

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), David Cruz (EOPSS), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Jeanne Galloway (WSpfld HD), Stephen Kozloski (MPD), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Michael Nelson (DPH), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Robert Hassett (SFD/OEP), Chris Bouchard (DPW), Fran Nothe (WMFC), John Pond (WMFC), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Robert Barry (MEMA), Sandra Martin (BCBHQA), Chris Kuczarski (SFD/OEP), Dennis Annear (NWMIMT), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Victoria Grafflin (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Lori Tanner (PVPC), Tom Lynch (BMC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:04 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the February 17, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2015 meeting as submitted. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed.

Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that the Chairs meeting has been rescheduled for next Friday. Tom stated to contact himself or Raine Brown with any issues that should be discussed at the meeting. Radios have been requested again for the Boston marathon. There will be an anti-terrorism table top exercises held in each county. The first one will be held on April 8th in Berkshire County.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update was given.
- POLICE: No update was given.
- EMS: Linda stated that the new director is on board.
- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that the ambulance bus is almost ready. There will be a training offered on April 6th. The bus will be a regional asset.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that a drill was done this morning with DPH. Various communities have been asked to call in with information on an incident to the state to test the chain of command policies.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard stated that it has been a busy winter. There has been a salt shortage. It has been such a cold winter that water mains have frozen that have never frozen before. Another issue this winter has been driver fatigue. Training on driver fatigue is being offered. Tom stated that the town of Lee had a sewer line freeze this winter.

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- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro stated that there has been some concern when the new Governor was elected, about the 911 funding stream and the change over to the next generation 911 system. An application to increase cell phone surcharges has been resubmitted. If the application passes it would help fund the 911 system. John stated that Holyoke has a limited secondary PSAP and it will cost \$28,000 for Holyoke to upgrade the system to use the next generation 911 system. Mark Babineau stated that the town of Ludlow is in the same situation. Tom stated that this would be a good time to look at a regional primary PSAP.

Linda Moriarty stated that in the Governor's budget shows a large cut for her budget and others. She asked Council members to contact their representatives. She stated that she will send out talking points. The goal is level funding.

Melissa stated that she attended a First Net workshop last week. Tom thanked Melissa for attending.

- HOSPITALS: Tom Lynch stated that there have been more outbreaks of Ebola. There will be a drill held on Friday. Sandra Martin stated that there is an application in for Federal funding concerning Ebola related costs. Tom stated that there is a lump sum of \$500,000 for hospitals but it will not fully cover the costs incurred.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness stated that she will be attending the Franklin/Hampshire Select Board Association meeting. The main topic of discussion will be the Thanksgiving snowstorm and how to improve the response of the Electric companies related to restoring power. A similar set up to an EOC is being proposed.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update was given.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that MEMA will be participating in the UMASS Active Shooter training on Thursday. The Hampshire REPC is holding a training on March 19th. There is a Hampshire Regional Shelter training on April 2nd. The quarterly EMD training will be held on April 29th during the day and in the evening. The ICS 300 class will be offered at the Amherst Police Department on May 4-6th.

Bob asked how the Blarney Blowout Event went at UMASS. Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the event was well managed. Multiple resources were brought in, there were over 150 officers, that included stationary and mobile teams. Tom Grady stated that the Town of Cheshire has a massive water main break during the Blarney Event. Mutual aid was coordinated through the 911 center. Everyone did a phenomenal job and the system was running within 9 hours.

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- EOPSS: Victoria Grafflin stated that the FFY15 funding is expected to be level funded. The funding is expected to be released in August. Victoria stated that this Council has always done well spending down their funding but that the new guidelines have improved spending for the whole state. Victoria stated that the EOPSS team has remained unchanged other than a new secretary.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda Moriarty stated that the subcommittee projects are moving along.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the projects are ongoing. There is money leftover from the Hovey Hill project because a less expensive solution was identified. The leftover funding will be reallocated to another prioritized project. There will be further discussion at the meeting later today.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. Tom stated that the Berkshire County Anti-Terrorism Exercise will be held on April 8th at the Country Club of Pittsfield. The final planning session for the exercises will be held on March 31st. Tom stated that if any Council members would like to attend to contact Raine. Tom stated that REPC's can coordinate to have this training count for their annual training requirement. If anyone is interested contact Raine as soon as possible. Raine stated that it is required that a member attend or phone in to the March 31st planning session to qualify.

Linda Moriarty stated that the Medical Management Training went very well. The attendance was well rounded. There were 42 attendees. Raine stated that the feedback was very positive.

The MRC Shelter training will be held on April 2nd. The Advanced PIO training is scheduled for June 18th. The EMS PHTLS training is full and taking names for a waiting list. That training will be held on April 17th and 18th. The Mercy Active Shooter training and the Native Storm Exercise are moving forward.

Tom stated that FCAM is reviewing the process tech rescue equipment is purchased to ensure consistency with the statewide planning effort.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that the Tech Rescue Equipment has been purchased. There are leftover funds that the Tech Rescue Team would like to use for additional equipment purchases.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark Babineau stated that the CBRNE Subcommittee will meet on March 24th to discuss the additional Tech Rescue Equipment request.

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Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that all projects are moving forward and there are no concerns about timelines. There will be some unallocated leftover funds. The projections for the administration funding show a surplus of approximately \$17,000 that will be returned to the Council. There is \$1,500 of unused funds from the Advanced PIO training. The Medical Management training facility was less expensive than anticipated. That project will return approximately \$6,000. The total of returned funds is about \$25,500. The Hampshire Hills project is currently phased over FFY13 and FFY14. Raine suggested allocating the leftover FFY13 funds to the Hampshire Hills project. This will allow that amount of funds in FFY14 to become available. The Training and Exercise Subcommittee would like to retain their funds in their budget but the returned administration funds would go to the Council.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to use the available FFY13 funds towards the Hampshire Hills 800 project in order to free up funds in FFY14. The Training and Exercise funds will remain with that Subcommittee and the Administrative funds will be unallocated. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.

