

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 10:00am**  
**WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, 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), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Cindy Hahn (ARC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS) proxy for Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Bob Barry (MEMA), Amy Riley (MAPC), Mark Babineau (LFD), John Fabiano (EOPSS), Jamin Carroll proxy for Nicole Rohan (PVT), John Pond (WMFCA), Bernie Forgea (CPD.CFD), Linda Gross (FRCOG), Mike Wynn (PPD), Steve Gawron (MSP), Stephen Jones (MSP), Jason Breault (PPD), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Mary Clark (DPH).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:08 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Mark Babineau moved to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting as submitted. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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### **DPH Health Coalitions Regionalization Update**

Mary Clark gave a PowerPoint presentation on the DPH Health Coalitions Regionalization Initiative. Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCC) are a formal collaboration among healthcare organizations and public and private sector partners organized regionally to prepare for and respond to emergencies, MCI, or catastrophic events. Massachusetts will establish six, one per hospital preparedness region. The HMCC's will coordinate engagement of core disciplines, emergency management, public safety, and other healthcare disciplines such as:

- dialysis centers
- urgent care facilities
- pharmacies
- home health agencies
- mental and behavioral health providers

The HMCC's will build on existing relationships and existing coalitions. An HMCC will support regional health and medical planning, response, recovery and mitigation. They will develop and maintain emergency response capacity with identified staffing complemented with voluntary response elements. They will support coordinated health and medical response with a regional point of contact for communication and coordinate information sharing for situational awareness.

Raine suggested that the HMCC would coordinate well with the MACC project. Phase II of the MACC project is about to begin which will establish a pilot MACC likely in Berkshire County. Mary agreed that this would be a good fit to work with existing entities so as not to duplicate efforts. Raine asked if the MACC project consultant would be able to attend the HMCC meetings as an observer. Mary indicated they could, and they would prefer a representative from

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the Council. Discussion followed concerning sheltering and how to handle populations that do not belong in a hospital but may do better in a long term care facility than a public shelter. Tom thanked Mary for her presentation.

**Updates from Chair**

Tom Grady stated that Jen Ball has been trying to schedule a chairs meeting but the October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup> dates have had to be cancelled. The First Net project has received the first round of funding. This is a national unique cell service and data sharing 700 mhz system for public safety use.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Pond stated that the Tech Rescue gave a presentation to the WMass Fire Chiefs recently. They would like to give a presentation to the Council at the December meeting. They continue to conduct trainings four times a month, one in each county. Discussion followed.
- POLICE: Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the Mass police statewide mutual aid agreement idea has been abandoned. It has been decided that due to differing needs from each region that the agreements will remain regional. Tom asked John Fabiano to bring back to EOPSS that he is concerned that the statewide mutual aid agreement is no longer being pursued. The statewide law enforcement activation plan has never been activated. Mike Wynn stated that the plan can only be activated through an LEC. LEC's in this area do not own equipment. The plan should be altered to enable LEC's to be invited to activate. Russ stated that as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, the DMV will be charging a \$5 surcharge that will fund municipal police training.
- EMS: none.
- EMD: none.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that DPH is holding a kick off meeting for the HMCC's on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for this region. Don't forget to get your flu shot.
- TRANSPORTATION: none.
- DPW: none.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that the High Risk Transport training has proven it's value repeatedly. The multi-agency coordination for recent high risk transports has been excellent.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Dennis Nazzaro stated that the Communications 101 trainings have been well received and well attended. The last of the four trainings will be held in Huntington tonight at 6pm. Tom stated that the trainings have been very well done.

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- HOSPITALS: none.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness stated that the feedback on the DPW GPS training has been very positive.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Tom thanked Stephen Gawron for helping to coordinate the x-ray and metal detector training. They equipment is ready to be deployed.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that the Web EOC workshops are underway. The first two have been held. The Franklin County workshop will be held on Thursday and Hampshire County on Friday. The workshop was held at different times of the day to accommodate varying schedules. Tom stated that Pat Carnevale has been trying to attend the trainings. Discussion followed.
- EOPSS: John Fabiano stated that the Central Council is going to offer the GPS as well. The FFY13 contracts will be released soon.

