

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Victoria Grafton (EOPSS), Mark Babineau (LFD), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Tom Lynch (BMC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Chris Bouchard (BDPW), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), John Pond (WMFCA), Michael Wynn (PPD), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Robert Barry (MEMA), Cindy Hahn (ARC), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Noreen Suriner (ERE), Jason Breault (BCSO), Ann Shea (MMC), Steve Meranti (NAFD), Mike Cozzaglio (NAFD), Jonathan Hartenbaum (MEMA), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG).

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

A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2014 and the February 18, 2014 meeting.

Motion: Mark Babineau moved to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2014 and the February 18, 2014 meeting as submitted. Russ Sienkiewicz seconded. Ed Lesko abstained. Motion passed.

Faith Community Emergency Rest Center Update

Tracy Rogers passed out copies of the Emergency Rest Center Guide for Faith Groups and Municipalities as well as an outreach packet designed for EMDs. Tracy gave a PowerPoint presentation. The Emergency Rest Center Guide offers a template, standard operating guidelines and a template for a Mutual Aid Agreement. The staff conducted 7 trainings with a total of 150 people in attendance. They attended 30 meetings with a total of 149 organizations represented. Noreen stated that the Guide offers a way for the churches to be involved during a disaster in an appropriate and manageable way. There is also a need for other services such as, landing sites for DPW to offer them a warming station, bathrooms, coffee, etc. Sandra stated she found in Berkshire County that it was a better approach to see the community as a whole in the small towns rather than approaching churches individually. Sandra also stated that colleges have many resources as well. Williams College is very excited about the project for their community.

The recommended next steps for this project include:

- Partnership model
- Working through fire chaplains
- Training on the Guide
- Encouraging participation on COADs

Noreen stated that she would like to acknowledge Mary Kersell for all her hard work on this project. She did a magnificent job. Tom thanked Tracy for the presentation and the group for their hard work.

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Updates from Chair

Tom Grady asked Jason Breault, Steve Meranti and Mike Cozzaglio to explain the success of a recent project. Jason stated that a project was presented to the Council requesting funds to reprogram radios that were causing interference with a system in Green County, New York. The request was tabled and Tom offered to talk to the group after the meeting. It was possible to reprogram the 200 radios with the trained CommLs and the Homeland Security purchased laptops and software. Steve and Mike offered thanks to the Council and Raine Brown. This resource saved the community over \$20,000. Tom stated that this is a great example of the real benefits of the training and equipment purchased due to the foresight of the Council. Linda stated that the EMS 385 system was also able to be programmed on these radios at the same time.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Pond stated that the Tech Rescue Team met on March 7th. There are a total of 80 members currently. The last training was held at the Northfield Mountain Project. John thanked the Council for funding the training. The next training will be on trench rescue and held in June. The following training will focus on light structural collapse rescue. All of the tech rescue trainings and SOGs are being standardized statewide. Mark stated that businesses have been asking for assistance from the team when sending employees into confined spaces. This is a possible revenue source for the Team to become self sustaining.
- POLICE: Russ Sienkiewicz stated that Northampton is participating in a pilot project along with 5 other communities, Livermore Sandy National Labs and the National Grid. The purpose of the project is to set up small pockets of generator supported microgrids. This will allow an area to support businesses, such as a gas station, convenience stores, etc. during a long term blackout. He will keep the Council informed as the project progresses. Mike Wynn stated that Berkshire County hosted an active shooter training. There has been great feedback from the participants.
- EMS: Linda stated that the District Attorney is working with the Police Departments and ambulance services to coordinate DPH regulations with police regulations on the usage of nasal narkan. Linda stated that the WMass EMS annual meeting will be on April 10th. Bob Hassett will be presented with an award. Bob Moore will be presented with the Freeman Award to recognize outstanding work in the EMS field. Linda stated that tickets to the event are \$35 and will be held at the Elks Club in Northampton.
- EMD: Tom congratulated Bob Hassett.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed stated that the second Regional Health Coalition meeting was held at the Greenfield Community College. There will be two more meetings. The Department Public Health is gearing up for the Triple E season. The outbreaks are expected to be worse this year than last.

