

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Thomas Grady (BCSO); Sandra Martin (BCBOHA); Wil Leslie (Salvation Army); Susan Brown (FRCOG); Alan Zawistowski (PPD); Victoria Grafflin (EOPSS); Stephen O'Brien (LPD); Phil Tarpey (SPD); Mark Maloy (BRPC); Siobhan Spruill (Caring Health Center); Fran Nothe (WFD/WMFCA); Ed Miga (WDPW/MHA); Allen Stratton (WPD); Tom Lynch (Baystate Medical); Gail Bienvenue-Mailhott (MDPH); Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD); Bill Fuqua (HDPW); Linda Moriarty (WMEMS); Steve Cote (WMEMS); Bob Dean (FRCOG); Linda Gross (FRCOG); Candi Christensen (VA); Melissa Nazzaro (NPD); Butch Garrity (MSP-Comm); Mark Babineau (LFD).

Meeting was brought to order at 9:34 am.

Minutes

-Minutes from the September 15th, 2009 meeting were reviewed.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2009 meeting. Steve O'Brien seconded. <i>Voted Unanimously</i></p>

Round the room introductions were made.

Updates from the Chair

Linda Moriarty introduced Wil Leslie, Disaster Services Coordinator for the Salvation Army. Wil provided the Council with an overview and brochure describing the services provided by the Salvation Army, both within the Commonwealth and nationally. The Salvation Army responds to both small and large incidents and is available to assist with short term and long term response needs. They are in the midst of planning and acquisition to enhance local and regional response within the Commonwealth. Salvation Army disaster service personnel are ICS NIMS 700 certified.

The Council asked whom they could use as a contact for the Salvation Army in the region. Wil recommended Dale Clark who is the director of the Northampton Service Center on Brewster Court.

The Council thanked Mr. Leslie for his presentation.

Municipal Representative - Linda reminded the Council of the municipal representative vacancy. Brook Chipman of EOPSS has sent notice to MMA that a recommendation for a representative is needed. MMA has not yet responded to the request. The Council, however, has received a recommendation from the Central Berkshire REPC that Peter Fohlin, EMD and Town Manager for Williamstown be nominated to serve as municipal representative to the Council. Linda asked if there were any other recommendations. None were received.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve Peter Fohlin as the municipal representative to the Council. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>
--

Linda asked Sue to follow up with EOPSS and MMA to finalize the process and ensure that notification is sent.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Francis Nothe reported. Three of the regional foam trailers have been ordered.
- POLICE: Phil Tarpey reported. Statewide information sharing is moving along. The Fusion Center is rolling out connection to Springfield and other areas of western Massachusetts. There are some concerns that there may be some technical challenges encountered, but hopes that these will be addressed right away.
- EMS: No update
- EMD: No representative present.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Sandra Martin reported. The H1N1 vaccine is being delayed in rollout due to mechanical difficulties. The virus is hitting children hard and they will be a priority to receive the vaccine as it becomes available.

Sandra provided handouts on the upcoming IRAA conferences. She encouraged Council members to send representatives from their departments to the conferences to participate in and facilitate relationship building between first responders and community based organizations.

A question was asked regarding the availability of surgical masks. Sandra indicated that masks have been distributed to local Boards of Health. It is up to each town to decide how and to whom the masks are distributed. If a department needs masks, they should contact their local Board of Health.

- TRANSPORTATION: No representative present.
- DPW: Ed Miga reported and introduced Bill Fuqua of Holyoke DPW. Bill is the alternate representative for Mass Highway Association. Ed gave a brief update on MHA's support of the statewide mutual bill which is currently on the Hill for consideration.
- CORRECTIONS: No update.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

- COMMUNICATIONS: Alan Zawistowski reported. The Berkshire County Emergency Communications group has been in conversation regarding the upcoming narrow banding, and are making progress on regional plans.
- MUNICIPALITIES: No representative present.
- MSP: No representative present.
- HOSPITALS: No update.
- MEMA: No representative present.

Subcommittee Updates

Planning:

Linda Moriarty introduced Gary Roux from PVPC to give a presentation on the evacuation modeling. Gary provided an update on current status of the project, recent applications and future uses of project. (See attached presentation).

