

Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

March 31, 2009

10:00 AM

Room 313, State House

Providence, Rhode Island

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

RIEMA Director David Smith

Kate McCarthy-Barnett Robert Pasapane

Alysia Mihalakos James Swanberg

James Lanni James Ball

Peter Celani Richard Brown

Dawn Lewis Kenneth Smith

Sergio DeSousarosa Thomas Walsh

Michael McDonough Ryan Whitehead

Douglas Pesce Ray Labelle

Brian Goodwin Edward D'Arezzo

Larry Grimaldi Erin Lambie

Brian Pires Vincent Marzullo

Sgt. William Bessette Capt. Wayne Moore

James Celenza Peter Gaynor

Joseph D. Baker Vladimir Ibarra

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.

II. Approval of minutes from February 24, 2009

The minutes from the February 24 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. RIEMA Director David Smith Briefing on Stimulus Funding and Its Impact in Rhode Island.

Director Smith explained that there are two general funding types: competitive grants that include a formal application and program funding or earmarks that are part of the stimulus. The funds will be directed from the newly created Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment (OERR). This office is in charge of collection, review, certification, approval, reporting and accountability. The OERR and the review teams will coordinate the application and evaluation process for competitive funding, and make recommendations for

non-competitive program funding. These are some of the opportunities available to the Law Enforcement/EMA category:

- Emergency Food and Shelters \$100M**
- Firefighter Assistance Grants \$210M**
- Wildland Fire Management Grants \$250 M**
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \$2.225 B**
- Community Oriented Policing Services \$1 B**
- Preventing Violence Against Women \$225 M**
- Tribal Law Enforcement Assistance \$225 M**

Director Smith has been meeting with members of the OERR in order to follow the information closely. It seems that the Byrne/JAG funding will provide the most opportunities for our state. It opens up \$5.7 million for crime victims' assistance and/or violence against women. Approximately forty one percent of the funding will go directly from the government to an individual municipality and sixty percent through the state. The RI EMA long-range vision includes a regional approach to all hazards and events. As a result, it intends on advocating the use of funding in a manner that will facilitate the national priorities and regionalization concepts.

IV. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Reports

A. Communications Working Group— Director David Smith, RIEMA Chair

The group continues to work to expand interoperability infrastructure

and technology. In fact, as it relates to legislative efforts, Representative Joseph Almeida introduced legislation H6096 that would create the Interoperable Communications Committee (ICC). Excavations continue throughout the State at different sites including North Smithfield and Woonsocket. Director Smith stated that a small group would visit the New Hampshire EOC for an overview and make recommendations at the national level.

B. Hospital Preparedness Working Group— Alysia Mihalakos, DOH/Dawn Lewis, HARI

The Hospital Preparedness Working group highlighted the successful completion of Operation Big Green that took place on March 21st. The exercise involved a bioterrorism agent (Anthrax) and was performed in conjunction with federal, state, municipal and private partners. The partners included the CDC, HARI, HEALTH, the State Emergency Operations Center, MHRH, RISP, DLT, and the US Marshals. Some of the lessons learned from the exercise highlighted the need for many policy level conversations that will direct an all hazards responses in the future.

C. Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group—Jim Ball, RI DEM on behalf of Steve Preston, Woonsocket FD.

The group testified in regards to the inadequate language in the legislation for the immunities in Chapter 19.8 of Title 23 to certain

person and organizations that engage in oil spill and hazardous material pollution prevention activities. The group continues to work with Director Smith in drafting a State credential system compliant with NIMS for special response teams. Lastly, the group has made a presentation to state purchasing requesting that Rhode Island participate in the NY HIRE contract, as this will allow additional savings on homeland security purchases.

D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group—Alysia Mihalakos, DOH on behalf of Carol Kent, MHRH

Twenty-two members of the Behavioral Health Disaster Response Team participated in the ten POD sites activated under Operation Big Green. Responders overwhelmingly reported that it was an excellent learning experience. Psychological First Aid training was provided to the non-professional staff at Newport Hospital and Memorial Hospital.

E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council—Vin Marzullo

With the stimulus money it seems that Americorps can triple its size. The Volunteer Center of Rhode Island and Serv RI convened to discuss the larger role to support a broad array of activities. The group aims to provide the general public with information and engage them in capacity building. Serve RI will submit a concept paper to RI EMA identifying their capacities and interest.

F. Law Enforcement Working Group—Capt. James Swanberg, RISP

The team with the assistance of the RI EMA scheduled a 5-day training course titled “WMD Advanced Tactical Operations Course” for October 2009 for team members. As part of this course, the team will train at three types of public facilities in Rhode Island.

G. Port Security—Erin Lambie, USCG

Members of the design team for the AMSTEP/PREP plan a Tabletop Exercise scheduled for 21 May 2009 and the Full Scale Exercise in spring 2010. This exercise will focus on the abilities of federal, state, and local agencies to respond to a transportation security incident scenario that includes a HazMat release on the Port of Providence.

H. Special Populations Working Group—Kate McCarthy-Barnett, DOH

The Hurricane Shelter Accessibility Survey assessed shelters for physical barriers for Rhode Islanders with special needs. A subcommittee of workgroup members that included HEALTH, RIEMA, Red Cross and the GCOD met to develop recommendations based on the analysis of the survey results. Members of the workgroup continue to assist RIEMA and HEALTH with outreach for the Special Needs Emergency Registry. The process is under development to include the technical, functional and interface requirements of incorporating GIS.

I. Transportation Security Working Group—Brian Pires, ATAC/TSWG

Training was provided through collaborations with the Bureau of Justice Administration State and Local Anti Terrorism Training

(SLATT) Program to state, local and federal law enforcement officers and partners from the private sector. The topics included an overview and lessons learned from the Beslan School Massacre, an overview of the State Fusion Center and the capabilities of the RI Fire Marshals Bomb Squad. Furthermore, there was a special briefing on “ Emerging Threats Africa” that focused on Somalia and piracy issues and a briefing on maritime intelligence and the US Coast Guard FIST D1.

IV. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestion

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 19th at 10:00 am