

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Tracy Rogers (HMCC/FRCOG), Lauri Solomon (FRCOG), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Emily Tully (PVPC)

Subcommittee members absent: Loren Davine (HPHC/MRC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Mark Maloni (HMCC/FRCOG), Michael Nelson (DPH), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 7, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the December 7, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Carolyn Shores Ness, Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, and Tracy Rogers voted in favor. Todd Zukowski, Val Woodring, and Lauri Solomon abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Shores Ness, Sandra Martin, and Larry Holmberg reported. Covid numbers are rising quickly across the region. Recent sequencing in Hampden and Franklin Counties still shows mostly delta variant. There is high demand for home testing kits and often long lines at PCR testing sites. Jeanne reported that with regard to the flu, we are about a week ahead of where we were two and three years ago, with case numbers increasing.

FFY19 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – The second trailer has been ordered and they are starting to build it. There is no definite timeline yet, but we are expecting delivery by the end of June when the funding ends. The additional funds were approved at the full Council meeting. Raine is already getting requests to borrow the trailer.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 9:00 am

FRCOG Cybersecurity Capacity Building Workshops – This project is wrapping up this month, pending some reporting that the consultant will be providing. All workshops have been completed and recordings are available on the FRCOG and WRHSAC websites.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – The kickoff meeting with the consultant was held mid-December and they are going to start bi-weekly update meetings, every other Friday at 10 am. Ask Raine for the invitation to join. Many people throughout the State are interested in seeing how this progresses.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response

- **NPI Risk Communications and Guide Socialization Workshops:** No one signed up for these workshops yet. Raine will push them out again today. If we do not get people signed up we can make sure to get one recorded and then we will have to decide whether or not to hold others.

- **COVID-19 AAR:** There were no responses the first time we ran the AAR. We made some adjustments to the Scope of Work based on feedback and put it out again. Responses are due next Monday.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – Raine learned from EOPSS that this project will require prior FEMA approval. Tricia McGuirk explained that because it is a construction project, FEMA needs to approve it before it happens. She added that Ben Podsiadlo asked Tricia to find out if other locations were considered, e.g. inside areas at the college. Tracy Rogers replied that they are renting an internal climate controlled storage unit in Holyoke, which is the closest climate controlled storage space, but it takes 45 minutes to get to. They also have some equipment such as Chromebooks stored in an indoor closet in GCC for fire suppression, but that is the entire amount of indoor space GCC is able to provide. GCC will provide free rent for the Conex boxes. HMCC will pay for electricity, but that will still be less than rent at Holyoke.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

- **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** Raine will work with the consultants about setting up the next virtual session and maybe an in-person session this summer.

- **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** We still have no word from EOPSS about the proposal. We may be at the point of deciding to move it entirely virtual. Raine will discuss more with the consultant.

FFY21 Projects

The summary of FFY21 projects was included in today's meeting packet. Jeanne and Raine led a discussion to begin thinking about how to flesh out some of the projects.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 9:00 am

Cybersecurity Funding – Raine explained that we needed to allocate a certain percent of our budget to cybersecurity this year, which we did in conjunction with T&E. We might not have time to wait for the outcome of the Regional CISO project before starting to use the FFY21 funds, as there will be limited time remaining by the time the feasibility study ends. Including the \$20,000 left in FFY20, we have a total of over \$110,000 to spend on cybersecurity.

Subcommittee members observed that there is still a lot of uncertainty and anxiety within towns about what would happen in the event of a security breach. Raine noted that towns need to put in the time to build a Cyber Incident Response Plan (IRP). We have run IRP workshops a few times but can do it again. However, simply running a workshop is not enough as it requires additional work to get an IRP in place. Discussion ensued, with some subcommittee members suggesting bypassing the Regional CISO feasibility study and simply hiring a consultant to work with a fixed number of towns to create an IRP. However, there is concern that without a dedicated person or team in each town to carry this forward, simply having a plan may not be useful. Another idea put forth would be to break the IRP workshops into a series of smaller workshops rather than present it all at once, so that over time the entire plan could be created. However, this would still require towns to dedicate someone to do the “homework” between sessions.

Raine shared that obtaining cyber insurance has shifted drastically in the past year or so, and now municipalities need to prove the level of security they already have in place or insurance costs are going to skyrocket. Insurance agencies like MIIA, which insures the majority of towns in the state, are having trouble getting insurance companies to back cyber/IT. We need to keep persevering until we get more towns to create Cyber IRPs. Tools and templates exist, but there needs to be even more redundancy. We need to recognize that if we hold a workshop we will not get a lot of people, but we need to do it anyway. Carolyn suggested that emphasizing the insurance implications may draw more people because towns need to save money. Todd suggested that if we pay for a consultant to help towns create an IRP, we could require a local match of 25-30% to ensure buy-in and help stretch Council funds to more towns. Raine suggested that we could hire a consultant to help towns strategically figure out how to add cybersecurity to their budget over the next few years.

There was agreement to continue this conversation in a smaller working group. Sandra, Carolyn, Larry, and Todd expressed interest in participating.

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – This was not discussed.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – Jeanne recalled that there was a lot of interest in this topic last month, and asked if anyone had thought of ideas to take it to a next step. Raine reminded the committee that the Council does not have authority to carry out any projects working directly with children, but our funds could be used to support other efforts, provide trainings, etc. Jeanne suggested that we would need to reach out to people who work with children and ask about what is needed. Sandra suggested that we start with an assessment of needs and research about resources that are available. Carolyn observed that one of the biggest problems is the lack of resources, as nobody seems to be taking new patients regardless of needs.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 9:00 am

Raine noted that the budget for this project is \$50,000. Resources we could create with that could be short videos, e.g. ways to help kids or parents understand what is happening in their brains. Tracy noted that there is a guest speaker coming to the WAG meeting to talk about this topic, so they might have more ideas next month.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – Jeanne noted that we have had this on the back burner for a while but we need to think about how to approach this topic. Raine reported that FEMA’s new strategic plan has identified this as their first goal. It is included in today’s packet. We could see what FEMA comes up with and then maybe build off that or partner with that. Jeanne asked if there is a FEMA rep who could meet with us. Tricia replied that there is a program coordinator who might be willing to connect with the group. Tricia agreed to ask if FEMA has a team connected with that goal. Raine will send an email to Tricia about what to ask. Tracy noted that her advisor is a reservist who specializes in diversity and equity. She will reach out to her. Jeanne noted that she would like to see someone at the February or March meeting.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – This was not discussed.

Budget Review

Raine reported. FFY19 projects are all moving along. Remaining funds were transitioned to the second trailer. In FFY20, there is \$20,000 still in cybersecurity, just over \$9,000 in NPI, and \$48,000 in first responder mental health not yet allocated. That does not include funds being held for the conference which will change if we go to virtual. We would want to have good platform for that, which might cost some money though not nearly as much as an in-person conference. A couple of equipment projects in FFY21 will be flipped to FFY20. FFY21 funds are now available, to spend by the end of July, 2023.

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

Ideas for possible FFY2022 funding (likely announced February to April 2022) – Jeanne noted that we might have some “next steps” projects, but it is too soon to know.

New Business

None.

Items unforeseen by the chair

None.

Next Meeting

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 9:00 am

The next Pan Flu/Planning subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Lauri Solomon, Todd Zukowski, Tracy Rogers, Val Woodring, and Larry Holmberg voted in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee January 4, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee December 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 12/29/2021
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 12/29/2021
- WRHSAC Pan Flu Planning Subcommittee FFY2021 Projects
- 2022–2026 FEMA Strategic Plan

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Tracy Rogers (HMCC/FRCOG), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Alessandra Jerolleman (Jacksonville State University), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Emily Tully (PVPC)

Subcommittee members absent: Loren Davine (HPHC/MRC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Mark Maloni (HMCC/FRCOG), Michael Nelson (DPH), Lauri Solomon (FRCOG), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 4, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the January 4, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tracy Rogers, Jeanne Galloway, Sandra Martin, Val Woodring and Emily Tully voted in favor. Monica Wynne abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Dr. Allisandra Jerolleman, Associate Professor, Dept of Emergency Management, Jacksonville State University

– Tracy Rogers invited Dr. Jerolleman, who is an expert on equity in emergency management, to talk about challenges and best practices. Referring to a FEMA definition, she explained equity as having a lot to do with outcomes and recognizing that different people in different circumstances are going to need different things. It feels odd to some to distribute resources in ways that are not “equal,” but often people who were struggling more prior to a disaster end up worse off afterward, while those who were better off before the disaster end up even better off afterward. There are a lot of barriers to access, and that is where planning comes in. It is important to give vulnerable populations a seat at the table, but you need to consider the potential costs of participation, especially if nothing changes in the end. Programs designed to be voluntary often do not feel that way on the ground and can become burdens. It is also important in planning to take a step back and understand the history and trends that created the vulnerability.

