

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 10:00am
Northampton Police Dept., 29 Center Street, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Nikki Nixon (PVPC), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Ann Shea (MMC) proxy for Tom Lynch (BHS), Josh Shanley (NEM), Jamin Carroll (PVTA) proxy for Nicole Rohan, Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Chris Bouchard (DPW), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Cindy Hahn (ARC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS) proxy for Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Ed Lesko (HDPH/SB) proxy for Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Bob Barry (MEMA), Andrew Vernon (UMASS), Amy Riley (MAPC), Mark Babineau (LFD), Stephen Kosloski (MPD), Brook Chipman (EOPSS), Jeff Hescocock (UMASS), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Albert Samano (Fortress), Jonathan Dillon (Fortress).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:01 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the September 17, 2013 meeting.

<p>Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2013 meeting as submitted. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.</p>

REOC/MACC Phase I Presentation

Albert Samano of Fortress gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the REOC/MACC Phase I project. This project resulted from multiple AARs identifying the inadequate staffing to operate EOCs at the municipal level and/or the lack of regional coordinative capabilities. This project was a feasibility study for a regional coordinative emergency management capability in the form of an REOC/MACC as a means to aid its represented communities and to consolidate scarce resources.

The goals of the project included:

- Assessment of current planning and environment related to REOC/MACCs through the conduct of stakeholder meetings and analysis of existing plans and recent AARs.
- Development of REOC/MACC Feasibility Study
- Development of scalable REOC/MACC Concept of Operations that will guide the continued and/or future development of REOC/MACCs, in addition to coordinative requirements with local and state partners

The Feasibility Study and Situational Assessment findings were that REOC/MACC facilities would greatly benefit and improve upon regional emergency management capabilities across the WRHSAC region. Although regional planning has recognized the need for a facility it has not matured past the recognition for the need.

A MACC is a type of operation center. It can provide support as opposed to command/control. It is typically used for broader level coordinative needs (policy, resources and information). An MACC interacts with agencies or jurisdictions, not with incidents. It is often co-located with additional coordinative entities.

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The Feasibility Study found that MACCs presented a stronger alternative as opposed to REOCs due to legislative requirements needed to operate an REOC. Two potential model MACC systems emerged as ideal for implementation across the four counties located within the WRHSAC region, the Berkshire County MACC and the MEMA Region III REOC. It would be ideal to have a MACC in each County.

County based MACCs will provide the following services to local communities within each County:

- Situational awareness across impacted and non-impacted areas
- Management and tracking resources based on regional basis
- Support toward the implementation of local and regional shelter and evacuations strategies
- Public information support
- Coordination with State level partners located at the MEMA REOC

The recommend next steps for the project include:

- Utilizing the County Based MACC Concept of Operations Presentation, present this concept to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department and seek their concurrence. Additional outreach meetings should be held with the Berkshire REPC and then the Western MA IMT.
- Once we have main support organizations in agreement, then develop and conduct a formal presentation to the communities
- Present the initiative to communities to ensure that this initiative is supported by the peoples that will be operating and supporting the Berkshire County MACC
- Conduct the same process of proposing and eliciting buy in from the other Counties.
- Develop draft MACC Emergency Response Standard Operating Procedures
- Develop MACC Emergency Response Training
- Schedule and conduct training for each MACC
- Incorporate MACs into drills/exercises
- Revise and update SOPs and Training annually if needed

Raine stated that funding for the next phase was set aside under the FFY13 funding. Feedback on the next steps is welcome. It was discussed that the next phase should also include a JIS component. Further discussion will occur at the Planning Subcommittee. A draft RFP will be completed for November and it is hoped that the next phase will begin in February. Mark stated that the sustainability of funding a MACC is a serious consideration. Discussion followed. Raine stated that she will post the deliverables of this project on the WRHSAC website.

Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that the training on the x-ray and metal detector equipment will be held on October 21st. The equipment will be available to be deployed after that date. The Chairs meeting will be held on October 31st.

