

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2009
9:30 a.m.
WMEMS, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Thomas Grady(BCSO); Gail Bienvenue-Mailhott (DPH); Bill Perlman (Muni Rep); Kelly Griffin (EOPSS); David LaFond (HFD); Linda Gross (FRCOG); Bob Dean (FRCOG); Linda Moriarty (WMEMS); Lauren Gaherty (BCPC); Robert Moore (HMC); Alan Zawistowski (PPD); John Kenney (HCSO); Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD); Phil Tarpey (SPD); Melissa Adams (FRCOG); Nicole Rohan (PVTA); Sandra Martin (BCBOHA); Robert Hassett (Springfield EMD); Allen Stratton (WPD); Ed Miga (WDPW); Carmen Massimiano (BCSO); Tom Lynch (Baystate Health); Bob Barry (MEMA); Steve Cote (WMEMS); Susan Brown (FRCOG); Thomas Williams (FRCOG).

Meeting was brought to order at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes

-The draft meeting minutes from May 19th were reviewed. A spelling correction was noted on page 5.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2009 meeting with noted changes. Bill Perlman seconded. Voted Unanimously</p>
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Introductions: Linda Moriarty introduced Tom Lynch, Baystate Health Head of Security. The Western Massachusetts Hospitals Emergency Planning Committee has recommend Tom to replace Bob Moore as representative to the Council from the hospitals when his term expires at the end of the month. Introductions were made around the room.

Updates from the Chair

Linda asked the Council its pleasure on the nomination of Tom Lynch from the Western Hospitals.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to accept Tom Lynch as representative from the Western Massachusetts Hospital Emergency Planning Committee to the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>

Linda reported that the Council has been informed by EOPSS that a total of \$46,580.62 in extra FFY05 funds are available to the Western Council. The discussion of utilizing the funds will be held under New Business later in the meeting.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Dave LaFond reported for Eric Madison. Eric has continued his research on the proposed foam trailer purchases. Kelly Griffin indicated that the CBRNE FFY07 project justification amendment is still under review, as well as the entire FFY08 Plan. Eric will present more at next month's meeting. Linda asked David if he had had confirmation from

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Stephen Burkott on whether or not he was going to seek reappointment to the Council. David indicated he would contact Stephen and get back to Linda.

- POLICE: No new update at this time.
- EMS: No new update at this time.
- EMD: No new update at this time.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Sandra Martin provided an update on the status of H1N1 and regional response. The World Health Organization recently raised the status to pandemic. Even though it is mild in the area at this time, it is being watched very closely in anticipation of regular flu season in the fall. Sandra reported that there seems to be some positive movement towards a vaccine and testing of it may occur soon.

This lead to a question regarding what type of delay was being seen between the report time of when an H1N1 case is declared in the state versus when an individual first reported symptoms. Sandra reported there is some delay due to the back log at state labs. This comment led to a discussion regarding the recent announcement that the lab at UMass Amherst may be closed due to budget cuts. This lab handles all testing for the Western Massachusetts Police Departments. The implications of such a closure were discussed. It was suggested that the Council send a letter to the Department of Public Health to express the need to keep the lab open.

Sandra also discussed the “Pandemic Legislation” which was recently passed by the Senate and is before the House for review. This legislation provides the Commissioner of Public Health with greater authority to ensure public health in the event of a state declared public health emergency. She suggested a letter from the Council may also be appropriate for this topic.

<p>Motion: Bill Perlman moved that the Council send letters to the appropriate parties concerning the possible closure of the UMass Amherst Lab and the “Pandemic Legislation” currently under consideration. Tom Grady second. Voted unanimously.</p>

Russ Sienkiewicz will provide background information regarding the UMass lab, and Sandra will provide information regarding the “Pandemic Legislation”.

- TRANSPORTATION: No new update at this time.

David LaFond asked if there had been any following up on the evacuation modeling presentation. He indicated that the presentation raised some question for him regarding the continued support of the project. The discussion was tabled to Old Business and then further

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tabled to next month's meeting to ask Gary Roux and Todd Zukowski from PVPC to be present to discuss the project.