Dr. Jerolleman referenced a few tools that include questions people can ask in these planning processes to check what you are doing. She sent several links to Tracy to share with the subcommittee. We have a lot of tools for process and program evaluation, and a solid

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 am

understanding of where we expect to see gaps of impacts. We know what to expect. One thing we can do is really look at where resources and support are going versus where we expect they are going, and do that in real time with “pause points” rather than waiting until the end. This requires having a baseline knowledge of who is in the community, and looking at patterns of distribution with maps, GIS, word of mouth, or by asking community partners if they see people getting access to particular things. She noted that planners sometimes have huge blind spots and do not know about the particular needs or populations.

She also added that some places have been successful at getting small grants to do civic engagement training, as many people are not comfortable speaking up in public spaces. Tracy noted that this might not be approved by EOPSS, but perhaps we could educate people on how to engage in the public hearing process and teach emergency planners how to engage with the public. Another project idea would be revisit the plans we have developed over the last 15 years and go through them with an eye toward equity. Dr. Jerolleman suggested including in-depth interviewing at the community level as part of AARs to get people’s lived experience. This can inform plans and be a big help to emergency management. Carolyn noted that our AARs have not necessarily included the question of whether we are delivering the right thing to the right people.

Public Health/Flu Update

Monica Wynne reported that hospitals are starting to see a decline in patients admitted, though numbers are still high. The positivity rate is still high in the Springfield area and they have seen flu consistently over the last month or so. They are preparing for unwinding out of the pandemic and figuring out how to open back up for elective procedures. Everything is relying on staffing, which is a challenge across the country in the health care sector. Jeanne reported that she has heard news of vaccines possibly coming for kids under 5 in the next month or so. Their current thinking is to do those mostly through pediatricians, but no decisions have been made yet.

FFY19 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – The trailer is being built.

FRCOG Cybersecurity Capacity Building Workshops – There is one remaining element to the project, a phishing training with towns who signed up to participate.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – This project is ongoing. There are biweekly update meetings with the consultant. They are doing a lot of interviews with towns in each county recommended by the Councils, to gain understanding of the range of challenges faced by small towns up to big cities.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 am

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response

- **NPI Risk Communications and Guide Socialization Workshops:** One workshop was held. Originally we had thought about doing up to four, but only 30 people attended the first and it was recorded, so it will be available on the website. The e-learning module is up and going. The project is therefore complete.

- **COVID-19 AAR:** We received two proposals, both good responses but different. The proposals were scored by Sandra, Tracy, Allison and Raine, but one group underbid the other with a \$60,000 proposal versus over \$300,000 for the other, so the group with the lower bid was awarded the project. They have never done an AAR, but they shared outcomes and how they present the data they have. They are based out of Somerville and have a lot of experience related to public health and looking at disparities in communities.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – This project was approved but needs a more detailed EHP. It was sent to MAPC to get a consultant to do that.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

- **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** We originally talked about doing another virtual session in February but were not able to get it out in time; also, participation in virtual trainings is going down. Raine will talk with the consultants about the lowest threshold for running it.

- **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** With the food and venue restrictions and Covid uncertainty, we have decided to hold this as a virtual conference. We can still plan for October and hold sessions over multiple days. Raine is working on the project justification.

FFY21 Projects

Discussed after Budget Review.

Budget Review

Raine reported. There are some equipment projects that were in FFY21 but have already started. Raine flipped these to FFY20 to spend down those funds sooner. In exchange she is flipping some areas where we have money not being used to FFY21. Most of this is in T&E, but there are unallocated funds in cybersecurity and for the AAR. However, there is about \$60,000-\$75,000 remaining in FFY20 that we need to move on quickly to spend.

FFY21 Projects

Raine reported.

Cybersecurity Funding – This includes training and has over \$100,000 available including the flipped funds. The funding stream from DHS/CISA is shifting; for the last three years cybersecurity has been a national priority for State Homeland Security Councils but in FFY22 it will be its own independent stream. Sandra suggested phishing trainings similar to one she did with BRPC. Jeanne replied that she believes this is already available to everyone. Raine added that a phishing training from FRCOG is part of the current cyber capacity workshop project.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – The idea for this was to conduct a review of AARs throughout the region, including ours, but given that our AAR is going to be ongoing through November, that will put us in a tight timeframe for using FFY21 funds. We have \$75,000 for this. Discussion led to a suggestion for a more modest research project to see who is doing AARs, when they expect them to be done, and what their focus is. The RFP process would be open to RPAs. This could also use up some of the FFY20 funds.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve up to \$20,000 for research into AARs in the region. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Tracy Rogers, Val Woodring, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Emily Tully, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Allison Egan voted in favor. Sandra Martin abstained. The motion passed.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – Jeanne reported that she had a good meeting with Child Life Disaster Relief and that they were full of good ideas. The list of best options for us is in today’s packet. We have sufficient money from different projects to fund all three ideas, which could be done as one project or two. We would need to decide if trainings would be in person or virtual, or both. Jeanne noted that the in-person training is half a day, so we would not run into a food issue. Tracy noted that the police reform bill includes teaching officers about autism, so we should make sure this group includes that. Several others suggested opening the trainings up to other sectors; there was agreement that it could be open but we would need to add marketing to the project. If we want to add something separate for early education and childcare, that can be done separately if there is more interest than we have capacity to meet.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve up to \$100,000 for the three Children in Disaster projects detailed in the meeting packet. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Tracy Rogers, Val Woodring, Monica Wynne, Sandra Martin, Jeanne Galloway, Emily Tully, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Allison Egan voted in favor. The motion passed.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – A small working group including Sandra, Larry, Val, Tracy, and Allison will meet before next month’s meeting to come up with a project idea. Raine will coordinate.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – Raine will discuss the next phase with the consultants. One of the consultants is currently researching drills and skills trainings, which came up as a request from Building Healthy Workplaces participants.

Requests

None.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

Ideas for possible FFY2022 funding (likely announced February to April 2022) – This has not been announced yet.

New Business

None.

Items unforeseen by the chair

None.

Next Meeting

The next Pan Flu/Planning subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Tracy Rogers, Val Woodring, Monica Wynne, Sandra Martin, Jeanne Galloway, Emily Tully, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Allison Egan voted in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee February 1, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee January 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 1/28/2022
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 1/28/2022
- Child Life Disaster Relief letter and summary for proposed projects

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHC/MRC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Tracy Rogers (HMCC/FRCOG), Emily Tully (PVPC), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Michael Nelson (DPH), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 1, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve the February 1, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Tracy Rogers seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Tracy Rogers, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, Allison Egan, Emily Tully, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Jeanne Galloway reported that there were no cases of flu in West Springfield in January, but 10 in February. Overall flu numbers are down in the state. Covid numbers are down in West Springfield, from over 2,000 in January to 225 in February. Carolyn Shores Ness reported that flu cases in Deerfield have been steady at zero since Christmas, and there are very few Covid cases now. Monica Wynne reported that Covid numbers are going down at the hospitals as well, with only 8-10 in critical care at Baystate and 60 overall in the system. However, they are waiting to see what school vacation brings. Most of those in critical care are unvaccinated and with comorbidities.

Jeanne reported that in a few weeks they will start trying to reach out to people in their 20s to attract them to get vaccines through incentives such as movie tickets. They are working on trying to get the funding for that. Loren Davine noted that with college break coming up, that may be a good time to offer vaccines. Monica pointed out that spring break is another possible super spreader event.

Loren reported that Hampshire County still has vaccination clinics 3 days a week at the Elks in Florence, with regional and mobile clinics on other days. However, they are definitely seeing a drop off. The 5-11 year old population is less vaccinated, so they are trying to work with schools

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9:00 am

to make those available. Allison Egan reported that case numbers are low and dropping in Berkshire County, and that once children under 5 are able to get vaccinated there will be a big push for pediatricians to take that on.

FFY19 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – The trailer is being built. Raine will spend some time on the decaling to make sure it is done correctly this time.