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Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Mark stated that the Tech Rescue teams are going to be up and running by the end of the year. They have received a lot of positive media coverage. The team is creating a video of their capabilities for the Council.
- POLICE: none.
- EMS: Linda stated that a Western Mass EMS two day conference will be held on October 18th and 19th. A portion of the conference will cover the Boston Marathon planning and what happened this year.
- EMD: none.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed stated that DPH is looking to regionalize the public health coalitions over the next year or two. Don Snyder is retiring as of January 1st. We are still at the peak of the season for the Triple E virus until there is a hard frost. It is expected that the threat will be increased next year. Please take precautions. Don't forget to get your flu shot.
- TRANSPORTATION: none.
- DPW: Chris the first DPW GPS training is tomorrow in Lanesboro. Raine stated that there were many state agencies interested in the course that had to be turned away. We may look at partnering with Baystate Roads to offer the training to state agencies as well. Discussion followed.
- CORRECTIONS: none.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Dennis stated that the statewide communications exercise was a huge success. MEMA expect to continue offering the training annually. The WRHSAC Communications 101 training will offer four sessions over the next few months. There will be demonstrations and guest speakers.
- HOSPITALS: none.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: none.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): none
- MEMA: Bob stated that the quarterly MEMA meetings will be held on October 29th at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The CERT train the trainer training will be held in South Deerfield on November 13-15th from 8-4 p.m. The ICS 300 class will be offered in Agawam on November 18-20th from 8-4 p.m. The ICS 300 class will also be held at Mt. Holyoke College on November 15th

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from 6-9 p.m., November 16th from 8-4 p.m., November 22nd from 6-9 p.m. and November 23rd from 8-4 p.m.

- EOPSS: Brook stated that John did not wish to travel to the meeting because he is expecting his first child to be born any day. The impacts of the Federal Government shut down have been minimal so far. Payments are still being received. The staff that reviews EHPs is on furlough. There is no technical assistance available. The shut down will also delay the release of the FFY2014 guidance.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the Planning Subcommittee spent the last meeting giving updates of our current projects. The Subcommittee revisited the \$100 limit for shelter equipment and adjusted the policy to allow items under \$100 for items that are not regular household or office use supplies. The Subcommittee approved a new shelter electronic equipment policy. The subcommittee will now allow homeland security funds to purchase some electronic equipment such as laptops, projectors, badging equipment, etc. It was recommended that any radio requests be referred to the Interops Subcommittee to work out the specifications. Discussion followed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ suggested doing outreach to the communities about the newly required animal disaster plan legislation which is going through the House and Senate for approval. Raine stated that there is a toolkit available. Larry stated that this is another unfunded mandate. It may be a good time to recruit members for the regional DART teams. Discussion followed.

Russ stated that WMLEC is nearing completion. The kick off meeting for the WMRIC project was held last month. The Subcommittee also prioritized projects for the FFY13 funding. There will be a Mass State Police helicopter fly over at 11:30 am today to demonstrate radio communication equipment and the video downlink equipment. Russ invited Council members to look on as the demonstration is conducted.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the subcommittee did not meet this month.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that there are no new updates.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark stated that there are no new updates.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that EOPSS has approved the transfer of the FFY10, 11, 12 administration funding to projects in exchange for funding in FFY13 for administrative tasks. This will result in an increase of approximately \$135,000 for projects. Raine reviewed the handout in the meeting packet. Discussion followed.

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Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to accept the budget as presented for FFY10 through FFY13 funding. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.

Tom asked that the Subcommittees review their priorities for the additional funding. Discussion followed.

Amy stated that MAPC has hired an additional staff person to assist the Councils and assist with the rapid succession of FFY funding deadlines.

Tom thanked Amy for reaching out to the Council to ask about our region's needs.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

No unforeseen business was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 10:00am at WMEMS.

Dennis stated that there will be a fly over at 11:30 to show how the video downlink equipment works. There are three trucks outside. All three will show the same thing. Feel free to stop by and see it. Tom stated that a lot of the equipment has been funded by Homeland Security funds.

Tom thanked Russ for the use of the meeting room and the parking spaces for the trucks outside.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.

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