Amy Reilly passed out a handout outlining MAPC's tracking the timeliness of the procurement of all goods and services conducted by MAPC on behalf of the regions. Over 90% of the invoices for procurements and vendors were paid within the maximum timeframe. MAPC is looking at why the other invoices did not meet the timeframe and how the process can be improved. Quarterly updates will be done on this. A survey was sent to all members of the Homeland Security Councils to get their feedback on the services provided by MAPC. Amy asked for Council members that have not participated to fill it out.

Tom Grady thanked Amy for reaching out to him as the Chair on a regular basis to ask about any concerns and to give updates. It has been very beneficial to build this relationship.

Old Business

Linda stated that the Planning Subcommittee had several motions during their last meeting.

Linda explained that the mobile generators that were recently purchased require trickle battery chargers.

Motion: Linda Moriarty motioned to approve up to \$567.64 to purchase and install two trickle battery chargers for the mobile generators. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda stated that the Franklin County Citizen Corp had a storage unit that was donated to them but it is no longer available. The request is to purchase a refurbished storage unit that can be stored at the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. MAG has donated \$2,000 toward the project.

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Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to approve \$2,700.00 to purchase a storage container for the Franklin County Citizen Corp. Ed Lesko seconded. The motion passed.

Linda stated that there is a need to update the Resource map on the website. This change will also make it possible for staff to update the map in the future. The map is interactive and will have drop down lists of the available equipment in the region.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$6,875.00 to pay for the Resource Map to be updated and be made updatable by staff. Ed Lesko seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Tracy Rogers stated that the FRCOG is requesting a letter of support. DPH is transitioning from every County having a Public Health Coalition to one Regional Public Health Coalition called a Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) in each DPH region. There will be six coalitions in the state. The FRCOG is applying to be the host agency for Western Mass. The host agency will need 24/7 response capability and will serve as a centralized situational awareness center. DPH issued an RFR, for which the response is due on April 21st and letters of support are required.

Linda stated that the states have been charged by the Federal Government to consolidate the Public Health Coalition. The six coalitions will include hospitals, EMS, public health, long-term care facilities, and community health centers. The host agency will need the ability to activate a MACC if necessary as well as handle the distribution of funds. There are other agencies that will be responding to the RFR. Carolyn stated that the FRCOG has a strong reputation of dedicated experienced staff as well as Homeland Security Fund fiduciary skills. Linda stated that DPH intends to create a similar group to the Council. Sandra stated that it will likely be integrated with the Council. Tracy stated that it is the intention to coordinate with the Council and integrate with its subcommittees as much as possible. Linda stated that the WMEMS, the hospital group are meeting tomorrow to discuss whether any of those entities want to respond to the RFR. PVPC, Holyoke Medical Center and the FRCOG are preparing to respond to the RFR. Sandra stated that she would like to see all of the interested parties meet and discuss the best course of action. Russ stated that he did not have enough information on all of the potential candidates to vote in favor of this request. John Pond stated that all of the interested parties had an opportunity to ask the Council for a letter of support and only the FRCOG did.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to authorize a letter of support for the FRCOG to become the host agency for the WMASS Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition. Ed Lesko seconded. Seven voted in favor, three members opposed and one member abstained. The motion passed.

Russ stated that he announced his intention to retire on June 15th last week. This will allow time for a smooth transition. Russ stated that the formation of WMRIC was a large goal for his

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career. Russ stated that he has been part of the Council since its inception. The Council has accomplished a lot of good work. Russ stated that it has been a privilege to work with the Council and Subcommittee members. Linda stated that Russ has done tremendous work for the Council. Tom stated that it has been a privilege to work with the Chief. Tom stated that Russ has been an exemplary leader. A round of applause followed.

Dennis Annear stated that the NWMIMT had its first major deployment within the state. The Team was requested by MEMA to help the state manage the staging area for out of state resources during the snow clean up in the Boston area. It was a great exercise and training experience as well as a time to build relationships. Dennis stated that the Team wanted to thank the Council for their support of the Team. Dennis presented a copy of the Governor's citation thanking the NWMIMT for their support. Bob Barry stated that this was the largest staging effort that the State has ever undertaken. The event went as close to flawlessly as possible. Multiple out of state and National Guard Divisions were mobilized. The Governor was impressed with the NWMIMT and has expressed how well the event was managed. The Director of MEMA was equally effusive of their efforts.

Tom Grady stated that he has received a number of phone calls informing him of how well the event was handled. It is a good reflection on the Council. There were concerns about how cache equipment is being stored and managed in the Eastern part of the State. There were issues with diesel engines having frozen gas lines. Host agencies have an obligation to manage and maintain equipment. There were charges for some of the assets requested. Some people were surprised at the cost. The system of charging for assets being deployed has been set up for many years. It was unfortunate that the cost was not anticipated. However, the event was well handled. Tom thanked everyone for their hard work. Dennis stated that the cost for deployed assets was a lesson learned.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

Tom reminded everyone that the Chairs meeting will be next Friday. Tom stated to contact himself or Raine with any issues that should be brought up. Tom also reminded everyone that any proposed trainings or exercises must directly relate to the goals of the THIRA as well as tying into regional and local strategies.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Gretchen Johnson

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Homeland Security Program Assistant
Franklin Regional Council of Governments