

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 11:00 am
Department of Public Health
23 Service Center Road, Northampton, Ma

Present: Tracy Rogers (FRCOG); Tom Lynch (BHS); Alyssa Larose (FRCOG); Susan Brown (FRCOG); Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG); Gary Roux (PVPC); Todd Zukowski (PVPC); Larry Holmberg (HREPC); Josh Shanley (NEM); Sandra Martin (BCBOHA); Lindsay Errichetto (BRPC); Don Snyder (MDPH); Mary Kersell (HPHPC); Ann Carroll (MMC); Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC); Stephanie Jo Kent.

Sandra Martin called the meeting called to order at 11:07 am.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the August 7, 2012 meeting.

<p>Motion: Larry Holmberg motioned to approve the August 7, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed. Mary Kersell abstained.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

FFY2012 Project Planning

Sandra stated that a Special WRHSAC meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. The funding for 2012 has been cut by 50%. There is a total of \$600,000 for all homeland security projects. This subcommittee needs to create a list of prioritized projects with estimated funding needs.

Sandra stated that the VOAD project is important and tailors nicely with the work from the Faithbased project. Mary Kersell suggested incorporating work with the Western Mass Foodbank with this project as well. The Foodbank reached out after the snow storm in October and expressed concerns about not having a continuing operations plan. Training to help the Foodbank staff work with EMDs is very important. Discussion followed. The project was estimated to cost \$50,000.

Tracy Rogers suggested a spontaneous unaffiliated volunteer project. This project would look at how to administer “Just In Time Training”, assessing strengths, and funneling them to volunteer organizations. The project was estimated to cost \$25,000.

Josh Shanley stated that he would like to continue the Critical Infrastructure Project. Discussion followed. The project was estimated to cost \$48,000.

Stephanie Jo Kent suggested supporting a web based game to train youth volunteers that would have a real prize for the winner. Discussion followed. The project was estimated to cost \$40,000.

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Mary Kersell cautioned that the Regional EOC project and the Mass Receiving project will likely need additional phases.

Sue Brown stated that EOPSS is favoring the idea of WRHSAC steering the training and exercises rather than being a receptor of requests. Mary stated that sheltering training and exercises are needed. Discussion followed. The trainings and exercises were estimated to cost \$50,000. Don Snyder suggested reaching out to high schools and colleges for CPR training to involve and train youth. Discussion followed.

Sandra stated that only three to four projects can realistically be pushed forward. Discussion followed. It was proposed to advocate for three projects:

- The next phase of the Critical Infrastructure project in the amount of \$50,000
- Masscare and Sheltering project trainings and exercises in the amount of \$100,000
- Western Mass VOAD project that will dovetail the work of the Faithbased project in the amount of \$50,000

Stephanie Jo Kent requested a letter of support for the web based game grant application to involve and train youth. Sandra asked Stephanie to draft a letter and forward to Sue.

FFY08 Project Update

Shelter Equipment

Sue stated that this project is moving along.

Evacuation Planning

Gary Roux stated that the project is nearing completion.

Critical Infrastructure Mapping w/WMFCA MDT GIS

Todd Zukowksi stated that the project is on schedule to be completed by the end of the month.

FY09 Project Updates

Regional Shelter Planning

Lindsay Errichetto stated that the inter-municipal agreement has been drafted. Legal Council has reviewed it and some changes need to be made. Discussion followed.

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Critical Infrastructure Prioritization

Josh Shanley stated that a presentation is being given at the MEMA quarterly meeting next week. The largest communities have been done in the previous phases. There is a lot of overlap from the larger communities to the smaller ones. One of the biggest hurdles has been obtaining the coordinates to the over 300 dams in our region and input them into the ACAMS system. Discussion followed.

Faith Communities Phase II

Sandra passed out copies of the Faith progress report for July and August. The project is moving along.

Public Emergency Communication Strategies

Alyssa Larose stated that this project is awaiting feedback. A demonstration of WebEOC will be done at the MEMA office in Agawam on September 17th. Sue stated that to register for the WebEOC demonstration to contact Gretchen at gjohnson@frcog.org. Sue reported that the vendor of the Ping 4 application had contacted her and asked if he could present to the Council or subcommittee. Sandra stated that she would like to have a presentation on the Ping 4 application. Sue stated that she has contacted Jen Ball to find out if Ping 4 can be live fed to our website in place of the NOAA feed that only offers weather related alerts, but learned that this is not a capability at this time.

Website Revision/Redesign and Content Support

Sue stated that the new Western Mass Ready and the WRHSAC websites are live and the project has gone well. There have been a few bugs that are still being worked out.

FFY10 Project Updates

FY2010 IRAA SOP & Exercises

Sue stated that a handout from Ready Consulting was included in the meeting packet. The handout contains a calendar and a draft work plan. The calendar was reviewed. The meeting date with the consultant was changed to September 12th due to conflicts.

Western Mass Ready National Preparedness Month Campaign

Josiah stated that Preparedness month is going well. PVPC staff had a booth at the Three County Fair. Josiah had the display items and give away items for the other RPAs. There are about thirty events planned for the month in addition to media releases, tweeting, etc.

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Regional Sheltering Implementation

The Regional Sheltering Implementation was covered earlier in the meeting.

FY2011 Project Updates

Mass Receiving Planning

Sue stated that EOPSS approved the project. She is working on the contracts. The project should be able to start in October.

Regional EOC Planning

Sue stated that the two vendors were interviewed. The interview group unanimously preferred one vendor but the price was much higher. The proposal was just under \$200,000. Sue suggested moving \$90,000 from FY2011 Sheltering and Equipment. This will allow room for negotiating. Discussion followed.

Motion: Tom Lynch motioned to move \$90,000 from FY2011 Sheltering and Equipment to the Regional EOC Planning project. Larry Holmberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

It was the consensus of the group to allow a reduction on the communications portion of the project only for \$150,000 or the RFP will be re-issued.

Motion: Larry Holmberg motioned to authorize Sue Brown to negotiate with the Regional EOC Planning project preferred vendor. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Critical Infrastructure Phase III

The project justification forms were reviewed. Discussion followed.

Items Unforeseen by the Chair

No items were discussed.

Next Meeting

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The next meeting was scheduled for October 10th at DPH at 1:30 pm.

Sue stated that she will email the subcommittee about the division of FY12 funds after the WRHSAC Special meeting tomorrow.

There being no further business Tracy Rogers motioned to adjourn. Tom Lynch seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

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