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- TRANSPORTATION: No update given.
- DPW: Chris stated that the DPWs are anxiously waiting for the Governor to sign the Transportation Bond Bill to release much needed funds.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that he felt that the confusion about the using the new MIDNET system has been resolved. Tom stated that the Gang Task Force has shown interest in using the Info Sharing and IMC systems more. This is another example of building relationships and using shared resources.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa stated the State 911 Department is moving its offices. The office will now be located a half hour closer in travel time to Western Mass. The RFP for the Next Generation system has been released. A task force is being formed to work on the training and protocols for receiving 911 calls via texts.
- HOSPITALS: No update given.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn stated that the Selectboard Association met recently in Boston. The regional representatives are coordinating with the outreach program and will be giving updates at the quarterly meetings. Carolyn stated that she attended a meeting in Framingham to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan requirements. The FEMA guidelines do not fit the rural communities well. The Cost Benefit Analysis requirement is technical and many towns do not have the expertise to complete the forms on their own. Chris stated that the award process needs to be streamlined. Discussion followed.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update given.
- MEMA: Bob stated that the Council sponsored GPS trainings are coming up. The first one will be on April 2nd in Agawam. The second one will be held on April 16th in South Deerfield. Bob encouraged anyone who is interested to register for this valuable training. MEMA will be hosting an ICS 400 class on March 24th and 25th and a ICS 300 class on April 7th through the 9th. Bob introduced and welcomed Jonathan Hartenbaum. He is the new MEMA Training Coordinator.
- EOPSS: Victoria stated that she finds these meetings very informative. EOPSS is in the process of hiring a replacement for John Fabiano. The next Homeland Security grant application has not been released yet. It is expected that the funding amounts will be similar to a slight increase from the current funding. Amy stated that the FFY10 funds were closed out and spent down to the penny. Amy thanked Raine and Linda Gross for their hard work. Amy stated that Steve Daly has left for another position. Amy asked the Council to forward any nominations for his position. Tom stated that Steve was always very complimentary to this Council. It was a pleasure to work with him.

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Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the Subcommittee reviewed the current projects at the last meeting. The Subcommittee discussed how to rework the Mass Receiving Scope of Work. Raine represents the Council on the Statewide Evacuation Group. The State is developing a definition of a reception center that differs from the definition the Subcommittee had in mind. The State's reception center is based on a place that evacuees arrive at and then are distributed to shelters. The Subcommittee decided to focus on evacuation service centers for this stage of the project with the understanding that these centers could expand to be reception center. The Subcommittee will review the updated scope of work at the April meeting and hope to start work on the project in May. Raine stated that the COAD Summit in Northampton will be held next week. Registration for the Summit is full. The public outreach project will begin soon. The staff will go to existing meetings to share information on Council projects and resources. Raine stated that there is an extensive list of meetings but input on meetings to attend is welcome.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ stated that the WMRIC project Phase 2 will be to formalize the Interops Subcommittee and design an organizational structure and bylaws to be used if Homeland Security funding ends. The First Net Project is a federally owned and operated wireless cell network for emergency responders. It is an ambitious plan. The First Net staff will be working with EOPSS to get information on our current systems and capabilities. Discussion followed.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. The Subcommittee has some funding that will need to be spent down quickly. Suggestions for training related equipment can be forwarded to a T&E Subcommittee member to be considered at the April meeting.

Officer Down Rescue Instructor- \$15,000

Tom stated that the Subcommittee recommends the approval an Officer Down Rescue Instructor training. There are currently 28 active instructors in the region and many of them need to be re-certified. The training will cost approximately \$15,000. No backfill or overtime will be allowed.

Motion: Tom motioned to allocate up to \$15,000 for an Officer Down Rescue Instructor training from FFY12 Communications Training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that the ordering of the durable medical equipment for regional shelter supplies is coming along.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark stated that there are no new updates.

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Fiduciary Report

Raine stated Nicole Rohan has taken a new position. She is the Transportation Council Representative. Jamin Carroll is her proxy. He is willing and interested in becoming the official representative. Raine asked if the Council would like to nominate Jamin or open the position up to other Transit Authorities. Discussion followed.

Motion: Linda Moriarty motioned to nominate Jamin Carroll for the Transportation Representative to the Council and to open up the proxy position to other Transit Authorities. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
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Raine stated that the budgeting of tasks has been going along well. There will be some left over funding ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000 that will need to be spent down by the end of June and July of this year. Discussion followed.

Old Business

Bylaw Discussion/Review

Tom stated that Brook discussed this last month. Raine sent out marked up copy of the current bylaws with suggested updated language. Russ stated that the WMRIC project will be developing draft bylaws related to the Interops Subcommittee. Russ suggested tabling any changes to the Subcommittee section of the Council Bylaws until that project is completed in July. Raine asked the Council to look over the attendance language and send any comments to her. Tom asked the Council to review the bylaws for further discussion next month.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

No business unforeseen was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, April 15th at 10:00am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Russ Sienkiewicz moved to adjourn. Ed Lesko seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

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