

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), John Pond (WMFCA), Michelle Goldman (EOPSS), Robert Hassett (SFD), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Bob Barry (MEMA), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Mike Wynn (PPD), Chris Bouchard (DPW), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Paul D'Auteuil (MSP), Jon Hartenbaum (MEMA), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), David Cruz (EOPSS), Sharon Renfrew (RCS), Michael Nelson (MDPH), Nikki Nixon (PVPC), Michael Aries (DFS).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:06 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting as submitted. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed.</p>

Firefighter Rehab Tag

Mike Aries passed around some handouts and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Firefighter Rehab Tag system. Mike stated that a three hour train the trainer program will be rolled out soon. The system was developed for firefighters but has been broadened to encompass all first responders. The rehab standards for firefighters had previously been water, rest and go back to fight the fire. It is now required to check vital signs and if anything is off then further rest in a separate area is required until all vital signs are within normal ranges. If vital signs do not return to normal ranges the first responder is then sent to the hospital for further evaluation.

The number one cause of death of on duty firefighters has been stress and overexertion causing fatal heart attacks. In May 2003, DFS initiated a test rehab project. The identified gaps were discussed with doctors and Mass Fire Services partners. The medical screening was the largest stumbling block. The Rehab Tag was created to minimize the amount of paperwork required for this additional rest step. This will allow the paperwork to be minimal unless it is necessary to send the first responder to the hospital. The Rehab Tag is numbered and can remain anonymous. It is required that if a first responder is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty that the whole team is pulled and replaced as soon as possible. DFS has three rehab trucks available in the State. It is also recommended that a Rehab Officer is designated to establish the rehab area. It is expected that three trainings will be offered in WMass.

Russ Sienkiewicz asked if SOPs have been developed for law enforcement. Mike replied that they have not however; the template for Fire is very basic and could be altered and adopted. Mike stated that he would forward them to Raine to distribute.

John Pond stated that this program has not been presented to the WMass Fire Chiefs Association. Mike stated that outreach is being conducted over the next few months. Tom stated that the Berkshire Fire Chiefs Association does not support this new program. A request for the Council

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to support the project must come from the Fire Chiefs. Mike Wynn stated that he feels the rehab tag is a great idea and should be implemented to all first responders including DPWs. Amy Reilly stated that other Councils have supported the project. Discussion followed.

Updates from Chair

Tom asked Michelle Goldman to give an update on the pilot project for the Tech Rescue Teams. Michelle stated that the pilot project is working on a process to review funding requests in an effort to standardize the equipment across the state. It will be a less formal process than going before the SIEC. Tom stated that this is a great way to maximize dollars spent and suggested that the project be eventually expanded across the state for SWAT teams. Discussion followed.

Tom stated that there will be two Chairs meetings to update the THIRA. A fifth scenario has been added to include climate change. A category 3 hurricane was chosen as the climate change scenario.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update was given.

- POLICE: Russ stated that a recent Supreme Court decision has allowed a self actualization component to allow regional mutual aid for law enforcement. Mike Wynn stated that the chiefs have started to discuss how to deal with infectious diseases and personal protective equipment (PPE).

- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that a new OEMS Director should be in place by Thanksgiving. Linda stated that Berkshire is ahead of the other counties in preparing for an Ebola type responses. A Hampshire County meeting is scheduled for Friday to discuss this issue. Discussion followed.

- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that his office has been inundated with Ebola questions. It is imperative that consistent information is given. Phase 3 of the CMED project has begun. Two additional hailing channels are on track to be available by the end of the year.

- PUBLIC HEALTH: Carolyn Shores Ness stated that the Mohawk Public Health Coalition met last night. They are drafting a quarantine checklist for Public Health, Police and EMS.

- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.

- DPW: Chris Bouchard stated that there is expected to be a road salt shortage. An RFP was sent out for sea salt but no bids were received. DPW crews are in favor of instituting at home quarantines for crew members if there is an infectious disease outbreak.

- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.

