

Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

September 8, 2009

10:00 AM

RI Department of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Avenue

Building 73, 1st Floor Conference Room, Pastore Complex

Cranston, Rhode Island

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

RIEMA Director David Smith

Janice Pothier Pac Bernie Beaudreau

Jack Chartier Edward Johnson

Geof Milner Robert Pesapane

Alysia Mihalakos Alan Seitz

John Riendeau Steve Florio

Kate McCarthy - Barnett Dawn Lewis

Brian Pires Mary O'Rourke

Lori Needham Richard Brown

Kenneth Smith Clark Green

Larry Grimaldi Erin Lambie
James Lanni Deborah Dors
Anthony Cirillo Vin Marzullo
Patricia Trinke Bill McKenna
Tracy McCain Sgt. W.R. Bessette
William Mullen Ryan Whitehead
Joseph Cournoyer Jackie Ascrizzi
Paul Stasiuk Steve Cavanaugh
Vladimir Ibarra

II. Call to Order/ Attendance-Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Chairwoman Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:03am. She highlighted the importance and relevance of today's meeting with H1N1 and the newly formed alliance between RI EMA and Serve RI as mobilizing the civilian core in a variety of community capacity building areas to further respond to disasters.

III. Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2009

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

IV. RIEMA Update

- Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Director David Smith

Director Smith along with Joseph Cournoyer discussed the newly signed agreement formalizing a partnership between RIEMA and Serve RI to create a dynamic RI Citizen Corps program designed to involve all Rhode Islanders in the readiness of their community. Opportunities will be structured so citizens can be full partners in the emergency management cycle of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The volunteers will join a variety of community capacity building areas to create the support needed in emergencies large and small.

V. Update on H1N1

· Rhode Island Department of Health Director David R. Gifford, MD, MPH

Dr. Gifford clarified to council members and participants that the H1N1 is like seasonal influenza but impacts kids and young adults. The incubation period is from one to seven days. However, the average H1N1 is three to five days. The contagious period alternates from one day before symptoms to ten days after symptoms.

For an individual to have contacted H1N1 they must show symptoms of fever plus sore throat or fever plus cough. Other symptoms people might experience are headache, muscle and joint aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, fatigue, pneumonia and shortness of breath. The peak period is while febrile.

The high-risk groups for H1N1 complications are individuals with respiratory illness (Asthma, COPD), Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, pregnancy, immunocompromised individuals, Cerebral Palsy and Muscular Dystrophy. It is projected that the current pandemic will affect about thirty percent of the population in aggregates over a six-month period with less than zero point one (0.1) percent of mortality rate.

HEALTH recommends continuing to get your seasonal flu shot and H1N1 vaccine. Stay at home until fever subsides plus twenty-four hours if ill. Dr. Gifford encouraged local business to revise their policies to be more flexible and practical and even encourage employees to stay home if ill.

The seasonal Influenza vaccine is available now while the H1N1 initial supply is expected in early October, followed by doses every two weeks through December.

HEALTH has four primary goals:

- 1. Prevent people from becoming ill (vaccination, hand washing or alcohol gel)**
- 2. Prevent the spread between people by covering nose/mouth with arm/tissue, staying home if feeling ill until fever-free for twenty-four hours.**
- 3. Treat people who are ill. If mild disease stay home, rest, drink lots of fluids, acetaminophen. Call physician if ill or have chronic medical condition and no aspirin for individuals younger than eighteen years**

old.

4. Handle impact of people getting ill. Continuity of operations plans for staff out sick and increasing the demand for services and questions.

The communications strategy from HEALTH is to continue providing the weekly partner briefs. HEALTH continues to engage in conference calls with key groups and the telephone hotline 8:30 to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Should you have additional questions please refer to:

HEALTH www.health.ri.gov

For general questions 222-8022 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and to report outbreaks 222-2577

Federal Sources: www.flu.gov

VI. Volunteer Efforts to Coordinate with State Emergency Preparedness, Bernie Beaudreau & Janice Pothier Pac, Serve RI and Vincent Marzullo, Citizen Corps

Serve Rhode Island, was established in 1994 to administer the AmeriCorps program of the federal government. Serve Rhode Island administers nine current AmeriCorps programs/teams (Education, Health, Basic Needs, Arts, Animal Care, Environment Team, Disaster Response, and Vista) funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

RIEMA and ServeRI have signed an agreement formalizing a partnership to create a dynamic, multi-faceted RI Citizen Corps

program designed to involve all Rhode Islander communities in their readiness and resiliency.

The volunteers will be asked to join in a variety of community capacity-building areas to further the necessary teambuilding and organization that is needed in emergencies large and small.

The presentation highlighted a 2008 volunteerism study in which forty-eight percent of volunteers indicated interest in disaster volunteering. The survey results will be used to expand the organizing principles of Citizen Corps, which is to engage all people of all backgrounds, abilities and walks of life to a regional and statewide sharing of best practices, collaboration and cooperation.

The organization aims at promoting citizen preparedness and volunteerism by creating and advancing a culture of preparedness by providing resources to assist regional and statewide partners. An example of these collaborations is the Rhode Island Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) that meets with organizations to test their response activities and establish clear lines of communication. The Volunteer Center of Rhode Island is the leading member of VOAD. Other notable members include the RI Community Food Bank, the United Way of RI 211 Program, and Faith-Based Organizations.

Part of the work plan for 2009-2010 is to provide an assessment of Disaster Volunteering in Rhode Island and Emergency Response Network by city and town. Reestablishing the Citizen Corps council

and recruitment and training of members by developing a database. Lastly, the group will work on a calendar of training events and programs including Campus CERT, ICS/NIMS, and First Aid & CPR training in order to increase their current volunteer base.

VII. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestions

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 27th at 10:00 am Subcommittee reports. Members and participants will receive correspondence informing them of the location.