

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (Berkshire County Sheriff's Office), Bob Barry (MEMA) proxy for Bob Hassett (SFD), Ann Carroll (MMC) proxy for Tom Lynch (BHS), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Nicole Rohan (PVTA), Josh Shanley (NEM) proxy for Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Brook Chipman (EOPSS), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Alyssa Larose (FRCOG), Jenn Ball (EOPSS), Candi Christianson (VA), Dennis Annear (NWIMT), Butch Garrity (SC MSP).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:07 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair. A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the July 17, 2012 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Lynch moved to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2012 meeting as submitted. Russ Sienkiewicz seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>

Updates from Chair

Tom asked Jenn Ball if she had any updates. Jenn stated that a vendor has been chosen for the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The consultant will assess and recommend how to best utilize declining homeland security funds.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: none
- POLICE: none
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that the DNET training (triage training for EMTs) is up and running and licenses for usage have been distributed.
- EMD: none
- PUBLIC HEALTH: none
- TRANSPORTATION: none
- DPW: none
- CORRECTIONS: none
- COMMUNICATIONS: none
- HOSPITALS: none

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- MUNICIPALITIES: none
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): none
- MEMA: Bob Barry announced that the MEMA quarterly meeting has been scheduled for September 10th. There will be a session held at 9:00 am and another at 6:00 pm. Sue requested to be on the agenda to announce the Social Media training on September 21st.
- EOPSS: Brook Chipman stated that EOPSS is on track to release the guidance for the FY2012 regional plans. The guidance will be similar to previous years. There are greater changes expected for the FY2013 plans. Plans for FY2012 will be briefer than in past years. The focus will be to sustain current capabilities and focus expenditures on documented needs. Jenn Ball stated that the FY2012 will be a 24 month performance period versus the 36 months of previous funding years. There is a lot of resistance from DHS to requests for extensions.

As a follow up to questions raised by the Council at the July meeting Brook stated that it is not an allowable expense to use homeland security funding to look for additional funding sources. Applying for outside grants can be done and used in conjunction with homeland security projects but the time to submit the application can not be paid with homeland security funds. If outside funding is secured, contact EOPSS.

Jenn Ball stated that the changes to FY2013 will include such changes as more consolidated funding, all projects will need to be reflect the goals of the THIRA report, more mutual aid, etc. The state plan is being updated to be as competitive as possible for federal funding. It is hoped that FY2013 will be at the least, level funded.

Russ Sienkewicz stated that there is interest in forming a governing body to ensure that the interoperability projects continue to move forward. Jenn cautioned that it will be important not to compete for the same funding. Jenn stated that she would speak with Kurt Schwartz to find out if the governing body could replace the Interoperability Subcommittee.

Brook stated that a conference call will be held to discuss the FY2012 Regional plans and go over key points. The plans are due to EOPSS by October 1st and will be contracted with the Councils by the end of the year. Brook confirmed that the FY2010 funds have been extended until June 2013. Discussion followed.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Sandra Martin stated that all events in September that can be added to the Preparedness Month calendar should be forwarded to PVPC. Sandra stated that the Planning Subcommittee recommend approving additional funding to develop a mobile application for the WRHSAC website.

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Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve \$4,000 from FY08 Disaster and Recovery funds to create a mobile app for the WRHSAC website. Linda Moriarty seconded. Voted unanimously.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve \$6,750 from the remaining FY08 Traffic Safety Supply trailer for Sheltering Equipment End-User Educational video. Bob Barry seconded. Voted unanimously.

Sue posted the draft Western Mass Emergency Communication Strategies plan on the website. She requested feedback by September 1st. This plan will help guide how to spend resources by funding identified gaps.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ stated that the Interops Subcommittee met immediately following the last Council meeting.

Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve \$51,000 from FFY10 System Hardening to fund the Berkshire County 385 upgrade. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed. Tom Grady abstained.

Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve \$2,250 from FFY10 System Hardening to Hampshire Hills Phase II Cummington Structural Analysis. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve up to \$10,000 from FFY10 System Hardening to WMLEC Expansion Borden Tower structural engineering study. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed. Russ Sienkiewicz abstained.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve up to \$25,000 from FFY10 System Hardening to WMLEC Expansion Borden Tower repairs. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed. Russ Sienkiewicz abstained.

The Franklin County Data Sharing project discussion was tabled until next month. There will be a discussion about further funding additional consulting work from SAIC at the meeting later today. All of the other projects are moving along.

Training and Exercise:

Tom stated that the subcommittee met just prior to this meeting.

Motion: Tom Grady motioned to move the balance of the FFY08 Exercise budget in the amount of \$19,761 to the Training budget line item. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Northwest Massachusetts IMT training request

Tom Grady stated that this request proposes sending eight members of the NWMIMT to the Academy to instruct in order to work on their task books and obtain additional credentials. Once the task book is completed the member is fully credentialed. Discussion followed regarding recruiting junior members and listing events on 211.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve \$7,716 from FFY08 Training to send eight NWMIMT members to the NY Wildfire and Incident Management Academy to work on their credentials. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Sue stated that the Social Media training full day session will likely be held at UMass. The condensed trainings will be held at Mount Holyoke College. Twenty-three people have signed up to date. A flyer will be sent out when the location for the full day training is confirmed.

Equipment/PPE:

Sue stated that the traffic safety trailers purchase order has been issued. The trailers will be delivered to the Sheriff offices soon. The newest DART trailer will be delivered to the Town of Monson.

CBRNE/IED:

Sue stated that the Regional HazMat Team will be holding a demonstration of their new equipment on August 29th at the Springfield Fire Training Center. Sue will send out the flyer via email.

Fiduciary Report:

Sue stated that the Council may need to hold a Special Meeting to create the FY2012 Regional Plan. The funding for FY2012 is \$650,000. Discussion followed. A Special Meeting was scheduled for September 5, 2012 at 1:30 at WMEMS.

Sue stated that interviews for the Regional EOC Feasibility Study will be held next week at the Northampton Police Station.

Old Business:

No old business was presented.

New Business:

Ann Carroll stated that Mercy Medical Center had a bomb threat on August 7th. Mercy staff was not notified of the threat until the fire trucks and police arrived at the site. It would be very helpful if dispatchers across the state were trained to notify the facility affected when a bomb threat occurs. Discussion followed.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair

No unforeseen business was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

A Special Meeting was scheduled for September 5, 2012 at 1:30 at WMEMS.

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, September 18th at 10:00am at the Northampton Police Department.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

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