

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, March 05, 2019 9:30 am
DPH, Service Center Road, Northampton, MA

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Taylor McAndrew (BRPC), Todd Zukowski (PVPC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tracy Rogers (HMCC/FRCOG), Lauren Davine (HPHPC), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOS), Mary Kersell (NWMIMT), Mark Maloni (FRCOG), Ann Dunne (FRCOG)

This meeting is audio recorded

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 05, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve the February 05, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Larry Holmberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A round of introductions followed.

Public Health Update:

The flu season may have peaked, with a decrease in the number of cases. Several states have confirmed individual cases of measles.

FFY17 Projects -

Functional/Access Needs Daily Response Planning

Mark Maloni recommended adapting or using the Texas A+M University's Tips for First Responders tool, and discussed the next steps to make that decision. Mark will work with Texas A&M to either create a link to their site or to seek permission to pull their content. They are willing to adapt and to enhance the tips tools if we have any specific feedback. The workshop series needs to be developed. Raine is concerned about the timeline for the project and whether the workshops can be pulled together by end date. Raine will ask EOPSS for a project extension beyond the July 2019 deadline. Raine will hold a conference call with the RPA's to discuss the options before the next meeting.

FFY18 Projects -

Children in Disasters Phase IV – Pediatric Surge Plan

The paperwork was submitted to MAPC for approval to shift the work remaining in FFY17 to FFY18.

Cybersecurity Planning-\$40,000.00

Raine noted that the FRCOG may have a project proposal for this allocation; the idea is to provide regionalized IT services to municipalities which would include cybersecurity measures. Raine will discuss this further with Linda Dunlavy. Raine is a member of the Mass CyberCenter's Cybersecurity Resilience Working Group. One task of the group is to create a Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Plan modeled after the National Plan.

Other Project - \$50,000.00

The WAG are having ongoing conversations around emerging infectious diseases, and revisited the idea of vaccine refrigeration for the region. The WAG are holding EID workshops in March, and will identify gaps and project ideas to present at a future meeting.

Mental Health Recovery Resource Guide & Campaign - \$50,000.00

The committee discussed a multi-phase approach to create a resource guide to support the first responders' mental health, and to establish a campaign in the four counties to promote it. Raine created a working group to include Larry Holmberg, Todd Zukowski, Allison Hope, Lauren Davine, Mark Maloni, and Deb Clapp will be invited to participate. It was noted that due to lack of funding, WMEMS may dissolve.

Public Information Message Maps - \$40,000.00

Mary Kersell noted the difficulty of providing timely and accurate information to the public during an event. The main goal is to provide accurate and credible information by creating a template of pre-scribed guidelines to assist with the process, followed by training. Raine will develop a scope of work for the next meeting for review and further discussion regarding who will do the work.

Debris Management & SUV Online Training Reformatting - \$20,000

The MOU is signed, and the project justification is at EOPSS for approval. The contract should be in place by mid-April.

Budget Review

Some unallocated funds in FFY18 remain on the table, and the FFY19 investment plan guidance will be released soon. The committee will begin compiling project ideas for the August 2020/July 2021 investment plan.

Requests

None

Old Business

None

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New Business

None

Items unforeseen by the chair

Carolyn Shores Ness updated the committee on the Rural Policy Group and their endeavors to gather local officials and members of the MMA to work together to lobby the State Reps. on the loss of funding and the trend to focus resources back into the Boston area, which is impacting services in western Mass. Discussion ensued.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 02, 2019, 9:30 am at DPH, 23 Service Center Road, Northampton.

There being no further business, Tracy Rogers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Larry Holmberg seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ann Dunne, Franklin Regional Council of Governments