Following the presentation, general discussion and questions ensued.

Q – Does the modeling take into consideration that there aren't resources to turn traffic around on Mass Pike? It doesn't but it reveals the problem and opens the door to solution to the problems.

Q- Can the modeling take into consideration traffic influx from neighboring states? It can, but the specific scenarios shown today, does not. Gary knows that Hartford area planning utilizes the same programming, so the systems could be coordinated.

Q- Is the UMass evacuation scenario complete? The scenario is still under development, and the results should be finished shortly and be compiled into report for Council.

Q- Could the scenarios be reversed, or utilized to show traffic if western Massachusetts is where people are evacuating to? Yes, the modeling could be programmed to show that, and would be effective planning as part of a statewide evacuation model.

Q- Can this modeling capability be shared with other agencies in the state? Gary reported that the modeling is built to operate within TransCad software, which is the program used by all RPAs, so it could be easily integrated into other RPA systems.

Q – Does the extra work done by UMass need to be reduplicated in order for the other regions to do something similar? Since the work has already been done once, it will be a much easier conversion process. RPAs will still have a learning curve to incorporate the tool.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

Q – Were “best case scenarios”, no blocks to other roadways, used for the modeling exercises? Yes, except for the Franklin County scenario, but the modeling can be set up in any manner with multiple restrictions along roadways.

Q- How will copies of the information revealed by the modeling be distributed to agencies? The RPAs will be developing an executive summary for distribution.

Q – Will modeling info be shared with Mass Highway? It can be, and is anticipated to be shared with Mass Highway and with the State Police.

Gary discussed potential future uses of software and indicated that the RPAs are open to receiving scenarios to run and provide information back to the communities. As an example, Mark Maloy of BRPC discussed how the modeling was recently put to use in Berkshire County.

Tri-Town Health asked BRPC to assist them in examining the traffic flow at Monument Mountain High School when it is activated as an EDS. The modeling showed that the area could handle the traffic, that there might be some parking problems, and, if the area were open to receive traffic coming off of the Mass Pike, the influx could possibly shut the road ways down. This modeling will assist Tri-Town Health in establishing traffic plans for EDS function.

Following the presentation, Linda reported that the Planning Subcommittee met last week, specifically to discuss the use of the remaining FFY06 funds. There is approximately \$156,000 remaining that needs to be expended by December 31, 2009.

The committee considered two requests, one from the Berkshire Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), and the other from Western Massachusetts Hospitals. Berkshire DART is requesting funds to establish a trailer with sheltering equipment for pets. The Hospitals are seeking funds to acquire more patient identification scanners.

Sandra Martin reviewed the Berkshire DART request with the Council. The funds would purchase a trailer and various supplies, including kennels, pens, tents and a generator, to be stored in the trailer, which could be set up near a shelter for people. Sandra noted that DART would like to see this in all the counties of the region, but at this time, the Berkshire Team is the only team ready to receive the equipment. The total request is for \$13,375.00

<p>Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve \$13,375.00 from FFY06 Planning funds for the Berkshire Disaster Animal Response Team’s pet sheltering supplies request. Tom Grady second. Voted unanimously.</p>
--

Linda reviewed the request from the Western Massachusetts Hospital Emergency Planning Committee for patient barcode scanners. The hospitals are requesting two scanners for each hospital, for a total of 22 scanners and cases. The request total is \$77,758.01. The scanners link into the MMRS scanner system in Springfield. Tom Lynch provided a brief overview on the

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

scanner system and interoperability. He discussed how it identifies patients and the hospitals they go to.

A question was asked as to why the hospitals don't buy the scanners? The scanners are expensive, and therefore, given the current economy, it is difficult for the hospitals to buy both the scanners and the required air cards which enable the scanner to communicate back into the hospital system. The hospitals will buy the air cards.

Q- Given current staffing struggles of many hospitals, how will the system be staffed and rolled out? It is acknowledge that the learning curve can be steep, but once learned, the scanners are actually a time saving device and can improve efficiency. They have been used successfully in drills.

Q-Can the scanner track patient property? The scanner can track anything that can have a barcode attached to it, so yes it can track property. The scanners can read any barcode, as there is standardization in barcode production.

