

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 1:30 pm
Department of Public Health
23 Service Center Road, Northampton, Ma

Present: Tracy Rogers (FRCOG); Tom Lynch (BHS); Pat Smith (FRCOG); Susan Brown (FRCOG); Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG); Larry Holmberg (HREPC); Sandra Martin (BCBOHA); Lindsay Errichetto (BRPC); Don Snyder (MDPH); Mary Kersell (HPHPC); Ann Shea (MMC); Soloe Dennis (PVPC/HCHC); Ray Buldoc (HEMD); Carolyn Shores Ness (Municipal); John Davine (NFD), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC); Katie Keman (DPH); Samantha Stone (DPH); Norm Archer (Ping); Tim Convery (Ping).

Sandra Martin called the meeting called to order at 1:33 pm.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 4, 2012 meeting.

Motion: Larry Holmberg motioned to approve the September 4, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A round of introductions followed.

Ping 4 Presentation

Norm Archer and Tim Convery introduced themselves and passed around a flyer on Ping 4. Ping 4 is a hyper local mobile alert application. MEMA implemented their Ping 4 application last Friday. Notifications can go out in real time to smart phones. Alerts can be targeted to the impacted area. The Ping 4 application requires no registration, email address or phone number. Ping 4 uses the location based services in smart phone devices through geo-fencing. The notification can be text, picture, video or a combination. A demonstration was done. The cost is population based. The use is unlimited. If five or more towns decide to contract with Ping 4 the price can be negotiated. Sandra thanked Norm and Tim for their presentation.

DPH “Show Me” Communication Tool

Samantha Stone passed out a few copies of the “Show Me” booklet. This is a tool that was designed to be used at shelters to assist with communications. The goal is to develop a universal disaster communication tool. This tool has been tested with and co-created by public health professionals and the populations it is designed to help, including:

- People who have cognitive disabilities
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing
- People who have limited English proficiency
- Anyone who may struggle to communicate verbally during an emergency

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The booklets are currently being distributed to testing groups. Sandra stated that she can help with testing groups for the booklet. Sue stated that it would be good to incorporate this tool with the IRAA SOP project. Katie Keman from DPH has offered to join us in the exercises that are scheduled for this November.

FFY08 Project Update

Shelter Equipment

Sue Brown stated that the project is nearing completion.

Evacuation Planning

Sue stated that Gary Roux has requested a one month extension. The Berkshire and Franklin County portions of the project are done.

Critical Infrastructure Mapping w/WMFCA MDT GIS

No update was given.

FY09 Project Updates

Regional Shelter Planning

Lindsay Errichetto stated that the templates have been revised. The intermunicipal agreement has been drafted and is being reviewed. The MOU and facility agreement are being written. Lindsay, Pat and Josiah thanked Mary Kersell and Sandra Martin for their input on the project. Soloe Dennis stated that Hampden County is having a meeting to collect feedback on Friday. Discussion followed.

Critical Infrastructure Prioritization

John Davine stated that the project update is in the meeting packet. Sue stated that the contract for the Phase III has been issued.

Faith Communities Phase II

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

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Public Emergency Communication Strategies

Pat Smith passed out copies. PVPC printed the report. A digital copy will be given to Sue to put on the website.

Website Revision/Redesign and Content Support

Sue stated that a proposal for darksite templates was included in the meeting packet. Feedback is needed soon to move forward on this project.

FY10 Project Updates

FY2010 IRAA SOP & Exercises

Sue stated that a copy of the agenda, PowerPoint, etc. were included in the meeting packet. Discussion followed concerning the development of the SOG timeline and MEMA concerns with the project. Sue stated that she would follow up with MEMA. Soloe stated that he has a conference call with the consultant scheduled.

Feedback is needed on the PowerPoint packet. The workshop and table top mid-term planning conference will be held on October 29th from 9-3. Discussion followed on who to invite for the focus groups.

Western Mass Ready National Preparedness Month Campaign

Soloe, Pat and Josiah agreed that the project was a success. The public outreach at the County fairs went well. The give away items were well received. There was a lot of interest in the go-kits. There was also a lot of interest in volunteering. The report will be completed by the end of the month.

Regional Sheltering Implementation

The Regional Sheltering Implementation was covered earlier in the meeting. Pat Smith stated that the FRCGO portion of the project may need additional funding. Discussion followed.

FY2011 Project Updates

Mass Receiving Planning

Sue stated that work on this project should begin in November. She will have the contracts out to the RPAs within a few weeks.

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Regional EOC Planning

Sue revised the scope of work to a \$60,000 project. The revised scope of work was included in the meeting packet. Sue asked for feedback. Tracy Rogers suggested abandoning the Phase II of the disaster recovery project due to minimal interest from towns and possibly allocating the funding to the Regional EOC project or the purchasing of additional sheltering supplies. Discussion followed. The Subcommittee will review the scope of work and discuss at the next meeting.

Critical Infrastructure Phase III

The contract has been issued.

Items Unforeseen by the Chair

No items were discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 6th at DPH at 11:00 am.

There being no further business Tracy Rogers motioned to adjourn. Larry Holmberg seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 pm.

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