FRCOG Cybersecurity Capacity Building Workshops – The workshop series is over; they have been doing some phishing trainings that will be wrapped up soon.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – This project is moving along well. The vendor is wrapping up the interview process this week and will start the assessment phase next.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – Raine sent a poll yesterday to find a time for a kick-off meeting this week or next week. She will send the date later today.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – The project is approved, and we have a Scope of Work at MAPC to get a consultant for the EHP.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** There is an upcoming series in March-April. We are getting good turnout for registrants, including some who registered through the HMCC network.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** EOPSS still has not responded even though it is now virtual. They might not like the request for extra tech support. Raine will check in with EOPSS later today. Lillian Lenox has been working to pull in nationally renowned experts.

FFY21 Projects

Raine reported.

Cybersecurity Planning – We have cybersecurity funds in both FFY20 and FFY21, but we cannot really do anything until the CISO feasibility project is complete. The final report is expected by June or July.

Tracy asked if Raine has heard anything about cybersecurity with regard to the situation in Ukraine and Russia. Raine replied that there has been some concern about critical infrastructure and expectations for cyber attacks to increase. There had been a code of honor among hackers to stay away from critical infrastructure, but that is changing. It is possible that Russia could back

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9:00 am

cyber attacks. Everyone should be aware of a rise in scamming artists. We become more vulnerable to scams when stressed and distracted.

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – The PJ is at EOPSS.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – This project has been approved. Raine will start working on a Scope of Work.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning –

* **Review draft proposal:** The draft is in today’s meeting packet. A subgroup met to discuss ideas and this is what we came up with, but there were questions generated after it was shared with the group. Sandra had sent a question about whether the goal was to analyze data or just collect it. Allison noted that with a budget of \$40,000 we could do more than just collect data. Raine asked if the questions in the proposal were the ones the committee wants answered. Allison replied that she likes the questions as a starting point, though might be more generated. Tracy noted that this is written as trying to identify how people in Western Mass have been treated inequitably and trying to define the problem. Carolyn and Loren noted that in Western Mass there may be fewer equity issues related to race, but more regarding age and access to internet and transportation. Raine agreed to add a question related to transportation, internet, and other forms of access. Larry reminded the group that this project is to look at equity in emergency *management*, not just equity in terms of income between groups, etc. We need to know if and why resources get to different people differently. He also pointed out that “individual assistance” as FEMA defines it is opened infrequently; “public assistance” is more common, though most of the questions would be the same. But it would be interesting to see how often individual assistance was opened up in the past ten years and how it was distributed.

Carolyn noted that she is still unsure what our goal is. Allison replied that we are looking for a way of identifying gaps and commonalities across the whole Western Mass community, and then people can go back to their plans or templates based on the findings and revise as needed. She hopes to see groups that focus on people with disabilities, NAACP, and others get more involved in emergency planning in their communities, but there is a gap to bridge to make them feel welcome. There need to be ongoing relationships to incorporate more diversity in planning.

Raine noted that the proposal did not capture part of the subgroup conversation about seeing where first responders and emergency managers think the discrepancies are, and then comparing that with where the discrepancies actually are. Then we could see how to address that gap. People acknowledged in the subgroup meeting that they don’t know what they don’t know. Raine will add that to the proposal and the committee will take this up again next month.

* **Ethics in Triage Training:** This is a topic that came up in conversation in the subgroup. Val Woodring has some information about it but could not be here today. She will provide more info, but the suggestion was that we push it to T&E as a possible project.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9:00 am

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – We will see what the outcome is of the current project and research before deciding next steps.

Budget Review

Raine reported. For FFY19 we have the trailer and cyber workshops still in progress, but we should not have trouble spending down the funds. We still have \$20,000 in cybersecurity in FFY20. She moved most of the committee's other funds to the FFY21 children in disasters project, but there will still likely be some left to spend.

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

Ideas for possible FFY2022 funding – This has not been announced yet. They are waiting to see what happens with the budget at the federal level.

New Business

None.

Items unforeseen by the chair

Jeanne got an email that the State is trying to distribute PPE. Reach out to your Emergency Management Director if you need any. Tracy put the link in the chat box. This is open to anyone.

Next Meeting

The next Pan Flu/Planning subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Tracy Rogers, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Shores Ness, Allison Egan, Emily Tully, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee March 1, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee February 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- WRHSAC Equity in Emergency Needs Assessment (Draft)
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 2/24/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 2/24/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 2/24/2022

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Respectfully submitted by:
Rachel Mason, WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Tracy Rogers (HMCC/FRCOG), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG),

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Emily George (Day Health Strategies), Mimi Kaplan (PVPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Allison Egan (BRPC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Monica Wynne (Baystate), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 1, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the March 1, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. Loren Davine offered a minor amendment to correct her agency affiliation. A roll-call vote was held on the amended minutes. Tracy Rogers, Carolyn Shores Ness, Val Woodring, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Jeanne Galloway reported. Flu is on the rise again, though still below endemic threshold. Covid cases are also on the rise, though not tremendously. Carolyn Ness reported a slight uptick in Covid in Deerfield, with a couple cases a day. Loren Davine reported that in Hampshire County they were just closing up vaccination clinics but instead reopened them as they are seeing more people coming to booster clinics.

FFY19 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – The trailer is fully built and decaled. They are anticipating delivery this week or next. Raine is in the process of purchasing medical and administrative supplies to stock the trailer. The project should wrap up soon.

FRCOG Cybersecurity Capacity Building Workshops – This project is wrapping up. The vendor is working on the final report.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 9:00 am

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – The consultant is in the assessment phase of reviewing the project. We anticipate seeing a draft sometime this month.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – Emily George from Day Health Strategies discussed their progress. They have been working on the data collection tools and prepping for outreach. They expect to complete the tools by the end of the week. They mapped out a plan for how to reach each priority group and have identified contacts for many priority group types, but they want additional clarity on which communities in each county to prioritize for public health, including both small and large communities. Carolyn, Loren, Jeanne, and Sandra can help with suggestions in each county. Raine will put them in touch.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – The EHP is in process; once that is completed we will look at setting up procurement.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** Another series is in progress. The last session will be this Thursday. They had a core group of 12-14 people and the series was well received.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** EOPSS has approved it being a completely virtual event. We had hoped to get extra money for marketing and tech support but that was not approved. Raine will work on arranging those elements through FRCOG. The virtual conference will begin on October 6 and continue on the subsequent three Thursdays, from 10-2. Each morning will begin with speakers. Stephen Porges and Deb Dana are secured as speakers for the first day. There will be breakout sessions in the afternoons. We are hoping for a high number of people and will push it out through the whole state. Carolyn asked if we would provide CEUs, as that might draw more people. Raine replied that having to track whether people are online and whether they stay would be too challenging. She is hoping that the topic will draw in enough people. It will be open to public, so we might want to do press releases.

FFY21 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – We have approximately \$90,000 for cybersecurity planning. We have been waiting for the results of the CISO feasibility study before proceeding, but in the meantime municipalities have expressed interest in templates or copies of best practices and procedures. We could probably bring on a consultant to do this for about \$20,000. Carolyn was supportive of the idea. Sandra suggested both short and simple checklists and longer, more comprehensive templates. Raine noted that short ones already exist. This would be more like a library of documents: if you want to do this specific component of cybersecurity, here is a template for that. It would be more applicable for municipalities that already have some IT/Cyber in place.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 9:00 am

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – We had anticipated starting an AAR preparatory review. The Project Justification has been with EOPSS for over a month. Raine checked with them last week about what the challenges are. They are pushing back more against public health projects and where the funding is coming from. Raine reviewed with the committee the questions they asked her and the answers she provided, as well as the questions that she was not able to answer. Discussion ensued about the use of Homeland Security funds to respond to issues that are not terrorism related, versus seeking DPH/OPEM administrative funds. Raine will pass along subcommittee members' comments to EOPSS.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – Raine submitted scope of work to MAPC, out for review. Changed the procurement approach to a request for proposals since the budget available is \$100,000.00. This will allow us to review the quality of both the proposed trainings and video production. This means we will need people to help review the proposals. Carolyn, Tracy, and Sandra volunteered.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning –

* **Review draft proposal:** The updated proposal is in today's packet. There was consensus that overall the proposal is on target.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning proposal as submitted. Tracy Rogers seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tracy Rogers, Carolyn Shores Ness, Val Woodring, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

* **Ethics in Triage Training:** Val Woodring reported that she came across two people regarding disaster ethics who piqued her interest. One is Dr. Josh Miller at Smith College. She has emailed back and forth with him. He is interested in hearing more about what we are looking for, but would not be free until fall, 2022. The other is Dr. Tener Veenema at Johns Hopkins, who has also responded to emails and is interested. Two non-profits, IDIEM and NACCHO, might also be good resources. There was agreement to discuss this as a possible 2022 project.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – This will be a continuation of the current project, though we have not identified specific steps yet. Tracy asked if ethics in triage might fit here. Raine replied that it might; they have contacted a speaker for the conference whose focus is moral injury.