Linda noted that the scanners can be used in sheltering situations and that the Council has FFY07 money set aside to purchase similar scanners for shelters and pre-hospital agencies.

Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve \$77,758.01 from FFY06 Planning for patient barcode scanner request from the Western Massachusetts Hospital Emergency Planning Committee. Sandra Martin second. Voted unanimously.

Sandra presented an overview of the committee's discussion of shelter supplies. Storage of the supplies is of major concern. The committee decided to fund the purchase of five trailers, two for Berkshire County and one for each other county. The trailers will be small enough to be pulled by pickup trucks, but large enough to hold a fair amount of equipment. The equipment being purchased will include cots, blankets and mats. The committee knows that there are locations in Berkshire and Franklin County that are willing to receive the trailers and accept the responsibility of insuring and registering them. Locations are needed in Hampden and Hampshire County. Sue is seeking suggestions. Wil Leslie indicated that the Salvation Army would be willing to house the trailers.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve \$30,000.00 in FFY06 Planning funds for the purchase of 5 regional sheltering supply trailers. Tom Grady second. Voted unanimously.

Sue reviewed the funds remaining in FFY06 Exercises and suggested that these also be utilized for sheltering supplies.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to move the remaining FFY06 Exercise funds to FFY06 Planning for shelter supplies. Tom Grady second. Voted unanimously.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the remaining FFY06 Planning funds, up to \$43,000, for the purchase of sheltering supplies to stock the regional trailers. Tom Grady seconded. Voted unanimously.

Sue provided the Council with an update on the funds needed to obtain the fourth regional foam trailer. \$68,597.00 is needed to complete the purchase. Sue noted that \$23,000.00 of FFY06 funds had been obligated for Coplogic in Wilbraham, however due to the current deadline of the funds there isn't enough time to start and complete the project. Sue recommended that these funds be utilized for the foam trailers, and the FFY08 funds proposed for the trailers be moved to FFY08 Information Sharing to add Wilbraham Coplogic to the continued buildout of the project.

Sue noted that \$46,181 remains in FFY06 Interoperability Continued Buildout. This is not yet obligated for any project. She suggested that this be used for towards the foam trailers and the remaining proposed FFY08 funds for the trailer be moved to Interoperability.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to fund the purchase of the fourth foam trailers as outlined by the fiduciary. Allen Stratton seconded. Voted unanimously.

Public Awareness: No update.

Interoperability: Russ Sienkiewicz reported. The Interoperability Subcommittee reviewed the remaining FFY06 Berkshire Simulcast funds. The project is complete and these are funds that were not utilized by the project. The committee had hoped to use the funds are extending the concrete pads at Lenox Mountain to install an equipment shelter, however this requires an EHP. The EHP will not be completed within the grant timeframe, so the committee would like to see the funds used to continue the roll out of UHF radios in Berkshire County.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve that the remaining FFY06 Interoperability Berkshire Simulcast be used to continue UHF radio rollout in Berkshire County. Alan Zawistowski seconded. Voted unanimously.

Russ indicated that there has been no update to the committee regarding the statewide interoperability consultant that was being sought by EOPSS. Victoria Grafflin reported that the first request was pulled and has been reposted. The first posted was not in the correct venue. EOPSS anticipates that the received proposals will be reviewed shortly and a contract will soon be signed.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

Melissa Nazzaro provided an update on the recent activities of SIEC. The committee is reviewing the projects that were listed as projects to be funded with PSIC money. The list is over two years old, so it needs to be reviewed for accuracy and applicability. They expect to be through this process soon. A question was raised regarding what will be funded and if a list of projects will be provided to the Councils. Melissa will check on this. Russ noted that projects funded by PSIC may affect what interoperability projects the Council decides to fund.

For FFY07 funding and forward, all interoperability projects funded with Homeland Security grants must be reviewed by the SIEC. They have formed an Executive Committee to review the projects. They anticipate it will take about a month for a project to go through the review process.

The conversation moved onto a discussion of the EHP (Environmental Historical Preservation) approval process and the delays that is introducing to interoperability projects. EOPSS agrees that EHP process is cumbersome. The guidelines and requirements are coming from the federal government. EOPSS reports that federal government has improved their ability to review and EOPSS is seeing a shorter turnaround time.

