

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 18, 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), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Bob Barry (MEMA), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), David Cruz (EOPSS), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Ann Shea (MMC), John Greene (FCTC), James Burnham (FCTC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:15 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 21, 2014 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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**Updates from Chair**

Tom Grady stated that the THIRA update meetings began yesterday. The next meeting will be on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Pond stated that the Tech Rescue Team had a steering subcommittee meeting yesterday. The discussion mainly pertained to continuing training needs. The Tech Rescue Team has 73 members in total. 67 members are trained in Comprehensive Rope Operations and Technician level. 59 are trained in Confined Space Rescue and 55 in Trench Rescue.
- POLICE: No update was reported.
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that a new OEMS Director should be in place soon. Linda stated that there have been many conference calls to discuss training on Ebola.
- EMD: No update was reported.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that Ebola training has been ongoing. It is flu season. Flu shots are available. The Hampshire mobile vaccination trailer has been used for several flu vaccine clinics and it has been very successful.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: No update was given.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that the Sheriffs' offices have been working to connect to a statewide information sharing system to help with communications. It has been an effort

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over the past year but has proved to be a vast improvement. All 14 counties are participating. Discussion followed.

- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Melissa Nazzaro stated that the state 911 department has had an issue with reimbursements. There is a plan in place to reimburse approximately 75% of the past due requests. More information is available on the state website.
- **HOSPITALS:** Ann Shea stated that the hospitals have been training on Ebola. There are a number of hospitals that are named to receive known Ebola patients but all hospitals are being trained. A full scale active shooter training will be conducted at Mercy Medical Center.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness stated the WRHSAC newsletter was given out at the Western Mass Regional Selectboard Association meeting. The message boards and some radios were borrowed for an emergency dispensing drill.
- **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 11<sup>th</sup>. A day and evening session will be offered.
- **EOPSS:** Michelle Goldman stated that a fifth scenario has been added to the THIRA to include climate change. A category 3 hurricane was chosen as the climate change scenario.

**Planning /Pandemic Flu:**

Linda stated that the subcommittee projects are moving along. There will be discussion on how to move forward with the Children in Disasters project at the next meeting. Discussion followed.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the Interops Subcommittee will meet at 12:30. Russ stated that the subcommittee will be discussing implementing the WMRIC Bylaws. Russ stated that all of the Interops projects are moving forward.

**Training and Exercises:**

Tom stated that the Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. Tom stated that there were a few trainings and exercises endorsed by the Subcommittee. The first is an advanced PIO training.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady motioned to approve \$4,600 to fund the Hampshire Public Health Advanced PIO training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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The next training proposed for approval is a Tactical Leader Training.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Ed Lesko motioned to approve \$7,500 to fund the Franklin County Tactical Leader training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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The final training proposed for approval is the Hampshire EMS Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support training.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve up to \$26,000 for the Hampshire EMS PHTLS two day training. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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There was a proposal for SWAT training with the Central Region but the discussion was tabled because a representative of the Tactical Response Team was not in attendance to speak to the proposal. Information was also presented on railroad trainings available in the region.

**Equipment/PPE:**

Raine stated that the first School Go-Kit RFQ did not generate any responses. A second RFQ has been released. The two mobile generators are expected to be delivered soon to the Holyoke Fire Department and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. There are two other mobile generators in the region housed in Westfield and North Adams. Raine is working to update the Resource Guide and the interactive on-line maps by the end of the year. The interactive maps will require technical assistance from the web site consultant. A quote will be acquired and reviewed with the Council.

**CBRNE/IED:**

Mark stated that two RFPs were received for the Emerging Trends training. The local consultant, Jon Davine Consulting, was selected.

**Fiduciary Report**

Raine stated that the T&E Subcommittee allocated most of their left over funds today. The Interops Subcommittee will discuss their unallocated funds at their meeting at 12:30.

**Old Business**

Tom stated that the Northern Berkshire REPC held a dinner in North Adams on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Sandra stated that it was well attended. Raine stated that it was set up as a shelter with a mobile decontamination unit set up, a mobile generator, cots, etc. There was a representative from each town in attendance. A presentation was given on the MACC project. Tom stated that the Mayor opened the meeting. It was nice to have local municipal government in attendance and supportive. It was also nice to see the assets set up. The meeting was well organized.

Amy Reilly reminded the Council that all 2013 and 2014 projects must have an evaluation component. MAPC is developing a best practices guide and the fiduciary team will be reviewing this at their next meeting. Discussion ensued.

**New Business:**

Tom stated that it is frustrating to receive requests for DFS trainings that are not offered in our region. The trainings are often offered in the Eastern part of the State and geared toward the full time fire departments. Discussion followed.

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Tom stated that any issues that should be brought up at the Chairs meetings should be shared with him or Raine. The Chairs meetings have been very productive.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair**

No unforeseen business was discussed.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

Tom wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He thanked everyone for their time and efforts.

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

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