Budget Review

Raine reported. At the March Council meeting a plethora of T&E requests were approved, which led Raine to flip some projects around to give this subcommittee more time. FFY20 ends at the end of December, but MAPC is likely to seek another extension until July, 2023. Projects are moving along. We have \$30,000 that was identified for the AAR but will not be utilized, so we can use those funds for something else. In FFY21 we have the regional coordination of NPI plans with \$75,000. Sandra asked if there is any appetite in Hampden County for a public health

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 9:00 am

trailer. Jeanne replied that everyone likes the idea but no one has stepped forward with interest in hosting it. However, if we think we have money for another trailer she will put more effort into finding someone to take responsibility for it.

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

FFY2022 Investment Planning – Refer to the slides in today’s packet. We do not know the exact amount of the grant yet, so EOPSS directed us to use level funding for planning purposes. This would be about \$214,000, with an anticipated time frame of January, 2023 through July, 2024. Discussion ensued around different ideas, including continuation and/or expansion of some current projects, such as adding additional disciplines to the first responder mental health resiliency project, as well as initiation of new projects, such as one focused on information and disinformation management. The subcommittee agreed on the following projects.

- Public Health Mobile Response Options
- Equity in Emergency Management
- Follow-up projects from COVID AAR/IP
- First Responder Mental Health Resiliency
- Information/Dis-information Management for Public Messaging

For funding, there was agreement to put \$40,000 into each, with the remainder added to the public health mobile response trailer project.

New Business

None.

Items unforeseen by the chair

Consider subcommittee’s name – There were concerns that the subcommittee’s name is no longer accurate. Sandra suggested that having “public health” in the name might be appropriate but could raise red flags. Raine noted that there used to be three subcommittees: “planning,” “pan flu,” and “equipment,” but planning and pan flu started to overlap, and the equipment subcommittee basically dissolved. She also clarified that having “public health” in the name might not cause concern, but EOPSS is pushing back on projects that could potentially be funded by OPEM. Tracy felt that the name should cover all disciplines. Sandra suggested “planning and mitigation.” Jeanne asked that this discussion be continued on next month’s agenda.

Next Meeting

The next Pan Flu/Planning subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 9:00 am

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Tracy Rogers, Jeanne Galloway, Val Woodring, Sandra Martin, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee April 4, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee March 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- Photographs of Greenfield Public Health Mobile Response Unit
- WRHSAC Equity in Emergency Management Needs Assessment (draft proposal)
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 3/31/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 3/31/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 3/31/2022
- WRHSAC Pan Flu Planning Subcommittee FFY2022 Investment Plan Considerations

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Tracy Rogers (HMCC/FRCOG), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Allie Dawson (Day Health strategies), Emily George (Day Health Strategies), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 5, 2022 meeting.

<p>Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Tracy Rogers seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Tracy Rogers, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Monica Wynne, and Loren Davine voted in favor. Allison Egan abstained. The motion was approved.</p>

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Monica Wynne reported that Covid numbers are creeping up in Western Mass, though they are not seeing a huge increase in admitted Covid patients. Flu numbers are increasing as well, and there are many others sick, so Baystate is at capacity almost daily.

Allison Egan reported that it is hard to tell what the Covid numbers are in Berkshire County because it is not always being reported. Federally funded testing sites closed down. But the rate is likely somewhere in 60s per 100,000, or double what it was a few weeks ago. People are getting antiviral treatments that are keeping them out of the hospital.

Carolyn reported that Curative is running a testing site in Deerfield that will take anyone whether or not insured. There is significant community spread in Franklin County. They are finding from contact tracing that it does not take much to get infected, less than the 15 minute benchmark. We need to figure out long term strategies as new variants keep coming, and we need the public to have faith in public health.

Loren reported that Hampshire County still has a testing site in Easthampton, and the Northampton health department has a google form for people to report their at-home rapid tests.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:00 am

A few towns are doing wastewater surveillance. They have some data and testing capability. Various agencies are giving out take home tests. But people are self-managing and not as concerned as they were before.

Jeanne Galloway reported that the same is true in Hampden County. Covid and flu numbers are both up, though flu maybe starting to go back down.

Allison noted that a lot of people are focusing on hospitalization, which is low, but that she is not seeing much focus on long Covid, and she asked about the status of tracking of long Covid in Western Mass. Monica replied that they did some tracking at the hospital for long Covid but have not brought forth much data yet. They are meeting on a regular basis. Carolyn asked at a selectboard meeting for people to call the BoH if they have long Covid. No one has called, though she knows of at two or three people with significant long Covid symptoms. Allison expressed concern that there is no consistent data collection. Jeanne suggested putting forth that question at the next DPH meeting. Carolyn agreed to submit the question.

FFY19 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – The Greenfield trailer is in place. Additional supplies to stock it are coming in. Raine will go see it soon and will get info out to the region about that one and the one in Pittsfield.

FRCOG Cybersecurity Capacity Building Workshops – This should be wrapping up. We are waiting to see the final report from the vendor.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – We expect to see the final report in the next few weeks.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – Allie Dawson gave an update on the work Day Health Strategies did in April. They finished development of the outreach tracker and outreach messaging, and have started outreach to 41 representatives from the priority groups identified. 16 have confirmed a time for an interview or standing meeting. Stakeholders who did not respond have been sent a second outreach. They have conducted 11 interviews and spoken with stakeholders from different geographic backgrounds and priority types. No recordings are being made and no identifying data are being collected. The survey is being distributed to participants 1-2 days prior to the interview. 11 of the 13 who have been sent the survey have completed it. They expect to continue data collection through interviews, focus groups, and surveys through May and into June. Three Boards of Health in Franklin County will be contacted today, which will complete the priority groups. The Franklin County Superintendents Group was hesitant to join. They will send them a survey link but will not

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:00 am

further intrude on their time. Carolyn noted that the Deerfield super was active in that group; she will give him a call so that Day Health can talk to them.

Jeanne asked if there are themes coming up that they can share. Allie responded that challenges with communication is a big theme, particularly from the state level down, but also among partnerships that were formed. Overall they have heard a lot about resilience and partnership. People felt like they were winging it but making it work. Emily noted that many people said they were winging it, but then reported a methodical way of going about it, so maybe there is some modesty. People mentioned that plans they had in place that were not necessarily adequate to address this particular need. People continued to deliver a high quality response to residents despite not having a specific roadmap for a pandemic.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – There is a consultant completing the EHP. We should see it wrap up in the next couple weeks, then we have to wait for FEMA/DHS to approve it, which could take a week to a month. Then we can start looking into getting the work completed through summer and into fall. It should be set by winter so HMCC can move things.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** A session wrapped up in early April. Raine has a meeting with one of the consultants about scheduling another session for the fall.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** Raine is working with MAPC on contracts and will issue them to speakers soon.

FFY21 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – Raine did not get any work done on the best practices and procedures idea, but she talked to Amanda Doster at FRCOG who reminded her that the capacity building workshops included one that presented best practices. So we might already have the content and might just need to push it out differently. Raine will review it. The funds can wait for the results of the CISO project because looks like we will see another extension on FFY20.

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – The Project Justification is still at EOPSS. Raine will follow up.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – The RFP had no responses. Two or three vendors asked for it, including Child Life Relief, but none submitted a response. MAPC is following up about why they did not submit. Child Life said they needed more time to get a proposal in than the two weeks allowed. We might need to run it again and give it more time. If others have ideas of vendors to send it to, please let Raine know. Raine will send the Scope of Work out to subcommittee members. Tracy suggested that if the next bid does not work, we

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:00 am

could split it into two projects. Raine noted that we made it clear in RFP that there could be subcontracting, but she agreed that we could also split it up.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – This was approved by the Council. Raine will submit the Project Justification to EOPSS.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – Nothing specific is happening yet. Sandra noted that she has been reading about how substance use has impacted a lot of industries, with people self-medicating, and she wondered if we could work this into the project. Raine replied that we can keep it in mind as we plan next steps.

Budget Review

Raine reported. In FFY19 all projects are wrapping up, with no outstanding funds. Raine had moved some trailer equipment into FFY20 but will flip it back to FFY19. In FFY20 we have \$1,500 unallocated in cybersecurity, \$33,000 in the NPI line item, and a little over \$12,000 in first responder mental health. If we do not get an additional extension, we could try to flip some of this. In FFY21 we have \$90,000 for cybersecurity, 75,000 for NPI AAR/IP review, \$40,000 for equity in emergency management, \$100,000 for Children in Disasters, and about \$38,000 for First Responder Mental Health.