- DPW: Ed Miga reported. Ed attended MEMA's regional EMD meeting and was impressed with the presentation on Mass 211. He wondered if there is any way for the Council to support 211 efforts and assist with public education about 211 and what they offer. It was noted that MEMA does promote information on 211. Tom Grady suggested that perhaps some education be conducted with dispatch centers to help to move non 911 calls to 211. Linda, Tom and Sandra will discuss further.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady deferred to John Kenney. John reported that the Franklin County WMSIN system is now working internally to the Franklin Sheriff's Office. He expects that the external communication link will be completed soon. All three other counties are now live in the WMSIN/Nukore system.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Alan Zawistowski reported. The TXT to TIP program in Pittsfield is proving to be quite successful and has not experienced any "bogus" tips as some had anticipated. The Pittsfield Police Department recently reissued the public information on the program, and within an hour received a tip which lead to a high level arrest.
- HOSPITALS: Bob Moore reported. The Go Kit purchasing is moving forward. Bob is compiling them at Holyoke. Upon completion, one Go Kit will be delivered to Berkshire Medical Center and the other to North Adams Regional Hospital. Bob did express concern regarding area caches of masks, and encouraged anyone/agency that anticipates it may have a need for masks due to the H1N1 pandemic, to purchase them sooner rather than later. Still awaiting delivery of the trailer to Pittsfield.
- MUNICIPALITIES: No new update at this time.
- MSP: No representative present.

Subcommittee Updates

Training and Exercise: Tom Grady reported. The Training & Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the full Council meeting to consider two exercise requests from Hampden County Health Coalition, three from the Franklin REPC, and an addendum to a training request from Berkshire Sheriff's Office.

Last month the Council awarded \$3,750.00 from FFY06 funds to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office for an "Officer Down" EMS tactical training for the Berkshire County Special Response Team and surrounding teams as space allows. The interest in the course has been very high, and the Sheriff's Office requested an additional \$750.00 to accommodate 5 more attendees, for a

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total of 30 attendees. The Training and Exercise Subcommittee has approved this request and recommends its full approval to the Council.

Hampden County Health Coalition has submitted two exercise requests. The first request is for “Prepare Now- Southwick & Tolland” EDS tabletop exercise to be held on Saturday, August 15, 2009. The total request is for \$4,350.00. The second request is for “Prepare Now- Agawam & West Springfield” a functional EDS exercise. The total request is for \$15,100.00. The Training & Exercise Subcommittee has approved both these requests through FFY07 funds, and recommends their full approval by the Council.

Motion: Thomas Grady moved that the requests from Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office and Hampden County Health Coalition be awarded as recommended by the Training and Exercise Subcommittee. \$750.00 from FFY06 Training for Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office “Officer Down” Tactical EMS training; \$4,350 from FFY07 Exercises for “Prepare Now- Southwick & Tolland” EDS tabletop exercise; and \$15,100 from FFY07 Exercises for “Prepare Now- Agawam & West Springfield”. Bill Perlman seconded. Voted unanimously.

Tom informed the Council that the subcommittee has three other requests in hand from the Franklin REPC. They were to be considered in the subcommittee meeting prior to the full Council meeting, but timeframe constraints prevented them from being fully considered. The subcommittee suspended its meeting to resume following the full Council meeting, to fully review these requests.

Motion: Carmen Massimiano moved to allow the Training and Exercise Subcommittee to approve or disapprove the tabled requests from Franklin REPC on behalf of the Council. Russ Sienkiewicz seconded. Voted unanimously.

Planning: No update

Public Awareness: Todd Zukowski was unable to attend to present request for software update for web page maintenance. Agenda item pushed to July meeting.

Interoperability: Russ Sienkiewicz reported. No new business, but provided update on several old business items. The subcommittee is waiting to hear from Rick Andreano regarding the federal Broadband funds. The possibility of these funds will directly impact the proposed IMC buildout project in Franklin County.

Russ informed the committee that legislation has been filed to extend the end date of the PSIC grant. This is due to time delays encountered on grant projects by the Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) approval process. The new proposed deadline would be 2012. The new deadline will be beneficial for the completion of all proposed projects under the grant.

