

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Training and Exercise Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2013, 9:00 am
WMEMS, 68 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.**

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Ann Shea (MMC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Josh Shanley (NEM), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Robert Barry (MEMA), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Phill Grannan (TVFD), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/DBOH), Jason Breault (PPD), Stephen Jones (MSP), Stephen Gawron (MSP), John Dearborn (LFD).

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

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting.

<p>Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to approve the minutes from November 19, 2013. Bob Barry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Review FFY2013 T&E Plan/Projects

Regional Hazmat Team Training

Raine stated that she asked John Dearborn to attend the meeting. John stated that he proposed continuing to send Team members to the Highway Emergency Response Specialist Training, and the Tank Car Specialist Training, both offered at the Security and Emergency Training Center in Pueblo, Colorado. We have been able to send 35-40 people to the trainings thus far. The Council is asked to pay for backfill and overtime for the attendees and travel not covered by the school. The average cost per person is \$2,200. Due to the government shut down and the sequestration it has been difficult to spend down the funding. John has been able to secure 4-5 spots. John is looking into more local training options. The FFY13 money should be able to be spent on the Pueblo Colorado trainings.

Tom stated that he would like to see some nuclear trainings offered. John agreed. Sandra stated that she would like to see coordination with public health for distribution on medications if a nuclear event occurred. Discussion followed.

<p>Motion: Bob Barry motioned to continue with the Regional Hazmat Training as discussed. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

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Anti-Counter Terrorism Training

Raine stated that there is \$57,500 dedicated to this training area. This funding needs to be spent by the end of July, 2015. Tom stated that he would like to reach out to the Joint Terrorism Task Force for guidance on training. Josh stated that Tactical EMS training would also be beneficial.

Tom stated that he would like to see more exercises to test the training that we have done and identify gaps for further training. It would be great to somewhat mimic an exercise to the Urban Shield exercise done in Boston every year. The exercise would include multiple aspects such as Communications, Hazmat, IMAT team, Counter Terrorism, etc. This would use current capabilities and demonstrate how to employ the resources that we have. Discussion followed.

WMD/CBRNE Training

Tom stated that he would like CBRNE to take the lead on this training or exercise. Linda stated that she would like to have another 3-day TEEX program offered. It has a classroom component and work with complex mannequins. They work as a team to determine triage and treatment and must treat the mannequins with full gear on. It was a very well done class. She will research this further and report at the next meeting.

Regional Shelter Exercise Training

Raine stated that the training currently being developed will be completed by July 2014. The training will be available online for sustainability. The next step will be an exercise. \$15,000 has been allocated for this next phase of the project. These funds could be used for planning the exercise and then FFY14 funds may be designated for the exercise or a small drill. Tom stated that the THIRA will be completed in the next month or so. Two of the four scenarios used in the THIRA can be tied into sheltering.

Rest Center Plan Training

Raine stated that it would be good to include this training in the next phase of the VOAD/Faithbased project. This project will organize rest centers for Western Mass. It will focus on having the first responders and the Faith Based groups interact. This training area was designated \$10,000 in FFY13. The subcommittee agreed that combining the training funds within the scope of the next phase of the VOAD/Faithbased is a good idea.

Communications Training

Josh stated that he received a lot of good feedback about the Communication Training 101. More discussion is needed to determine the focus of the communication training video. It would be great to offer a follow up to the first Communication training. It would also be a good idea to offer the Communications 101 training one more time during a weekday to attract the larger communities to participate. Discussion followed. Raine stated that the feedback form data should be compiled to assess it to help decide how to move forward on the video project. The next training should be a drill involving multiple assets in the region. The drill could run from 2

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pm to 7 pm to involve a shift change. An amber alert might work well for the scenario. Discussion followed.

Requests

Public Health Coalition PIO Training- \$10,000

Sandra stated that it is crucial for the right people to be able to give information at the right time during a disaster. Sandra would like to hire Susan Santos to offer two Public Information Officer trainings, one in the valley and one in the Berkshires. The training focuses on what to say and not to say and to whom. Ed stated that he went to this training a few years ago and it was very beneficial. Raine stated that the training would have to be put out to bid. Raine stated that social media should be covered in the training. Discussion followed on how to promote the training.

<p>Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to recommend to the Council to approve \$12,300 FFY12 unallocated funds for the Public Health Coalition PIO Training. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Old Business

GPS Cache Training

Raine stated that the GPS cache and training was approved. The training will be open to 50-60 people and will be held at the MEMA facility in Agawam. Discussion followed on the type of scenario for the training concluding that debris management and search and rescue would be the most beneficial. Tom suggested holding the training in April.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Ed stated that Nikki Nixon will be his official proxy.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 9:30 at the Northampton Police Department.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty motioned to adjourn. Ed Lesko seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Gretchen Johnson

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Homeland Security Program Assistant
Franklin Regional Council of Governments