The FFY22 NOFO is still not out yet. There were some adjustments since the Council meeting because PFAS projects are on hold. We had put aside \$100,000 for PFAS, but EOPSS advised us to remove it, so Raine divided that to other projects including mobile response options.

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

Subcommittee Name – Subcommittee members discussed whether or not to change the name of the subcommittee to better reflect the work that we do. Several options were considered.

Motion: Tracy Rogers moved to change the name of the WRHSAC Pan Flu / Planning Subcommittee to the WRHSAC All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Tracy Rogers, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Val Woodring, Carolyn Shores Ness, Allison Egan, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion passed.

New Business

None.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Planning / Pan Flu Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:00 am

Items unforeseen by the chair

None.

Next Meeting

The next Pan Flu/Planning subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Tracy Rogers, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Val Woodring, Carolyn Shores Ness, Allison Egan, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee May 3, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee April 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- Day Health Strategies COVID AAR-IP: April Monthly Updates
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 5/2/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 5/2/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 5/2/2022

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG),

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Emily George (Day Health Strategies), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Allison Egan (BRPC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Monica Wynne (Baystate), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 3, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the May 3, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Val Woodring seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Val Woodring, and Sandra Martin voted in favor. Larry Holmberg abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Jeanne Galloway reported that things are mostly status quo. Sandra Martin reported that Covid cases are trending down a little in Berkshire County but are still not low enough.

FFY19 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project and announced that FFY19 was extended to the end of December, 2022.

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – The project is wrapping up as the final pieces of supplies are showing up in Greenfield for the trailer. Greenfield is very happy with it and they already used the trailer at the Wornstown Music Festival. Raine will schedule a visit to it and will then put forward an announcement about both trailers and how to utilize them.

FRCOG Cybersecurity Capacity Building Workshops – This project is complete.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – We anticipate receiving a draft report this week. We will likely have a meeting with the consultants in July to discuss it.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – Emily George reported. They sent out a mid-project report and review, included in today’s packet, which has an overview and where they are in the timeline, as well as preliminary findings and “save the dates” for dissemination events. They are hoping to wrap up data collection by the end of June.

Discussion followed around some of the preliminary conclusions, particularly the finding suggesting people felt they had sufficient infrastructure and PPE. This was not the experience of people in the subcommittee meeting, who recalled that nearly everyone was scrambling at the beginning. Emily responded that she will go back to look at that. Subcommittee members were concerned that people are looking through rose tinted glasses and/or only remembering the past year or so rather than the early days of the pandemic, though Val Woodring noted that even as recently as this past winter, the FRCOG EPP team struggled to find morgue trucks. Carolyn Shores Ness noted that public health is always underfunded and agencies never had enough money to stockpile anything.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – We received EHP approval yesterday. Raine will coordinate with Nick Licata at FROCG to develop Scopes of Work. In response to a question about PPE rotation management, Val reported that they have put scannable stickers on all supplies, they have software to track amounts, and they have rotation plans with community agencies.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** We will do another training in February, 2023.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** This will be held in October. The lineup is in today’s packet. Raine is still in coordination with MAPC and the speakers on speaker agreements regarding what we have license for sharing afterwards.

Also in the packet is information regarding webpages for First Responder Mental Health. Raine put in a budget for up to \$10,000, though we might not need that much. She also wants someone to bounce ideas off regarding what would be better suited for the learning management system versus a page that does not require signing in to access. We have almost \$68,000 for the project in FFY21. In response to questions, Raine explained that we will likely handle registration through Zoom; we will not offer CEUs because it is too hard to monitor with 400-500 people; and we can collect feedback through a Zoom survey and also with a feedback element on the webpage.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$10,000 for First Responder Mental Health project web support. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Val Woodring, and Sandra Martin, Larry Holmberg, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

FFY21 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – Plans for next steps will likely come out of the CISO project.

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – This project has been at EOPSS awaiting review for months. Raine is going to have a conversation with EOPSS on Thursday at 3. She asked if could be open to subcommittee members to field questions she might not be able to answer.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – We put this out to bid and had no response, so we ran it again and left more time but still had no response. Child Life Disaster Relief replied that their response to Ukraine is taking up their capacity, but they already have some prepared courses that could help train first responders. There was agreement in the subcommittee to split this into two projects.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – This was approved yesterday. Raine will start to develop the Scope of Work.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – We will need to figure out next steps, which may emerge from the outcome of the conference. The consultant is conducting research into drills and skills trainings for first line personnel, which may be a project we could do.

Budget Review

Raine reported.

FFY19 projects are wrapping up and Raine is processing remaining invoices. The CISO project is on target for completion by the end of June.

In FFY20, we have over \$30,000 in the Covid NPI line that we do not have plans for. FFY20 now runs through June, 2023. The Conex boxes project is currently on target. We padded that budget in case the boxes need more insulation; we should know by the end of summer if that will be necessary. First Responder Mental Health funds were moved to FFY21.

In FFY21, which runs through July 2023, we have over \$91,000 for cyber planning and almost \$70,000 for cyber training. Coordination of AAR Plans has \$76,675, but \$20,000 of that was allocated for the Covid AAR/IP review project. We have a total of almost \$80,000 in NPI that we need to figure out how to use. Children in Prolonged Disasters has \$100,000, the equity project has \$40k; and First Responder Mental Health has almost \$68,000.

Carolyn suggested establishing a working group once the CISO study comes out to decide what to do with the cyber money. Raine replied that we should have it before the July meeting. We also may to do something with the other Councils.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This remains on the agenda as a placeholder. Raine reported that she had a request yesterday from Chief Dearborn in Longmeadow, who is trying to bring a sheltering training in as they are rebuilding their effort around sheltering. They have 100 people who are willing to volunteer and are doing our online trainings. Raine reached out to Sandra and Mary; Sandra is following up. Something could come out of these efforts to help us get more specific. Hopefully we will get a better sense of gaps and needs.

New Business

Jeanne reported that she has a community considering being a home for a Hampden County trailer. She needs to get back to them with more specifics about responsibilities and if PHEP funds can help with costs of registration, etc. Raine clarified the requirements for a host agency. Loren added that she is happy to share Hampshire County's experiences as well as policies, user guide, inventory list, online video on how to use it, etc. They put money in the PHEP line for fall and spring maintenance so that it's ready to go. Bigger supplies come out of the PHEP supply budget. It is tied to emergency dispensing so it is approved.

Items unforeseen by the chair

None.

Next Meeting

The next Pan Flu/Planning subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 5, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Sandra Martin, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Val Woodring, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee June 7, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee May 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- Day Health Strategies COVID AAR/IP Midpoint Report Out, dated 6/1/22
- WRHSAC FRMH Resilience Conference 2022 Speakers & Workshops
- WRHSAC FRMH Webpages Development Proposal
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 6/3/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 6/3/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 6/3/2022

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Emily George (Day Health Strategies), Wylie Goodman (BRPC)

Subcommittee members absent: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Larry Holmberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 7, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the June 7, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Carolyn Shores Ness, Allison Egan, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Monica Wynne abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Jeanne Galloway had no updates to report. Monica Wynne reported that flu numbers are low, but COVID 19 numbers are starting to rise.

FFY19 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project.

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – We are still waiting on a few pieces of equipment for the Greenfield trailer, but they are already using it quite a bit. Raine will put together an announcement about both trailers for the newsletter.

FRCOG Cybersecurity Capacity Building Workshops – This project is complete.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – Raine sent the report by email. The consultants will do a presentation on the results and we can ask more questions and get more input at that time, and then discuss next steps within WRHSAC and with the other Councils.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – Emily George reported on the status of the AAR. They closed data collection on June 30. They are happy with the participation and have a robust amount of data, though they did not hear back from town managers, boards of select people, and school nurses. Data analysis will continue through July, with a draft report ready by August 1. County forums will be in September, in hybrid format. Raine is working on setting a date for the final regional presentation, which will likely be fully virtual.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – We received the EHP. Raine is working with people at FRCOG to put together the Scope of Work.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** We will likely do another training in February, 2023.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** Raine put up an informational page on the website and will look to open registration in August. We are still finalizing some technical details with the speakers.

* **FRMH project web pages development:** Raine has not heard back from EOPSS on this.

FFY21 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – This was discussed earlier.

