a feasibility question. It was determined early in the project that the JIS should be included as a task. However, an SOG for the JIS was not outlined as a deliverable in this contract. The MACC Pilot project was anticipated to be one for Berkshire County and has evolved into the development of three MACCs. The stakeholder meetings have been done but the outreach to communities has not happened yet other than with the DPWs and the Northern Berkshire REPC. Fortress stated that with the remaining funding, they can complete the MACC SOGs with a JIS component and not complete the public outreach or vice versa. Fortress stated that for an additional \$10,000 both can be completed. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the group to focus on the MACC SOGs with a JIS component and to leave the public outreach to local responders that are familiar with the project and support it. The committee does not want to put any more money towards this phase of the project.

COAD/ERC

Tracy Rogers stated that several handouts were included in the meeting packet. She stated that she is encouraged about the sustainability for the project. Michael Nelson is listed as the point of contact on the COAD flyer for EMDs. Tracy thanked Michael. Tracy stated that two new churches have joined. A meeting with interested libraries will be held on Friday. A conference call was held to discuss the FEMA conference. A draft budget was included in the meeting packet. The Pioneer Valley COAD has a new chair, vice chair and secretary. Tracy will meet with them to do a walk through of the Emergency Operations Plan. The Berkshire COAD has decided to not pursue becoming a 501 3C yet but will revisit the question at a later time. Tracy stated Mary, Sandra and herself were asked to create a blog post about the project to be uploaded to FEMA's website in mid-December.

Mobile Generators

Raine stated that two generators were purchased. The Holyoke Fire Department and Franklin County Sheriff's Department will house the generators. On site training will be provided at both locations.

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School Go-Kits

Raine stated that a successful bid was received for the 18 Go Kits. The order was placed and they will be shipped soon.

FFY2014 Project Updates

MACC Phase III

Raine stated that Phase II funding will end in December 2014. Phase III will pick up from there.

COAD Summit 2015

Raine stated that it will be much easier to do one contract for FEMA Conference and the COAD summit. A budget for both items was included in the meeting packet. The total for both events is \$15,035.39.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to move approve \$15,000.00 for the FEMA Conference and the COAD Summit. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed. Mary Kersell, Sandra Martin, Tracy Rogers and Diane Persson abstained.</p>
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COAD ERC Continuation

This project is listed on the agenda as a place holder.

Public Outreach Continuation

Raine stated that this project is listed on the agenda as a place holder in case the current project identifies gaps.

Children in Disasters

This project was covered earlier in the meeting.

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. Raine stated that a PJ should be submitted by April 2014 in order to keep this project on track.

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Companion Animal Expandable Cache

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

Requests

No requests were presented.

Old Business

Regional Shelter Equipment Loaning

Raine stated that a copy of the updated Resource Guide was included in the meeting packet. She asked the Subcommittee to review pages 4-7. A non trailered caches category was added. The items are listed with their location as well as if the items are considered durable or expendable. It is noted that it is up to the cache owner to decide how to lend out this category of equipment. Raine stated that Ryan Clary from the FRCOG is working on updating the map that will be included in the Resource Guide. Raine asked for feedback. Mary Kersell asked if the number of cots and other items should be included. Raine replied that the owners of the caches are not required to maintain the original numbers, so it could be challenging to keep the quantities up to date. This was further discussed and determined that quantities of each item were not needed in the guide.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Items Unforeseen by the Chair

Raine stated that a request from the Hampshire Public Health Coalition was submitted too late to be included on the agenda. The request is for \$10,000 to enhance lighting and electrical equipment for a Public Health Outreach trailer. Raine stated that FFY13 has \$10,000 left over from the mobile generator project. Ed Lesko stated that this will allow the trailer to be used 24 hours a day. Larry stated that he took a tour of the trailer. Linda asked if DPH can fund this request. Ed responded that DPH used the available funds to purchase the trailer. Sandra asked if the trailer can be listed in the Resource Guide. Ed replied that it can. Borrowers must be prepared to move the trailer with their own truck. The trailer is stored in Northampton. Tracy stated that the NWMIMT Team may be interested in borrowing it for different events. Raine reminded the Subcommittee that a food trailer request was rejected. Linda stated that it was refused because it was deemed a duplication of assets that the Red Cross already provided. Ed stated that this is the only trailer of its kind in Western Massachusetts.

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Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to move approve \$10,000 for the lighting and electrical upgrades to the Public Health Outreach Trailer. Tracy Rogers seconded. Motion passed. Mary Kersell and Ed Lesko abstained.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6th at 11 am at DPH.

There being no further business Ed Lesko motioned to adjourn. Tracy Rogers seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 pm.

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