

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 16, 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), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), David Cruz (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Bob Barry (MEMA), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Ann Shea (MMC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Chris Bouchard (DPW), Stephen Kozloski (WMPD), Jeanne Galloway (WSpfld HD), Paul D'Auteuil (MSP), Michael Nelson (MDPH), Sandy Bendremer (EOPSS), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Scott Bailey (FirstNet).

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 November 18, 2014 meeting.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that the final session of the THIRA planning group was held on December 1st in Framingham. The draft will be released soon. The final THIRA Plan is due to the Federal Government by the end of the month. Tom stated that the attendance at the planning sessions was well rounded.

Tom stated that a request that was put forward by the Council last month was rejected by EOPSS. This reflects the level of scrutiny now given to projects. All projects must fall within the core capabilities. This particular request was deemed of a more day to day operations training. EOPSS has offered to facilitate with DFS to coordinate a similar training to be held in this region.

FirstNet Update

Sandy Bendremer and Scott Bailey gave a PowerPoint presentation on FirstNet, the first responder Network Authority. The FirstNet concept originated from a recommendation after the events of 9/11. A national public network with a 20 mhz spectrum for first responders was identified as a need. The project has a \$7 billion budget. A board of directors was created to oversee the FirstNet project. It also has a 40 member Public Safety Advisory Committee. Each state is required to have a single point of contact. Under secretary Curtis Wood is the point of contact for Massachusetts. Mike Saltzman is charge of the day to day operations.

Sandy stated that the immediate goal of the project is to make critical data available to first responders. The long term goal is to develop mission critical voice available over LTE. There are over 5 million potential public safety personnel nationwide. The four fundamental building blocks are:

1. Core Network

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2. Transport backhaul
3. Radio access network
4. Public safety devices

The system will need physical resiliency, operational reliability, coverage, ongoing testing and may require partnering with commercial carriers. The base line for data coverage is working out where different levels of service are needed at different locations based on population density, location of facilities, large event locations, etc. The network users will be required to pay a fee for the network capacity and the network equipment and infrastructure. The system is being built to be self-sustaining.

There is a meeting scheduled for March 12th to present the approach for FirstNet in Massachusetts. This FirstNet presentation is being given at stakeholder meetings to get feedback and to find out the number of end users, vehicles, where coverage exists and where is it needed. More information on the project can be found at mass.gov/psbo.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update was reported.
- POLICE: No update was reported.
- EMS: No update was reported.
- EMD: No update was reported.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that Ebola training has been ongoing. It is flu season. Flu shots are available. Ed wished everyone a happy holiday season.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll stated that passenger train service is returning to the region as of December 29th.
- DPW: No update was given.
- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No update was given.
- HOSPITALS: Ann Shea stated that the hospitals have been training on Ebola.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update was given.

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- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that the EMD quarterly meeting will be in February. A firm date has not been set yet because a railroad discussion is being coordinated. MEMA is offering a PIO training on March 3rd and 4th. UMASS is hosting an active shooter exercise on March 19th.
- EOPSS: No update was given.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda Moriarty stated that the subcommittee projects are moving along. Deb Clapp came to the last meeting to discuss developing a training on Children in Disasters. Linda stated that a request for up to \$10,000 to conduct electrical and lighting upgrades to a Hampshire EDS Trailer was included in the meeting packet. Ed stated that the trailer is available to be used for emergencies, vaccinations, trainings, etc. Raine stated that there is \$10,000 of available funds left over from the purchase of the mobile generators.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve up to \$10,000 to conduct electrical and lighting upgrades to a Hampshire EDS Trailer. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the Interops Subcommittee will meet at 12:30. Russ stated that the subcommittee will be nominating the At-Large members. Russ stated that all of the Interops projects are moving forward. Russ stated that WMLEC channels will be used during the First Night celebrations in Northampton this year as a practical exercise to familiarize end users with the WMLEC System.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. Tom stated that there were a two proposals endorsed by the Subcommittee. The first is the UMASS MRC shelter exercise.

Motion: Linda Moriarty motioned to approve \$18,980 to fund the UMASS MRC Shelter Exercise. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The next exercise proposed for approval is a Mercy Active Shooter Exercise.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$10,546.48 to fund the Mercy Active Shooter Exercise. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that the mobile generators have been delivered. Some of the related accessories will be delivered soon. There are now four mobile generators available in the region. Raine stated that the School Go-Kits arrived yesterday. When EOPSS approved this project there was a condition placed that any future School Go-Kit requests need to be opened up to the whole

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region. The Planning Subcommittee will discuss this at their next meeting. Linda stated that MSP has been working with schools and have identified the School Go-Kits as a gap.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark stated that the CBRNE Subcommittee did not meet last month.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that money has been shifted within the Interops Subcommittee budgets. An outline of the changes was included in the meeting packet. The Hampshire Hills project was ready to move forward, this allows the remaining funding for FFY13 to be spent down and allows the other projects more time to be completed. Raine stated that with this change and the T&E motions, all of the FFY13 funds have been allocated.

Amy Reilly stated that the Statewide Fiduciary Team met on Thursday. This Council is on track to expend their FFY13 and FFY14 funds. Amy thanked Raine for her hard work.

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

Tom wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season. He thanked everyone for their time and dedication. Tom thanked the Interops Subcommittee for their work on becoming a sustainable entity. The WMRIC is a great model for the state. Tom congratulated Russ Sienkiewicz on this achievement. He thanked all the Subcommittees for their important work.

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, January 20th 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 11:01 am.

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