

Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

January 12, 2010

10:00 AM

RI Department of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Avenue

Building 73, 1st Floor Conference Room, Pastore Complex

Cranston, Rhode Island

AGENDA

Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

RIEMA Director David Smith Dr. David Gifford

Janice Pothier Pac Alysia Mihalakos

Dawn Lewis Peter Gaynor

Kate McCarthy – Barnett Ed Johnson

Carol Kent Lt. James Manni

William Mullen Bill McKenna

William Gasbarro Joseph Salter

Joseph McCooey Arthur Bovis

W.R. Bessette Mark Campbell

Bruce Rutter Vincent Marzullo

Leo Kennedy Larry Grimaldi

Geof Milner Gregory Scungio

Nancy Smith Greer Mark Gilson

John Chartier Ralph Bubar

Brian Pires James Lanni

Sergio Desousarosa Jeff Kelly

Vladimir Ibarra

I. Call to Order/ Attendance—Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Chairwoman Roberts opened the meeting by wishing the membership a Happy New Year 2010. She welcomed the replacements for Raymond LaBelle of E911 William Gasbarro and Gregory Scungio. The Chairwoman presented a citation to Carol Kent in recognition of her outstanding efforts and contributions to improving the lives of Rhode Islanders through her dedicated service to the EMAC council. EMAC members applauded Ms. Kent and wished her best of luck in her future endeavors.

Approval of the minutes from December 8, 2009

Minutes approved.

II. Update on H1N1 - Rhode Island Department of Health Director David R. Gifford, MD, MPH.

Dr. Gifford stated that HEALTH has entered the busiest time for H1N1.

HEALTH is pushing to provide half a million (500,000) vaccines to Rhode Island residents by Valentine's Day. Dr. Gifford estimated that the national third wave will take place in the spring and wants Rhode Islanders to be prepared. Schools continued with the second dose

and starting this week all primary care physicians will get vaccines out to patients. Moreover, HEALTH started setting up clinics on Saturday's for Healthcare workers and the general public.

The free clinics for Rhode Island citizens are available to all residents eighteen years and older. No identification or insurance card required. The list is available on our website at www.ltgov.ri.gov and www.rihealth.com

Dr. Gifford stated that the pandemic has not subsided and this is the time to get vaccinated and push for others to do so. Lieutenant Governor Roberts asked if there was a general group that should get vaccinated. Dr. Gifford wants as many individuals as possible to get vaccinated. Also, this influenza season has been mainly H1N1 not seasonal influenza. Nursing homes have received an additional flu vaccine and will receive about five thousand (5,000) doses of H1N1 vaccines. According to some of the preliminary statistics HEALTH has vaccinated about two hundred and seventy individuals (270,000) thus far.

Chairwoman Roberts asked what type of communication/media plan was launched towards informing the general public. Dr. Gifford responded that all of the information disseminated at our meeting was posted on their website: <http://www.health.ri.gov/>. HEALTH continues to provide partner briefings once a week.

Director Smith thanked Dr. Gifford and HEALTH for their arduous work thus far. Dr. Gifford insisted that it was a team/group effort and thanked specially the medical reserve core and other groups who have really stepped up to the challenge. The CDC has been

commending HEALTH for their organization. In fact, Rhode Island will have the distinction of being a best practice state for the vaccination efforts of our student population. According to feedback, many Rhode Islanders are pleased by the work of their municipalities. Dr. Gifford reiterated that the relationship individuals had with the community was a high predictor of success.

III. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports

A. Interoperability Communications Committee— Director David Smith, RIEMA Chair

The committee met on January 5, 2010 and voted to support the consolidation of all state agencies 700 and 800 MHz frequencies under ICC. The consolidation will protect the investment of voice and data systems for years to come and decrease clerical and administrative work.

Grants: the committee prioritized its 2010 grant cycle and forwarded those recommendations to the “stakeholder” group. There was a slight increase in EMPG. There was a requirement under 2009 to include twenty five (25) percent of all monies for planning with an additional requirement under the State Homeland Security Grant and UASI for twenty five (25) percent to law enforcement terrorism protection programs. The percentage requirement for planning has been lifted this year although it does not preclude anyone from asking for any amount of money for planning.

Legislation: Some communities such as Providence have buildings that are bulletproof (no signal). Providence enacted an ordinance to

provide a five (5) year window. ICC will support a statewide objective and encourages individuals to provide input. Lastly, committee members agreed that training was required as soon as possible.

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

HEALTH will start rolling out a media campaign aimed at organizations to encourage employee vaccinations. Municipalities are executing their plans according to a matrix by the Center for Disease Control that will be tracked. One of the goals is to provide an all hazards preparedness. HEALTH is urging corporations to vaccinate their personnel. There will be PODS for employers and colleges.

Dawn reported that during the December 19th storm, the staff transported about fifty (50) individuals who needed to be picked up from hospitals. Multiple stakeholders were involved towards this effort. Patient tracking efforts have been ongoing for about one year. The goal is to have every patient being able to be tracked. The EMS trucks have laptops capabilities and continue to develop the software for the hospitals. Lt. Governor asked if the hospital personnel had been vaccinated. Dawn reported that on Saturday January 9th they held a clinic for first responders and hospital personnel and that other efforts had started about a month earlier. Dawn discussed the upcoming clinics that would be set up as well as the efforts with corporate to get their employees vaccinated. The contract is administered by a wellness company.

**C. Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group— Steve Preston,
Woonsocket FD**

Mr. Preston was unavailable for the meeting but submitted his report. The most pressing challenge/goal for the committee continues to be maintaining the level of training necessary to fulfill the committee's mission. The committee is using additional grant funding from the Local Emergency Planning Committees to develop continuing education classes through the Fire Academy. The committee urges the state to streamline the reimbursement process to the cities and towns. Mr. Preston attended the National Biological Sampling Conference in December; the conference attendees included CDC, Fire, Police, DOH labs, DHS, EPA, and academia. The conference goals were to keep partners informed of new standards on testing and detection of biological agents especially as it is believed that a biological agent will be used in future attacks. The committee continues to work in conjunction with the CDC, FBI, RISP, DOH, and other partners to update our sampling protocols keeping in line with national standards. In addition, we are working with RIEMA on the FY10 Homeland Security Grant application and updating the State Homeland Security Strategy. Lastly, the committee has seen several of the regional response volunteer teams have had their liability insurance rates increased because they act as a resource for the State, they could use assistance preparing legislation for these resources granting them protection under state law when they respond as a state asset. Specifically Chapter 19.8 Hazardous Waste

Cleanup subsection 23-19.8.4 Exemptions to immunities.

D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group—Carol Kent, MHRH

Ms. Kent stated that the key activity for the group continues to be the RI Family Assistance Center Plan. The group has addressed the roles of the United Way's 211 system, the Chaplaincy Center, The Red Cross, Behavioral Health and FEMA Region I. Ms. Kent has been helping in the transition process of her successor Susan Earley. Ms. Earley will become Rhode Island's Coordinator of Behavioral Health Disaster Preparedness on January, 18, 2010. Key activities for the month are the training of responders. Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for non-medical hospital staff has been provided on-site for Kent and South County Hospitals and Roger Williams Medical Center. Training dates have also been set for Newport and Memorial Hospitals. Six hundred and fifty responders (650) that have been trained. The latest activity has been staffing the community H1N1 clinics at the request of HEALTH.

E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council—Vin Marzullo

Mr. Marzullo reported lots of activity this past quarter with the community assessments. The data from the community interviews is being organized into a report that will be provided to EMA on January 28. The committee has been meeting with local EMA directors to facilitate volunteer recruitment. All twelve AmeriCorps program sites will incorporate Volunteer Reception Center training for their national

service members.

Regular meetings are taking place to develop a Campus CERT initiative in Rhode Island. Director Smith, spoke about the volunteer, shelters evacuation, higher education as part of enhancing capabilities. URI received around one hundred thousand on grant monies to build a Center of Excellence Building around Emergency Management. During the meeting with Janice, the Director was surprised by more funds than applications.

F. Law Enforcement Working Group— Lt. James Manni, RISP

Lieutenant Manni, discussed how one hundred percent of their work is federally funded and wanted to thank Director Smith and Deputy Johnson for filling the regional position. The RI WMD Tactical Team continues to train other specialty responder teams. For the Fusion Center they would like to increase its level of service by seeking additional personnel for the unit. The next big training exercise will be Vigilant Hope in May which is being worked in conjunction with the Coast Guard, State Police and FBI.

The Lt. reported on the recent one day WMD training in the Port of Providence. The scenarios had terrorist coming off shore on watercraft and were intercepted by SWAT. Director Smith thanked PEMA Director Gannor for supporting those efforts. Lastly, the committee held a week long Active Shooter train-the-trainer course for about 25 officers from RI law enforcement agencies. The purpose was to provide law enforcement agencies the capability of training their own officers on this topic.

G. Port Security—Erin Lambie, USCG

Erin Lambie was not present but provided the report. In light of the reduction of resources, Ms. Lambie would like to explore with the leadership of emergency response agencies and associated preparedness forums how we might better coordinate our efforts and manage our programs; as well as enhancing our capacity to manage multi-hazard / multi-responsibility events. Some of the key activities that the committee has been working towards include:

a. Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP)/ Preparedness for Response (PREP) Initial Planning Conference – Members of the design team for the AMSTEP/PREP will meet on January 22nd to begin planning the Tabletop Exercise scheduled for summer 2010 and the Full Scale Exercise in spring 2010. These exercises will focus on the Port of Providence, incorporation of special teams (i.e. the RI ANG 13th CST), coordination of resources, and communications.

b. Port Security Grants – The FY 2009 Port Security Grants applications must be submitted by 23 January. The Coast Guard will be conducting their review process in February.

c. Area Maritime Security Plan – The Coast Guard has completed the required update to the Area Maritime Security Plan (AMSP). They are in the review and approval process for this plan and will be

presenting it to the Area Maritime Security Committee shortly for their review.

d. Continued update and review of command center Quick Response Cards (QRCs) and master phone listings for accurate information. Lastly, the next Port Safety and Security Meeting is going to be held on March 12. The next Area Committee Meeting will be held on March 05.

**H. Special Populations Working Group—Kate McCarthy-Barnett, DOH
Dr. McCarthy-Barnett reported that the committee continues its work on developing and implementing interventions to ensure an inclusive and integrated emergency preparedness system for Rhode Islanders with special needs. They continue to meet on a bimonthly basis.**

Statewide Special Needs Shelter Plan: With the guidance of RIEMA, the workgroup continues to draft the special needs plan. A planning team, partners and timeline have been established.

Special Needs Emergency Registry: The registry was selected for a poster at the Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta. The GIS is near completion and will be included on WebEOC.

Sheltering Plan: The workgroup plans to incorporate the FEMA Functional Needs Support Services guidance. The subcommittee is on target to finalize the plan and develop a training module for the Red Cross Shelter Management training and reviewing recommendations with local Emergency Management.

Communications: The subcommittee has been examining gaps and

developing recommendations for communication mechanisms that can be implemented before, during and after an emergency. Members of the workgroup have assisted in the communications of essential H1N1 information by providing updates to consumers and other networks.

Transportation: Members have been participating in the RIEMA ESF 1 planning review team meetings.

I. Urban Search and Rescue—Bill McKenna, Cranston FD

The committee continues to prepare for Hurricane season and continues working on developing a training site in Johnston. Also, they continue to get the team to be more responsible to local communities in Southern New England.

USAR K-9 teams took and passed the Type I (Live Person) evaluation.

Two additional canine teams successfully passed their Type II (Human Remains Detection) evaluation. A picture of one of the canines (EVA) was featured in the RIEMA newsletter along with Deputy Johnson. Lastly they have engineers learning about industrial collapse to enhance the committee's capabilities.

J. Mass Casualty—Chief Robert Church, Portsmouth FD

Trailers are being reviewed to be standardized within federal regulations.

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

Federal Security Director Joe Salter briefly discussed their continue

work and the technological advancements coming to T.F. Green including a full body X ray machine and the incident at Newark Airport. For more information visit www.tsa.gov .

Brian Pires informed those members who would like further information to submit (to him) their date of birth and social security and after a brief screening, one will be place on his distribution list. Mr. Pires can be contacted at brian.pires@usdoj.gov. Chairwoman Roberts asked what should the public be expecting in terms of managing the Airport Security. Mr. Pires responded that they continue to use tools at different times and preoperational surveillance. As a citizen the best line of defense is “if you see something say something”.

IV. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestion

Providence Emergency Management Director Gaynor wanted to apprise the membership of upcoming events in Rhode Island including the NCAA tournament in March.

Mr. Desousarosa from the Department of Corrections informed members of the recently held exercise in coordination with Cranston fire and police, on the need to execute as a senior unified command style. Looking forward to the Tabletop in May to develop their skill sets.