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Russ has had further discussions with the Pelham Police Department regarding their request for radios. The challenges being encountered by Pelham are greatly due to the changes in the communication system made by Cumington and other hill towns, through an Unobligated NIMS grant awarded by the Council. Russ has several unused radios from Northampton PD that he has offered to Pelham PD. It is believed that these radios may address the communication challenges.

Information Sharing: Phil Tarpey reported. Hampshire College will be added to the IMC. Sue is working with Hampshire College and is awaiting a quote from IMC.

The Statewide Info Sharing is moving forward. Some tests have been run, and it is expected that live tests will soon be initiated in Springfield and the immediate area.

Equipment: No new update.

Pandemic Flu: Sandra Martin reported. The emergency planning conferences for community base organizations have been held in each county. They were positively received by the participants, both community based organizations and first responders. The County Coordinators are looking at offering another series of conferences in the fall.

Fiduciary Report: Sue Brown reported and provided a status update on ongoing projects. Hospital Go Kits are moving forward, but we are experience some delay due to non-response by some of the vendors previously used for similar projects. The FFY06 contract extension with EOPSS has been signed. All vendor/consultant related contracts have been amended to accommodate the new date as needed.

Linda Moriarty noted to Kelly that the representative for the single fiduciary for FFY08 has stated that he would be at the last two meetings to meet the Council members, and has cancelled both times. The Council is concerned that this shows the Western Region is not a priority for them. She asked Kelly to express the Council's concerns to EOPSS. Bob Dean noted that the fiduciaries will be having an FFY08 single fiduciary meeting tomorrow, and he will share the Council's concerns with the lead fiduciary.

Old Business:

David LaFond suggested that the Council table the discussion regarding evacuation modeling until Todd Zukowski and Gary Roux from PVPC are present and able to discuss the details of the project. Linda will contact Todd and Gary and ask them to come to the July meeting.

Linda informed the Council that State Trooper McCloughlin of ACAMS spoke with both Tom Grady and herself, to ask why the Council didn't support ACAMS in the proposed FFY08 plan. Linda and Tom both informed Trooper McCbughlin that the Council feels it cannot, at this time, support ACAMS. They informed him that the Council has asked for further detail on how

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ACMAS will benefit the region, and any plans that ACAMS / DHS has to bridge the proprietary nature of ACAMS to accept data the Council has already gathered.

EMS Training/Simulation trailer – Linda reported that DFS is adhering to its original proposed price of the trailer. Considering the current level of information provided, and the ability of regional hospitals to provide the simulation training, Linda believes the Council is correct in holding off on supporting this initiative.

SLEMP – Tom Grady provided follow up to the concerns raised during last month’s meeting regarding the State Law Enforcement Mobilization Plan (SLEMP). Following last month’s update on the SLEMP, and the statements that the plan only included full time, academy trained police officers, Tom had asked what the status was of including input from the Sheriff’s Offices into the plan and also including Sheriff’s Office personnel in the plan. Tom had contacted Chief Mary Lyons, a lead coordinator on the SLEMP, and she told him that it had been her understanding that it was up to the local police departments to include/ invite the Sheriff’s Offices into the plan development.

Tom reviewed his copies of the proposed scope of work for the vendor search for SLEMP, and it states that the Sheriff’s Offices would be included. He is concerned that the Council agreed to supply funds based on information provided at the time, but that now that which is being delivered is less than what the Council agreed to fund. If the SLEMP is to be truly a statewide law enforcement plan, then all law enforcement agencies need to be included. He has asked EOPSS for comment, but has not yet received any. Members of the Council also expressed concern that part-time officers are not included, as many police departments in the western region are composed of mostly, if not completely, part time officers.

A general discussion ensued regarding what constitutes a “partnership” and what doesn’t. The strong presence of the Sheriff’s Offices in western region law enforcement was also noted.

It was suggested that the Council send a letter of concern to EOPSS Secretary Burke. Linda also asked Russ Sienkiewicz if he knew where the Western Mass Police Chiefs stand on the issue. Russ will ask at their next meeting. Stephen O’Brien has been the main contact regarding the SLEMP, but is not at today’s Council meeting.