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – We were hoping to start with a review of Covid AARs from across the State and the region. Several subcommittee members participated in a meeting with EOPSS to discuss the project, but EOPSS ultimately did not approve it. We have a total of over \$105,000 in FFY20 and FFY21 designated for NPI/Public Health, but no current plans for projects. Sandra noted that sheltering has become a hot topic again in some regions, so we could consider switching our NPI focus to what happens in shelters during a pandemic. Related to this topic, the subcommittee surfaced several ideas including:

- the need have trained managers in place to manage volunteers;
- the need to revisit sheltering plans in light of the fact that during the pandemic schools were shut down and may still not allow sheltering to take place within;
- bringing forward CERT trainings again to revitalize volunteers;
- working on non-congregate template or adding a cheat sheet to the MEMA plan;
- regionalizing efforts around sheltering in Hampden County;
- working to make the MRC more functional; and
- updating job action sheets based on congregate v. non congregant settings.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Another alternative could be to use the funds for a public health trailer for Hampden County. Jeanne reported that Westfield is seriously thinking about hosting a trailer but has not put it in writing yet. She will try to nail them down to see if they can commit to hosting.

There was agreement to have a focused meeting in to discuss how to use these funds in place of the August meeting.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – Following last month's agreement to split this into two projects, Raine worked on splitting the Scope of Work and sent them to MAPC. After discussion, they revised the allotments to put \$55,000 toward the trainings, requiring an RFP, and \$45,000 for the video project, requiring an RFQ.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – Raine finalized the Scope of Work and submitted it to MAPC. It will be out there as an RFQ. Please let Raine know if you have ideas of possible vendors to send it to directly.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – We will be building on the current work in FFY21. Lillian, the main consultant, is auditing different trainings to explore which ones have the elements that first responders here want. She is finalizing a report with recommendations.

Budget Review

Raine reported. Things are on track other than where previously discussed.

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This was discussed earlier. Larry reported on a collaboration running a multi-month training on pet sheltering to bring EMDs and animal control officers up to date and going down into local levels of DART creation, volunteer retention, etc. MEMA is supportive and will engage in further discussions later this month. We spent a lot of money building DART resources in Western Mass, but DARTs across the state are in trouble. This was an attempt to reconnect and re-invigorate the program.

New Business

Wylie Goodman of BRPC asked for input from subcommittee members to assist with the SWOT analysis for the Berkshire CEDS report. Discussion ensued.

Items unforeseen by the chair

None.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 am

Next Meeting

The next All Hazards Planning and Equipment subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, at 9:00 am; format TBA. There will be a virtual working group meeting on Tuesday, August 2, at 9:00 am to discuss how to spend the unallocated NPI funds.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Carolyn Shores Ness, Monica Wynne, Allison Egan, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee July 5, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee June 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 7/1/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 7/1/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 7/1/2022

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Emily George (Day Health Strategies), Alex Marcus (EOPSS), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Allison Egan (BRPC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 5, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve the July 5, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Sandra Martin, Larry Holmberg, Loren Davine, Val Woodring, Carolyn Ness, and Monica Wynne voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Jeanne Galloway, Sandra Martin, Loren Davine, Carolyn Ness, and Monica Wynne reported that flu vaccine clinics are being set up in each county and at the hospitals. Flu is mild so far. Covid is still an issue. Monica reported that hospitals are packed with a lot of sick people. Loren reported that demand for flu vaccine has increased significantly in the last few years and Hampshire County has switched to more outdoor/drive through clinics. More messaging about the flu vaccines needs to happen, as infectious disease doctors do not recommend getting it too early, but pharmacies get shipments before health departments and promote them. Jeanne reported that Covid vaccines will be available at the Big E.

FFY19 Projects

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – Rachel Mason reported. We are waiting for a few more supplies for the trailer in Greenfield. Raine is exploring the idea of an open house for the trailer for Boards of Health in Franklin County and the FRCOG EPP team. If it gets coordinated, Raine will share the details with this committee.

FFY2020 Projects

Rachel Mason reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 9:00 am

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – See investment suggestions in today’s meeting packet. We will have to come up with a cyber project because there is money in the budget. Raine is trying to pull ideas from her work with the Cyber Resilient Working Group.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – Emily George reported on the status of the AAR. She received the feedback that was collected by Raine and found it helpful to tighten up the report. Most suggestions and edits were incorporated. Things that were not altered were justified in the table of edits. There were a few helpful comments and questions that Emily wanted to discuss as a group about how to change. She led discussion around several topics, including communication with hospitals and health clinics, information sharing, response planning team representatives, and the role of Boards of Health, among others. Send additional comments to Emily.

Rachel reported that the community forums will be held on Wednesday, Sept 14 and Monday, Sept 19. There will be one forum in each county, held in hybrid format. Notice needs to be pushed out through the email contact list that Day Health has been working with. Notice will also be sent to each county’s PHEP to push out through their networks.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – Raine is in process with MAPC of putting out the call for a contractor to do the work.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** We will do another virtual training in February, 2023.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** This will be held each Thursday in October. Notice went out in the WRHSAC newsletter but not many people have registered yet. Additional notification will be sent out this week.

* **FRMH project web pages development:** This did not get approved and will be canceled.

FFY21 Projects

Rachel Mason reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – This was discussed earlier.

Regional Coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans – This was not approved. See New Business for alternate uses of the funds.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – This project is now in two parts. There was still no response for the training for first responders. Brad Downey from MAPC did say that the entity we were working with reached out to him and indicated they may be able to do some trainings. The RFQ for the video production is not out yet. Raine will be in touch with MAPC to follow up.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 9:00 am

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – Procurement is at MAPC but has been delayed. Berkshire is interested. Raine will check in with MAPC.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – The consultant is working on the report and will have recommended next steps in a month or two.

Budget Review

Rachel reported that things are on track. See budget reports in today's packet for more details.

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – See New Business.

New Business

Shelter Manager training development – Committee members considered the proposal in the meeting packet and agreed to move ahead with it as written. Sandra Martin noted that BRPC may apply for this.

WRHSAC Shelter plan update – Committee members considered the proposal in the meeting packet and agreed to move ahead with it as written. Both of these projects would use FFY21 funds originally allocated for regional coordination of NPI/Public Health Improvement Plans.

WesternMassReady website question – Rachel reminded the committee that when the websites were originally set up, there was a desire to separate projects that this subcommittee did, like SUVs, IRAA, etc., and keep most of them on the WesternMassReady site instead of the WRHSAC site. That site does not get much traffic anymore, and there is a question about whether splitting projects in that way still makes sense. Discussion ensued, and there was consensus to move all material onto the main WRHSAC webpage, but to hold onto the WesternMassReady URL in case we want to resurrect it someday. Jeanne suggested bringing the question before the full Council before deactivating the site. Rachel will be gradually working on website updates over the next several months.

Items unforeseen by the chair

Jeanne will not be present for the October meeting and requested that someone else chair the meeting. Carolyn will not be here, so either Larry or Monica may chair the meeting.

Carolyn asked if anyone is doing COVID data collection or monitoring for school systems, and if so, what tools they are using. In Deerfield they are calling school nurses every day and also using wastewater monitoring, but that is a week behind. Jeanne reported that the West Springfield

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 9:00 am

school system monitors absences for increases, but that is not something new. State level support for schools to do testing is gone. We can alert each other through HMCC if we are seeing a surge in some areas. Carolyn added that they are trying to come up with a color code system, e.g. red = masks highly recommended, orange = masks optional, which they would push out through the schools' Blackboard system. Val reported that she hosts a monthly resurgence call with hospitals. They submit data twice a month. If numbers go up, meetings will become more frequent. She will talk to DPH and Xander Sylvain about sharing more with the Public Health sector. Jeanne and Carolyn noted that we need a more active K-12 representative on the Council, someone who attends the Council meetings and this group. Carolyn asked that this be discussed at a full Council meeting.

Next Meeting

The next All Hazards Planning and Equipment subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Sandra Martin, Larry Holmberg, Val Woodring, Carolyn Ness, and Monica Wynne voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee September 6, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- Planning & Pan Flu Subcommittee July 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- After Action Report / Improvement Plan DRAFT, dated 8/5/22
- rCISO Report and WRHSAC CISO Investment Suggestions
- WRHSAC FFY19 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 9/1/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 9/1/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 Planning & Pan Flu Budget Report through 9/1/2022
- WRHSAC Shelter Manager Training Development – draft proposal
- WRHSAC Shelter Plan Update FFY21 – draft proposal

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Marie Brady (BRPC), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Tammy Spencer (Southwick Public Health), Val Woodring (HMCC/FRCOG), Todd Zukowski (PVPC)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Monica Wynne called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 6, 2022 meeting.