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Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 10:00am
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- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Melissa Nazzaro stated that there has been concern about Verizon abandoning service for leased copper lines used in many first responder communication systems in the region. There have been several regional meetings. Verizon announced that as of now WMass is not going to lose service. Approximately 60 towns in Eastern Mass have fiber infrastructure and will start to move away from using copper. Melissa stated that she will forward the presentation to Raine for distribution. Discussion followed.
- **HOSPITALS:** No update was given.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn stated that Ed Lesko, Pat Smith and herself worked on a handout to give out at the Western Mass Regional Selectboard Association meeting about the current projects of the Council. Outreach material was emailed to Berkshire County.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Paul D'Auteuil introduced himself. Tom welcomed Paul.
- **MEMA:** Bob Barry stated that the EMD quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 11th. A day and evening session will be offered.
- **EOPSS:** David Cruz stated that the FFY14 contracts have been signed. Amy Reilly stated that MAPC is developing a planning tool to comprehensively look at budgets. The goal of the tool is to help with joint procurements and time management tools for MAPC and Project Managers. Amy stated that Raine did a great job populating the new tool with WHRSAC information.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the subcommittee had two requests, one was for school go-kits and the other was for a newsletter to update stakeholders about WHRSAC activities.

The Shaker Mountain School Union #70 has requested 18 school go-kits. The School Union has done substantial emergency planning and the kits are an identified gap. Sharon Renfrew thanked the Council for considering this important proposal. This will provide a go-kit for each classroom, 12 in the town of Richmond and 6 in the town of Hancock. The kits will be kept and maintained by each classroom teacher. The amount requested is up to \$1,000. Raine stated that there is funding available for this project from the left over funds allocated to the mobile generators.

<p>Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve up to \$1,000 to purchase 18 School Go-Kits for the Shaker Mountain School Union #70. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Linda stated that a copy of the first newsletter was included in the meeting packet. Pat Smith developed it based on a brochure that Raine had produced for distribution at events such as the Select Board Association meetings. The Subcommittee would like to see it updated and distributed on a regular basis. Discussion followed. It was decided to authorize Raine to

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

produce a full newsletter once a year and a two page newsletter for the other three quarters. The EMD contact information will not be included because it is available online and printing it generates calls from vendors. The newsletter will be distributed to Select Board Associations, and Council members for their own distribution as they see fit.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ stated that the Interops Subcommittee will meet at 12:30. Russ stated that the final draft of the WMRIC Bylaws were included in the meeting packet. The WMRIC Subcommittee bylaws formalize how the subcommittee operates now and will be attached to the Council bylaws as an appendix once approved. Melissa suggested that Article III under Section 3 state that any specific bylaws related to WHRSAC Subcommittees would be located in the appendix.

Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve the WMRIC Subcommittee Bylaws as presented. Mike Wynn seconded. Motion passed.

Motion: Mike Wynn moved to amend the WRHSAC Bylaws by adding language to Article III Section 3 and adding the WMRIC Subcommittee Bylaws to the appendix. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

Russ stated that all of the Interops projects are moving forward.

Russ stated that the COML class in Rhode Island has five spots available for Massachusetts attendees. Lindsay Stromgen is the only candidate that has interest in the class, the qualifications and the support of his Department to attend. There are left over funds from the CMED EHP that could be allocated to cover the travel costs related to the course. Tom stated that in the past, the Interops Subcommittee has sponsored the attendees of these types of trainings.

Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve up to \$1,000 to reimburse for related travel costs of attending the three day COM L course in Rhode Island if approved by the Interops Subcommittee. Bob Hassett seconded. Motion passed.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. All of the T&E projects are moving forward.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that two mobile generators were purchased. One will be housed in Holyoke by Chief Pond and the other at the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. There are two other mobile generators in the region housed in Westfield and North Adams.

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Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 10:00am
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CBRNE/IED:

Tom stated that there was a discussion at the T&E Subcommittee about clarifying the eligibility requirements for backfill and overtime requests related to NIMS/ICS. He asked the Chiefs for further clarification.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that the FFY14 contract has been signed and is now active. Each subcommittee should be aware of their projects to keep them on track. The FFY14 funds will end on July 31, 2016.

Old Business

Raine stated that she has received the paperwork confirming that Jamin Carroll is now the official Transit Representative to the Council.

New Business:

Tom stated that the Berkshire REPC has requested a presentation on the MACC Project on November 6th in North Adams. The meeting will be run as a shelter exercise and will provide a spaghetti dinner. Contact Raine if you would like to attend.

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 18th at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. Russ Sienkiewicz seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 am.

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