A question was asked if there are any efforts being made to coordinate the different interoperability funding streams, if the entities in charge of the funds are communicating with each other to ensure all the players are supporting a similar goal without redundancy or one project working against another. Victoria noted that Rick Andreano is working as closely as he can with the different funding streams, but that there is no one overseeing entity.

Tom Grady noted the challenges that are being introduced by the current structure of the e911 grants. The goal of the grants was to increase the number of regional PSAPs, but the opposite is being experienced in Berkshire County as the smaller PSAPs are looking to pull members from the larger dispatch center in order to qualify for more funds. Victoria confirmed that this was not the intent of the funds and she will bring the matter to Paul Connelly's attention.

Information Sharing: Phil Tarpey reported. Nothing more to note than as previously reported, the Wilbraham Coplogic will move from being funded by FFY06 funds to FFY08 funds.

Pandemic Flu: Sandra Martin introduced Siobhan Spruill to the Council, and asked for the Council's approval of Ms. Spruill to serve as ex-officio member to the Council and participate in the Pan-Flu and Planning subcommittees. Ms. Spruill currently works for the Caring Health Center in Hampden County.

<p>Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve Siobhan Spruill as ex-officio to the Council. Stephen O'Brien seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>
--

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

Sandra provided a brief overview of the upcoming IRAA conferences, and noted that representatives of the IRAA project will be reporting at EOPSS Statewide Homeland Security Conference on November 5th.

Training and Exercise: Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting to consider a request from South Hadley Police. South Hadley PD is seeking to sponsor a training entitled "Terrorism and Scene Safety for Law Enforcement and EMS." The course will be open to law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel in Western Mass. It is taught by Eric Stratton and has a capacity for 30 students. The request is for \$4,500. The committee approved the request.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$4,500 of FFY06 Training funds for "Terrorism and Scene Safety for Law Enforcement and EMS" being sponsored by South Hadley Police Department. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.

Tom provided an overview on the Statewide Training and Exercise Planning workshop held at MEMA HQ. Tom and Sue attended. Efforts are being made to get the statewide planning calendar updated.

A question was raised regarding the Rural Mass Casualty Exercise being sponsored by DPH and held at UMass – does the Council know about it, and are any members attending? Some members are aware of it and are attending. Gail Beinvenue-Mailhott will provide a flyer for distribution.

Fiduciary Report: Sue Brown reported. EOPSS has confirmed that there will be no further extension of FFY06 funds. Sue has been working with the subcommittee chairs to expedite expenditure of remaining FFY06 funds and referred back to conversations earlier in the meeting. FFY05 surplus 2 funds have been expended.

EOPSS did inform the Council that extensions for FFY07 could be sought. An extension request has been submitted to EOPSS.

Sue reported that the Council should soon see the contract for FFY08.

Deleted: n

EOPSS has also sent notification that the Western Council can expect to receive just over \$2.7 million for FFY09. An updated plan will be requested with an anticipated due date of late winter/early spring 2010. More guidance will be forthcoming.

Old Business: Linda asked if any Council members are planning to attend the Statewide Homeland Security meeting on November 5th. Representatives from FRCOG will attend. Linda will likely attend. Sandra reminded the committee that IRAA will be providing a presentation.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Western Massachusetts EMS, Northampton, MA

Victoria reported that Don Boyce will be providing an update on the Fusion Center, and Red Cross will present on their sheltering preparedness efforts across the state.

New Business: Victoria discussed the upcoming HSPD 8 meeting and the process of the planning. She encouraged anyone interested to attend and participate to enhance discussions. The meeting is on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 10 am at MEMA HQ in Framingham. There is a pre-meeting with local drivers Friday 10am at Hopkinton Police department.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 9:30 a.m. at Western Massachusetts Emergency Medical Services, Northampton, MA.

There being no further business Russell Sienkiewicz moved that the meeting be adjourned. Stephen O'Brien seconded. Voted unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

Respectfully Submitted by

Susan L. Brown
Homeland Security Program Manager
Franklin Regional Council of Governments



Evac Plan 2.pdf