**Planning /Pandemic Flu:**

Linda Moriarty stated that the Planning Subcommittee spent the last meeting giving updates of our current projects. The Subcommittee prioritized projects for the consideration by the Council available funds. Raine stated that the subcommittee is moving forward with the Mass Receiving project. The Subcommittee is discussing how the project should proceed whether the product should be a planning document of or to develop a tool. Raine has offered to do further research into current project at the state level. Discussion followed.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that WMLEC Simulcast 2 system went live on October 26<sup>th</sup> and the Simulcast 1 system went live on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There has been minor interference experienced in Wilbraham and the Motorola technicians are working to resolve it. Otherwise the systems are working well. The WMRIC project had a brainstorming session with Consultant. The Berkshire 385 and CMED projects are moving forward. The Interops Subcommittee held a special meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Hampshire Hills Radio project Phase 1. Phase 1 was proposed to work on four towns. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Interops Subcommittee is requesting to add the Town of Russell as a 5<sup>th</sup> town to Phase 1 if funding is available. Russell had been proposed to be in phase 2. Discussion followed. Russ stated that SAIC and PBS were granted funding for a pilot project to offer secure live video to public safety. Raine emailed a link to a youtube video to explain the project. The Interops Subcommittee was asked to participate and agreed to do so.

**Training and Exercises:**

Tom stated that the subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting and will present some motions during the budget discussion.

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**Equipment/PPE:**

Raine stated that the shelter equipment is in the process of being purchased. She will have more information next month on what was able to be purchased and where the equipment will be housed.

**CBRNE/IED:**

Mark stated that there are no new updates.

**Fiduciary Report**

Raine stated that a handout depicting current projects and their timeline was included in the meeting packet. The Council has \$128,246.77 of unallocated funds in FFY12 that will need to be spent by July, 2014 and \$42,447 of unallocated funds in FFY13 that will need to be spent by July 2015. The subcommittees were asked to review their prioritized projects and present their top unfunded projects to the Council today.

**Motion:** Linda Moriarty moved to approve a total of \$40,000 for the COAD/VOAD project that had been previously approved but cut from the FFY13 plan last month due to lack of funds to complete further capacity building. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Linda Moriarty moved to approve \$25,000 to establish a cache of GPS units to be housed at the Sheriff Departments in each County without the extended warranty. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion followed concerning the extended warranty should be purchased and if lifetime map updates are included in the purchase price. Tom asked that the Subcommittees review their priorities for the additional funding. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Russell Sienkiewicz moved to approve \$44,305 to include the Town of Russell in Phase I of the Hampshire Hills 800 mhz project. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.

Tom stated that the subcommittee held a special meeting to discuss this change. The meeting held some good discussion with hard questions.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$27,500 for a functional Regional Hazmat Exercise that is a follow up to a table top exercise held in June. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve an additional \$8,500 for previously approved tech rescue equipment since the bids came in higher than the allocated funding amount. Ed Lesko seconded. John Pond abstained. Motion passed.

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**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$21,885.00 for Stephen Jones and Jason Breault to be further trained on computer/digital forensics. Ed Lesko seconded. Tom Grady abstained. Motion passed.

Raine stated that after these motions the Council has just over \$2,000 unallocated funds. Russ thanked Raine for helping the Council successfully spend down the funds and keeping track of the funding years.

**Old Business**

*Public Health Representative Appointment*

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve Ed Lesko as the Public Health Representative to the Council. Linda Moriarty seconded. Ed Lesko abstained. Motion passed.

**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, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at WMEMS.

Mark Babineau asked if the Council would like to have a presentation from the Tech Rescue team at the December meeting. The consensus was yes.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

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