



## **Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council**

### **MINUTES February 23, 2015**

The meeting of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council was held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at Clean Care of New England, 850 Wellington Avenue, Cranston, RI

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by the Council Chair, Lieutenant Governor Daniel McKee at approximately 2:08 pm.

#### **Attendance:**

Daniel McKee, Lieutenant Governor - CHAIR  
Peter Gaynor, RIEMA Director, VICE-CHAIR

Shad Ahmed, Safer Inst.  
James Ball, DEM Haz Mat  
Arthur Bovis, Dept. of Transportation  
Kenneth Burke, RI Water Resource Board  
Michelle Burnett, EMA RI  
Donna DiMichele, DOA Library Info Services  
Kenneth Filarski  
Peter Ginaitt, Lifespan Health Care System  
Barbara Goodrich, L.G. Executive Asst.  
Steven Greenhalgh, EMA RI  
Jeffrey Hatcher, RGB  
Vladimir Ibarra, Providence Emergency Mgt.  
John Kondratowicz, US Coast Guard  
James Lanni, RI Div. of Public Utilities  
Lt. Eric Lariviere, RI State Police  
Pamela Leary, EMA RI  
Dawn Lewis, Hospital Assoc. of RI  
Pam Marchand, RI Water Resource Board

Elizabeth McDonald, American Red Cross  
Lt. Patrick McMahon, Charlestown Police Dept.  
Alysia Mihalakos, Dept. of Health  
Marc Pappas, EMA RI  
Brian Pires, US Dept. of Justice  
Peter Popko, US Coast Guard  
Armand Randolph, EMA RI  
Anthony Silva, L.G. Chief of Staff  
Paul Stasiuk, National Grid  
John Washburn, EMA RI

Lieutenant Governor McKee introduced himself and thanked all those present for attending. He asked each member around the table to also introduce themselves. Chair McKee also pointed to the attendance of his Chief of Staff, Anthony Silva, stating that Mr. Silva's experience as the former Cumberland Chief of Police as well as many years of experience serving as the Assistant EMA Director for the town brings a lot of hands on expertise to the Lieutenant Governor's office and to this Council. The Lieutenant Governor also mentioned that as a former Mayor for 12 years, he is acutely aware how Emergency Management is critical to our communities. He thanked Director Peter Gaynor and Jamia McDonald for their hard work and leadership during the massive snow storm. He informed the group that the new Executive Order issued by Governor Raimondo referring his office to work with municipalities will bring collaboration and higher levels of efficiencies and services to our communities and the State of Rhode Island.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Dawn Lewis to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Liz McDonald, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Hospital Preparedness Working Group**

Alysia Mihalakos, RI Department of Health, noted that committees such as the Long Term Care Council and the EMAC are required to convene on a monthly basis as required by grantors. Presently being addressed is best preparedness for EBOLA cases, working in conjunction with Fire Chiefs and First Responders. Equipment for all types of disasters is under review. In addition, the health pod was recently located at Providence College where 3061 students were immunized for meningitis, following the CDC MEDS model for the state. Brown University will be the secondary site. This is a brand new vaccine and the PC study group will be monitored closely. Federal funding is being utilized for this initiative.

**Extreme Cold Temperatures**

There were only a handful of issues throughout the storm including facilities with burst pipes and roof concerns. The Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan that was developed two years ago was put in place during the storm and the days that followed. The goal is to provide resources available to keep those individuals living in these shelters in place yet still being prepared for evacuation. It was also noted that Governor Raimondo has been provided pertinent information from all hospital CEOs throughout the state.

**Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group**

Jim Ball reported there are six Hazardous Materials Teams in the state and four Decontamination Teams in place. They receive approximately 600-800 complaints per year and work in conjunction with the US Coast Guard regarding oil spills and the Environmental Protection Agency. FEMA grant dollars are used.