<p>Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve the September 6, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Loren Davine, and Nick Licata voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Monica reported that flu shots are available. They are seeing high RSV rates with pediatric patients but have not seen much flu yet. Covid numbers are flat in the hospital but in the “red zone” in the community. Sandra Martin reported that Berkshire is also in the red zone. Loren Davine reported that Hampshire County also has a ton of Covid cases but not much flu yet. There is a lot of demand for vaccines and a big push in October for vaccine clinics.

FFY19 Projects

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – Raine Brown reported. The trailers are both up and fully functioning, though Greenfield might still be waiting for a few small items.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning: Regional CISO project – The project was completed.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – We had county forum meetings for feedback on the improvement plan. Emily George sent the updated plan yesterday. Raine will

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 9:00 am

forward it to the group. The final AAR conference meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, Oct 26, 1:30-3:00 pm. Raine will get info out soon.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – Procurement for a contractor will be published in the next two days and is due in a couple of weeks. We should know by the next meeting. Hopefully they can get moving on it before the ground freezes.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** The next session is scheduled for February, 2023.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** The conference starts Thursday. Registration is lower than hoped, currently about 160, but some of those are presenters and tech support. Please encourage people to participate. Most sessions will be recorded.

* **FRMH project web pages development:** This will be removed from the agenda.

FFY21 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – There is a lot of money there, close to \$200,000 between planning and training. We need ideas. Sandra suggested focusing on the IT part, as suggested by the consultant as a first step. Raine explained that the Cyber Resilient Working Group is tackling that project with minimum baselines and establishing best practices for IT. Sandra then suggested that we hire someone to manage IT for towns for one year. We could use that initial time to convince the towns that it is doable and affordable and useful, then they build it into their budgets. Raine replied that we do not have enough funds to do this across all four counties, but we could maybe do one. Sandra replied that doing one county could show that it works and is worth trying. Sandra will reach out to see if Berkshire is interested. Raine will check in with FRCOG. PVPC already has a cyber security consortium, though it is a managed service provider and they do not do any IT work. We can check and see.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – Neither of these projects has gone anywhere despite running procurement several times. We need to rethink our approach to this project. We have \$100,000 total in this line item. Child Life Disasters, who originally gave Tracy the quote, is now too busy with response across the world to do anything with our project. There was discussion about whether to think of another project or add this money to existing projects. Larry Holmberg suggested adding it to the cybersecurity funds, as we may be able to do something more substantial with \$300,000. The committee will reconsider ideas next month after we see what comes out of conversations in each county about cybersecurity.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – The project was awarded to BRPC. Sandra explained their strategy, timeline, and who would be on the team.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 9:00 am

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – We have not decided on next steps yet. Lillian Lennox is working on a report based on a review of trainings and will make recommendations for future projects. The project report should be coming in December.

Shelter Manager Training Development – The project justification is at EOPSS for review and approval.

WRHSAC Shelter Plan Update – The project justification is at EOPSS for review and approval.

Budget Review

Raine reported. For FFY19 we are doing well; the only project left is the mobile response trailer. In FFY20 everything is moving along without concerns. There is money left over in NPI projects that we have been flipping into FFY21 with some T&E exercises that were ready to get moving. In FFY21 we have significant cybersecurity money as discussed. If the shelter manager training and shelter plan update trainings are approved, that will use a lot of what had been set for NPI, but we will still have \$60,000-\$70,000. Equity and emergency management will have \$18,500 left. We will have money that can be moved around. If there is willingness for a large cyber project we could move a lot of it there. We have heard nothing yet from EOPSS about FFY22 projects that were submitted in the spring. Generally we get news in November or December that the contract is online with the State.

Requests

None.

Old Business

Sheltering Consideration in Pandemic and WRHSAC Regional Sheltering Plan – This is being addressed with the two projects discussed last month.

WesternMassReady website question – Last month the subcommittee discussed rolling everything into the WRHSAC site but keeping the WesternMassReady domain. Raine will look into what is entailed in transitioning the website and will get a quote because it is more than we can do in-house.

New Business

None.

Items unforeseen by the chair

None.

Next Meeting

The next All Hazards Planning and Equipment subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 9:00 am

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Nick Licata, Sandra Martin, Monica Wynne, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- All Hazards Subcommittee October 4, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- All Hazards Subcommittee September 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY19 All Hazards Budget Report through 9/29/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 All Hazards Budget Report through 9/29/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 All Hazards Budget Report through 9/29/2022

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Xander Sylvain (HMCC/FRCOG)

Non-members present: Marie Brady (BRPC), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Allison Egan (BRPC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 4, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the October 4, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Loren Davine, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Jeanne Galloway and Xander Sylvain abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Carolyn Ness reported that Deerfield held a successful drive through clinic, working with Walgreens. There is a lot of illness circulating in local public schools that is not Covid, including a lot of flu for this early in the season. Franklin County had a surge in Covid two weeks ago, but case counts now seem to be on a downward trend. Sandra Martin reported a similar trend in Berkshire County. RSV is surging, along with flu and bronchitis. It is still early in the season, but people are getting really sick. Jeanne Galloway reported that the elderly population in Hampden County is being hit by RSV as well. Hampden County is still doing Covid and flu vaccine clinics. The State's Vaccine Equity Program has reached out to West Springfield because of low vaccination rates and high vulnerability. Pharmacies are doing clinics, too. Loren Davine reported that in Hampshire County the standing Covid booster clinic has now closed, but they will continue to do smaller clinics in other locations. They are offering regional clinics with a grant, bringing vaccination to other towns throughout the county.

Xander Sylvain reported that hospital admissions remain at high numbers and they are running into staffing issues and lack of capacity. New staff are being trained but they cannot treat as many patients. They are in and out of surge often, but a lot is due to staffing. There is still a lot of Covid, but also other things. Another concern is the number of ED boarders, especially mental health, taking up ED beds until other beds are available. DPH is looking for ways to make more

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 9:00 am

mental health beds available throughout the State. The hospital group continues to meet once a week and might increase meetings to twice a week. They expect a hard winter.

FFY19 Projects

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – Raine Brown reported. A few items have not been delivered yet. Raine will follow up. FFY19 wraps up at the end of December, 2022.

FFY2020 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – The FFY2020 project has been completed.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – This project wrapped up last week with a final conference. The final AAR/IP is in today's handouts. Raine can also distribute it further if requested, in either PDF or Word format. The conference came up with some items to review in the committee. Tabletop drills and exercises were recommended by many people, which can go to the T&E committee. We can keep these recommendations in mind for the next investment plan or as potential replacements for other current projects. Sandra suggested waiting to talk about the recommendations as we plan for next cycle. Jeanne suggested that we bring the recommendations to the coalitions but also keep this on agenda for future conversation.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – The project went out to bid for a contractor but did not get any responses. It will be published again on Monday.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** The next session is scheduled for February, 2023.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** Sandra reported that the series was outstanding. Raine reported that the conference reached fewer people than we had hoped to reach, but that those who came got a lot out of the program and spanned a wide geographical area. Participants included many people in mental/behavioral health, which is good because one of the gaps we have identified is that there are not enough occupationally aware clinicians to treat first responders. Recordings from the conference will be made available for everyone. The consultant, Lillian Lennox, has been working on a review of trainings to make recommendations for the Council. She will have a draft report in mid/late November, which Raine will distribute. Lillian will come to the subcommittee meeting in December to discuss it.

FFY21 Projects

Raine Brown reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – BRPC has submitted a proposal. Sandra explained that this is truly a draft, including estimates without knowing which towns will be interested. It is broken into tasks, but tasks flow over each other. See today's packet for details.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to open discussion on the proposal. Xander Sylvain seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Xander Sylvain, Loren Davine, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Sandra Martin abstained. The motion was approved.

Discussion centered on how to break up the project over several budgets, as the proposed timeline spans 2.5-3 years. Raine pointed out that all of our current grants end by July 31, 2023. Any project like this would require an extension on those funds from EOPSS, which may be possible though EOPSS is urging us not to. The committee decided to focus on tasks 1-3, for which there are funds available and which could be completed without needing to seek an extension. Raine will indicate in the Project Justification that we have outlined tasks 4-7, though some may change based on outcome of tasks 1-3.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve up to \$60,000 for Tasks 1-3 as detailed in the BRPC cybersecurity proposal. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Xander Sylvain, Loren Davine, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Sandra Martin abstained. The motion was approved.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve up to \$105,000 for Task 4 of the BRPC cybersecurity proposal, contingent upon EOPSS approval of tasks 1-3. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Xander Sylvain, Loren Davine, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Sandra Martin abstained. The motion was approved.

Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations – This project is being taken off the table; we will move funds to the cybersecurity project and/or other projects as needed.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – Sandra updated the committee on BRPC’s progress to date. There is a lot of data out there, and they want to figure out how to focus their efforts. Sandra shared slides and led a discussion on that topic.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – FFY21 activities will be determined following discussion of the upcoming report from Lillian.

Shelter Manager Training Development – Raine received word from EOPSS that this project will not be approved, as they would prefer that stakeholders utilize FEMA’s free EMI training. They also informed Raine and Jeanne that they will hold off on approving the project to update the WRHSAC shelter plan until acquisition of this training. Raine will share the links.

This means there is now more money on the table that needs to be spent by the end of July, 2023; close to \$200,000. Further movement on the cybersecurity project may be possible but would require an extension of FFY21. An extension would also likely be necessary to complete a large scale tabletop exercise as recommended by AAR, or to purchase another public health trailer. Jeanne will bring it up again on Thursday to see if anyone in Hampden County is interested in

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 9:00 am

hosting a trailer. Xander suggested that we could also look for another location to store PPE, as the HMCC Conex boxes are full. Raine noted that any PPE project needs to have a rotation plan. Larry described an initiative through the MassDoT Shared Streets program in which some towns got smaller message boards that are radar equipped, on trailers. Two units were about \$46,000 with software and warrantee. A lot of others are interested in getting those, too, so that is a project that we could consider. Jeanne suggested portable refrigeration for clinics. Loren noted that they bought several mobile freezers/fridges and carrying cases from TempArmor.

WRHSAC Shelter Plan Update – Not approved at this time (see above).

Budget Review – Budgetary considerations were discussed earlier.

Requests - None.

Old Business

WesternMassReady website question – Raine will bring a quote next month.

New Business – None.

Items unforeseen by the chair – None.

Next Meeting

The next All Hazards Planning and Equipment subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Jeanne Galloway, Xander Sylvain, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- All Hazards Subcommittee November 1, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- All Hazards Subcommittee October 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- WRHSAC After Action Report / Improvement Plan, 10/1/2022
- IT/Cyber Security Pilot Project Proposal from BRPC, 10/24/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 All Hazards Budget Report through 10/28/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 All Hazards Budget Report through 10/28/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 All Hazards Budget Report through 10/28/2022

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason, WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH)

Non-members present: Marie Brady (BRPC), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Lillian Lennox (LifeBreath), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Allison Egan (BRPC), Chris Goshea (PVPC), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 1, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the November 1, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Loren Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Jeanne Galloway, Nick Licata, Loren Davine, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Public Health/Flu Update

Sandra Martin reported that flu numbers are going up in Berkshire County. Covid numbers are also going up but not as badly. Loren Davine reported that Hampshire County is experiencing a perfect storm of RSV, Covid, and flu, mixed in with short staffing issues. They are still offering lots of vaccinations and boosters, which is very late for them; they never go into December, but many pharmacies and doctors' offices have not been able to offer as many this year. Carolyn Ness reported that Covid numbers are escalating slightly in Franklin County, but noted that a lot of people are sick with other things, too, and many kids are out of school, but not a lot of testing is being done. Jeanne Galloway reported that the State's Vaccine Equity Program is being expanded in Hampden County, bringing in more vendors with the hope of reaching more of the high risk population. Loren reported that this is also happening in Hampshire County, but noted that the vaccination data are skewed by the high number of students who got vaccinated at home. Also, people are now expecting gift cards and are disappointed that they do not have them. Sandra added that in Berkshire County, DPH promised gift cards but they did not come.

FFY19 Projects

Public Health Mobile Response Trailer – Rachel Mason reported. We are still waiting on one remaining item, an AED, which is not expected until January. FFY19 wraps up at the end of December, so Raine flipped this to FFY20.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 9:00 am

FFY2020 Projects

Rachel Mason reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – The FFY2020 project has been completed and we have no updates yet about the next phase.

NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response: COVID-19 AAR – This project wrapped up, but as suggested in November it remains on the agenda for future discussion of next steps.

PPE Restocking and Rotation Management: HMCC Conex Boxes – Before Raine went on leave, a quote came in that she approved. A week later, the vendor reached out to MAPC indicating that the quote they provided would not actually cover the cost of the work we want done, and they rescinded their quote. No other quotes were received. The vendor indicated that in order to complete the work we are requesting, they would likely need another \$30,000-\$40,000 in addition to the funds already allocated. Nick Licata suggested that we could put it out again as two separate bids, because we need someone to move the boxes to put the pads in, which is different from the electrical and HVAC work. Jeanne expressed concern that we could run into bid splitting. Bob Dean suggested that we could call it a phased approach, with Phase 1 consisting of moving the boxes and putting down pads, and Phase 2 encompassing the electrical work. Others agreed with this approach.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to split the Scope of Work for the HMCC Conex Boxes into two. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Jeanne Galloway, Nick Licata, Loren Davine, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Mental Health Resiliency Phase II

* **Building Healthy Workplaces update:** The next session is scheduled for February, 2023.

* **First Responder Mental Health Conference:** Raine was working on editing the videos to put on the website but was not able to finish before her leave began.

* **Report from Consultant:** Lillian Lennox reviewed her report and discussed recommendations for continuation of the First Responder Mental Health Resilience project in a phased approach. Sandra expressed interest in both phases, particularly the Phase 2 recommendations which would be a continuation of current initiatives. Carolyn added that we could eventually do both, and that we might want to start with adding to the website as indicated in Phase 2. This could be helpful because people can be anonymous while getting the information. She cautioned that this would be a lot to take on, and to have it be successful and sustainable we should not try to do too much at once. Lillian noted that Phase 2 recommendations would be easy to implement, as most of the work has already been done, but that adding something like Kripalu or HeartMath would be pretty easy too; it would require coordination work, but we would not providing the training, just facilitating access to them. HeartMath would be delivered online; Kripalu, Brien, or OAT

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 9:00 am

components could be in person. The newsletter would be new initiative. Hosting a two hour speaker/workshop four times a year should not be too challenging, either. Sandra asked about the costs for each component or total cost to implement everything. Lillian replied that the cost for each training is in the appendix, but she did not add up how much it would be to implement all of the recommendations. Sandra asked if she could provide a one page summary with all of the costs for next month's meeting.

FFY21 Projects

Rachel Mason reported on the status of each project unless otherwise noted.

Cybersecurity Planning – BRPC Muni Regional IT/Cyber Pilot Project

The project was approved at the November Council meeting and Raine submitted the Project Justification to EOPSS that same day. We have not heard back yet whether it was approved.

Equity and Access in Emergency Response Planning – Sandra Martin shared an update on the project. In December they will be continuing interviews and drafting recommendations. They are hoping to have draft findings for review in January and are on track to complete the final report by April. She also discussed their initial findings from interviews. In data gathering they have heard a lot about lack of housing. Carolyn asked them to add the issue of “overhousing,” e.g. many elderly people are in housing that is too big for them, and the specific transportation issues created by having most medical services consolidated in Springfield.

First Responder Mental Health Resiliency – We have over \$55,000 allocated for next steps.

Budget Review

Rachel reported. FFY19 will wrap up at the end of this month. We have \$43,325 remaining in FFY20 for the HMCC Conex box project. The status of the FFY21 budget depends on whether or not the Berkshire cybersecurity pilot project is approved. Jeanne noted that she connected Raine with Westfield about hosting a public health response trailer.

Requests - None.

Old Business

WesternMassReady website question – Raine will bring a quote at some point.

New Business – None.

Items unforeseen by the chair – Jeanne reported that Soloe Dennis took a position with the City of Worcester. Sandra reported that today at 3 pm DPH is having a webinar on the new workforce standards.

Next Meeting

The next All Hazards Planning and Equipment subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, at 9:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 9:00 am

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Sandra Martin, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nick Licata, and Loren Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- All Hazards Subcommittee December 6, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- All Hazards Subcommittee November 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- Identification of Advanced Mental Health Resiliency Training Report
- WRHSAC FFY19 All Hazards Budget Report through 12/02/2022
- WRHSAC FFY20 All Hazards Budget Report through 12/02/2022
- WRHSAC FFY21 All Hazards Budget Report through 12/02/2022

Respectfully submitted by:
Rachel Mason, WRHSAC Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments