



**Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council
Tuesday, April 14, 2015
2:00 P.M.**

Clean Care of New England, Inc.
850 Wellington Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

Minutes

The meeting of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at Clean Care of New England, 850 Wellington Avenue, Cranston, RI.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Peter Gaynor, Director of Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency at approximately 2:06 pm.

Attendance:

Lt. Governor Daniel McKee, Chair (arrived late due to an urgent matter)
Director Peter Gaynor

Shad Ahmed, Safer Institute
Jim Ball, DEM-Haz Mat
Jay Burdick, United Way
John Chartier, RI Div. of Fire Marshal
Steven Florio, RI Commission for Deaf
Barbara Goodrich, Lt. Governor's Office
Dawn Lewis, Hospital Assoc. of RI
Simon Liu, RISP
Donna DiMichele, DOA Library Info Services
Ken McCarthy, DPUC
Joe McCooey, RI Courts
Erin McDonough, RI DMAT
Lt. Patrick McMahan, Charlestown Police
Alysia Mihalakos, Dept. of Health
Lori Needham, RI Broadcasting
Brian Pires, Dept. of Justice
Peter Popko, US Coast Guard
Robert Seltzer, Smithfield Fire Dept.
Anthony Silva, LT. Governor's Office

After taking attendance, Director Gaynor determined a quorum for the meeting had not been met. He noted that by statute there are 40 members and only 11 of those members were present.

Approval of the Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting with corrections submitted by Director Gaynor. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Committee Reports were tabled.

Old Business:

None noted

New Business:

Director Gaynor met with Lieutenant Governor Daniel McKee and Chief of Staff Anthony Silva to discuss improving the management of EMAC in order to best support the Emergency Management and Public Safety Mission. After careful review, it was determined that the present operation of EMAC only meets 51% of its initial goals. The realignment is meant to streamline the council and get back to basics.

Director Peter Gaynor gave a power point presentation for EMAC Realignment. This comprehensive plan addresses (5) critical areas: purpose, statute, goals, goal details and questions from the members. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

In reference to Goals, Item No. 3 referring to establishing a Senior Advisory Committee, it was noted that this Committee will be grant directed. Director Gaynor also stated that the stakeholder group has disappeared.

Concerning Realignment Details (6) review of disaster plans of the local communities, Director Gaynor expressed that EMAC needs to have its own plan in order before they can help cities and towns with theirs. He also stressed the importance of an Annual Report to let people know what EMAC is doing.

Chief Setzler made a point that a lot of regional teams such as haz-mat have little or no funding. He also suggested that we should look at what we have already established and prioritize that.

A discussion took place about how funding gets distributed and most feel the distribution needs to be more equitable and diverse.

Goals 4 & 5 will be reviewed over the next 12-18 months.

The current structure of the EMAC membership will be revisited. The number of members needs to be manageable and efficient. Lieutenant Governor McKee told the council that his office will assist with the legislative process to finely hone membership of this council. He added that his office is moving forward with representing and assisting municipalities in the area of shared services. Progress has been made in several areas including regionalizing public safety dispatch.

This council should be relevant to current issues, and Director Gaynor said it should include IT/Cyber.

A discussion continued on how to get EMAC back to basics and better align and coordinate various sub-committees and working groups, being careful not to replicate.

EMAC needs to continue to identify resources and share grant information with its members. Even if your organization is not eligible, the information still needs to be shared. This council should develop good networking procedures so that it is prepared for outside funding. It was pointed out that many grants look for partnerships, and this council offers that opportunity.

Although there was no quorum, a consensus vote was taken to move forward with the 5 goal concepts presented and 100% of those who attended voted in favor.

Everyone was encouraged to follow up with emails and thoughts on the Realignment Plan. A calendar of meetings scheduled for the remainder of the year will be established. Tuesdays at 2:00 pm was noted as a good choice for most.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Goodrich
Executive Assistant to Lt. Governor Daniel McKee