**Mass Casualty Working Group**

Pat McMahon reported that Mark Pappas coordinates the Mass Casualty Working Group. On hand are portable trailers that are equipped to treat up to 50 patients. The equipment and medications for these portable trailers need to be restocked every two years. Director Gaynor added that discussions are being held regarding readdressing the State Mass Casualty Plan.

Director Gaynor touched upon several other operations such as EMA, Mass Causality Trailer Teams, Haz Mat & Decontamination Teams and WMD Tactical Team overseen by the State Police and Urban Search & Rescue.

The Lieutenant Governor told the group he would like to help in these areas and if anyone has any thoughts on potential funding, please keep him informed.

**Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group** – No Report

**Special Populations Working Group** – No Report

**Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council Working Group** – No Report

**Port Security Working Group** – No Report

**Transportation Working Group** – No Report

**Urban Search and Rescue Working Group** – No Report

Director Gaynor noted that RIEMA is still performing damage assessments for the Juno storm, a necessary step before RIEMA can make final determination regarding if this is a one day event.

He stated that initial damage assessment allows up to \$10 million. Still needed are invoices for plowing, payroll, etc. and the damages need to be directly related to the disaster. The state would benefit by being declared a federal disaster area which would provide a greater reimbursement. Target completion is Friday. The process is as follows: Requests are submitted from RIEMA to Governor Raimondo, then passed onto FEMA (Region 1) and finally presented to the President.

Director Gaynor informed the Council that the Preparedness Conference this year would be expanded and not just relate to hurricanes. They are planning to hold the conference for two days instead of one so that it can cover a broader and wider base of issues and plan to offer training. The goal is to achieve a higher quality of presentations. The date of the conference is to be determined. Please contact Director Gaynor with any questions or ideas or send them directly to [Michelle.Burnett@ema.gov](mailto:Michelle.Burnett@ema.gov)

EMA is in the process of developing a Shelter Plan. Workshops will be held to establish its mission of providing a better definition of local and state roles with a conceptual plan established by the end of August.

RIEMA is working on developing an Executive Order for Governor Raimondo that will help identify ways to move forward in an effort to provide a safer environment for businesses and citizens.

There will be a reset of the State Emergency Response Committee (SERC) in order to meet federal requirements. Its goal is to consolidate development and training under the umbrella of the State Fire Academy.

In referring to Task Force 7 it was noted that all damage assessed post storm was very helpful.

RIEMA website will be up and running in a couple of weeks.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Director Gaynor said he has spent the past 6 months evaluating his role and the strategies and initiatives of this Council. Lieutenant Governor McKee added that each member should focus on ways to support Mr. Gaynor keeping in mind that emergency management has ties to economics and jobs. He continued to state that emergency management is a high priority to businesses and serves as a tool to provide new and existing businesses services in Rhode Island with a safe environment.

Director Gaynor will be evaluating Title 30 to see if we are doing all things required by law. He continued to say the object of the committee is to add value and needs to get back to the basics.

Lieutenant Governor McKee told the group they should be looking to Peter for direction in determining how your skill and talent can be best serve. In addition he said that Tony Silva will be engaging with Peter, keeping our office aligned with his goals. All resources need to be identified so that Director Gaynor can maximize the council's purpose.

Donna McMichele addressed the group regarding the development of local plans and stated that we need to keep into account historic sites and properties. Director Gaynor acknowledged that we are deficient in this area and need to establish a recovery plan.

Lieutenant Governor McKee noted this council will meet again in two months to provide time to address some of these initiatives.

Director Gaynor is working in conjunction with Jamia McDonald on a Rhode Island Business Alliance Regional Catastrophic Grant to help provide funding for communication preparedness through a Business Operation Center. His goal is to formalize all efforts and provide a conduit to businesses, supplying safety information to them before it becomes public. In lieu of mandating directives to the businesses, this initiative will provide them the information and resources to manage themselves. This Alliance would include membership training, information sharing, safety initiatives (including cyber) etc.

Peter Ginaitt made a motion, seconded by Jim Ball to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Barbara Goodrich  
Executive Assistant to Lieutenant Governor Daniel McKee