<p>Motion: Bob Hassett moved that the Council send a letter of concern regarding the issues raised about the Statewide Law Enforcement Mobilization Plan (SLEMP). Bill Perlman seconded. Discussion followed. Voted unanimously.</p>

Discussion on motion: The Council determined that the letter will be sent to Secretary Burke with a cc to Undersecretary Schwartz. The letter should express the Council’s concerns and also request a copy of the draft SLEMP for review. Sue will draft and send to Linda, Tom and all Council Police Chiefs for approval.

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EOC Maps – Linda reported that the maps produced for EOCs were distributed at MEMA’s regional EMD meeting. Todd at PVPC has received several requests for duplicate maps. The production cost for the maps came in at approximately \$2,000 less than expected. Todd is asking if this money can be used for duplicates. Concerns were expressed that there aren’t enough funds to offer the duplicates to every town. Linda asked that the members think about this for further discussion.

New Business: Allen Stratton brought forward a request on behalf of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police of Association (MCoPA). MCoPA has been coordinating efforts to have statewide, uniform, secure IDs for police officers. There currently is a bill before the senate which requires such IDs. The MCoPA has been seeking funding for this project and has recently received word from EOPSS that the project may be funded with Homeland Security funds, but those funds must be obtained through the Regional Councils.

The project, as currently proposed, will provide IDs for all municipal, state, environmental and transit authority police. All the state agency police departments will fund their own ID costs. MCoPA is seeking funds for start up costs for municipal departments and the ID’ing of all currently active officers. An agreement with L1, the vendor who produces Massachusetts drivers’ licenses, to produce the IDs is about to be signed. MCoPA is requesting \$56,400.00 from the Western Council to cover these costs for all departments in Western Massachusetts.

A general discussion regarding statewide, uniform identification for public safety personnel ensued. Phil Tarpey noted that the NIMS Advisory Group (NAG) has also been working on a similar initiative, as uniform identification will be a part of NIMS compliance. Phil asked if this proposal is in duplication to efforts being undertaken by NAG. Kelly Griffin is not aware if the MCoPA have been in contact with NAG. It was noted, that while the IDs as proposed are a good idea, what about other law enforcement, including Sheriff’s Office personnel, campus police, etc, and all public safety/ first responders?

Linda asked if Allen could provide the Council with a copy of the proposed Police ID legislation for review prior to the Council taking the request up for a vote. The members asked Allen to take the following questions back to MCoPA:

- Is this proposal compliant with the NAG initiative?
- Does the bill include all law enforcement, public safety and first responder personnel?
- If this bill is only for Police, will Homeland Security funds be made available to other stakeholders for similar initiatives in the future? (Question for EOPSS)
- How would the Council funds be awarded? Would this be a pass through or a direct bill from the vendor?
- What is the expected timeframe for completion of this request?
- How was the vendor, L1, procured? Were MGL procurement regulations used?

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Linda shared with the Council a letter of thanks from the Amherst Police Department for funding received for their Active Shooter exercise.

FFY05 Extra Funds – The Council has been informed by EOPSS that a total of \$46,580.62 in extra FFY05 funds is available to the Western Council. \$22,700.46 in SHSP and \$23,880.16 in LETPP. EOPSS is requesting a proposal for the use of these funds.

Alan Zawistowski noted that the Berkshire County Emergency Communications Group (BCECG) has some concerns from challenges introduced by the simulcast upgrade and is working on a request to the Council to address these challenges. He thinks the requests would readily utilize the total funds.

<p>Motion: Carmen Massimiano moved to give the Interoperability Subcommittee the authority to obligate the FFY05 extra funds, \$22,700.46 in SHSP and \$23,880.16 in LETPP, towards communications projects in relation to the Berkshire County Emergency Communications System. Bill Perlman seconded. Discussion followed. Voted unanimously.</p>
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Motion discussion: Russ indicated that BCECG should draft proposals and provide them to the Interoperability Subcommittee. The committee will schedule a meeting for next week to review the proposals and draft a plan for the FFY05 funds. Kelly reminded the Council the EHP reviews may apply.

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council is scheduled for July 21 at 9:30 am at WMEMS, Northampton.

There being no further business Bill Perlman moved to adjourn. Carmen Massimiano seconded. Voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17.a.m.

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