



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held

Thursday, August 27, 2015

2:00 pm

Clean Care New England
850 Wellington Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Director Peter Gaynor at 2:02 p.m.

A roll call attendance was taken:

Attendance:

Rep. Telephone Industry - no

Rep. Senate - no

Rep. Senate – no

Rep. of Water Supply Industry –Susan Licardi

Rep. of the RI League of Cities & Towns – no

Rep. of RI Firefighters Assoc. - no

Rep. of RI Assoc. of Fire Chiefs –Robert Seltzer

Rep. of Private Ambulance Company - no

Rep. of Level 1 Trauma Hospital – Peter Ginaitt

Rep. of House of Representatives – no

Rep. of Health Care Industry – Dawn Lewis

Rep of House of Representatives – no

Rep. Gas Industry - no

Rep. Electric Industry – Paul Stasiuk

Rep. of the Media – Lori Needham

Public Member/Expertise in Disaster Preparedness – Shad Ahmed

Public Member/Expertise in Disaster Preparedness

Adjutant General

Chairperson of the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities

Chairperson of the RI Public Transit Authority

Chairperson of the State Water Resources Board – Susan Licardi

Director of Behavioral Healthcare, Development Disabilities & Hospitals – Susan Earley

Director of Elderly Affairs

Director Department of Health – Alysia Mihalakos
Director of Department of Human Services
Director Department of Transportation
Director of Adm. – Statewide Planning
Director Providence EMA – Vlad Ibara
Executive Director of E-911 Emergency Telephone Div.
Executive Director of American Red Cross, RI Chapter –Liz McDonald
Executive Director of the Coastal Resources Mgt. Council
Executive Director of the Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Executive Director of RI EMA – Peter Gaynor
Fed. Security Director of Transportation Security Adm. for RI
Lieutenant Governor –Anthony Silva
Designee for Director DEM – Jim Ball
Public Utilities Administrator – Ken McCarthy
State Court Administrator – Joe McCooey
Superintendent of State Police – Lt. John Keenan

Also in attendance were: Donna DiMichele, DOA, OLIS; Angelo Miccoli, 2-1-1; Dawn Lewis, HARI; Vin Marzullo, National Service; Joe Arsenault, RIEMA/CCRI; Jay Burdick, RIVOAD

It was noted that a quorum for the council had been met.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2015 meeting as presented. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Sub Committee Reports:

Director Gaynor asked all members to make their final submissions and corrections to the following sub-committee membership lists:

- Preparedness Working Group
- Mitigation Working Group
- Response Working Group
- Recovery Working Group
- Special Projects Working Group
- Regionalization Working Group

He re-emphasized the GOALS for realignment to EMAC as follows:

1. Support the building of a nationally recognized Emergency Management Program
2. Support the Lt. Governor’s Public Safety Regionalization effort
3. Establish a Senior Advisory Committee in order to integrate preparedness activities across disciplines
4. Review the statute to ensure its accurate and up-to-date
5. Review the membership to ensure appropriate agencies and organizations are adequately represented.

Old Business:

Accreditation Update – As part of the master plan, the Director is in the process of writing RFP's for a dozen plans for Hazardous IRA, which is core, as well as a host of other plans. In the next 30 days they will review the plans or use the MPA. The contractor will take the primary role of driving every single plan from EMA. The value in producing a plan is making the plan. Staff from RIEMA will take the overall leadership.

Membership Structure Review and Discussion – Director Gaynor again asked for input from the members. He will entertain a list of recommendations, with support, for the structure of the membership list. He added that the list needs to be updated to meet the present needs and also that 40 is too large a group and difficult to obtain a quorum. This list will need to be revisited as the legislative session gets closer.

Summary of Workshops regarding National Guard assets to local communities – They met with local communities (approximately 93 people in total attended) and reviewed the process, resources and capabilities on hand from Rhode Island National Guard. Next they will meet elected municipal officials to review resources and discuss their roles and authority.

Comments regarding Annual Preparedness Conference held August 25 & 26, 2015 – Thirty two exhibitors participated in the conference. EMA and CCRI staff have been debriefed. The response from EMAC members was overwhelmingly positive. Participants thanked Director Gaynor for his vision...merging learning and networking as well as obtaining excellent keynote speakers. One participant stated that after attending these conferences since the 1990's, this conference "hit a home run". Holding the conference over the course of two days was well worth it and allowed the conference to be more informative and useful. The venue location, CCRI, was well liked by everyone. However, feedback from Joe Arsenault at CCRI was that the conference was disruptive to the incoming students, and he suggested rethinking the June date or pushing it back a couple of weeks to earlier in August. On the other hand, Joe added that the faculty and staff thought it was an excellent conference. Additional comments included that the networking aspect was great and the organization was superb.

Director Gaynor informed the group that they will tweak the conference to continue to improve upon it. At the next conference they will add more signage and include a live board. The program will be rearranged to better organize and display the schedule. Also, they hope to provide participants a better opportunity to submit their evaluation.

Suggestions were made to add a "year in review" as well as information on the benefits of reimbursements from FEMA.

Director Gaynor issued a challenge to the members....Is there any way next year to take a portion of the conference and offer an opportunity for the public to participate? Please send an email to the Director with your thoughts.

New Business:

Sam McKenzie from National Civilian Community Corps discussed the need and opportunity for FEMA Corps. He distributed information regarding the FEMA Corps Program for men and women ages 18-24 to join the emergency management team noting there are 250 openings nationwide and only 67 are filled. They have only received 5 applications from Rhode Islanders. Mr. McKenzie asked the SBAC to help spread the word as their manpower for recruiting is limited. They presently use college websites and career fairs to get their message out. The biggest call is in the 18-24 year range but those older than 24 can be team leaders. It was suggested to explore how FEMA Corps can be utilized by municipalities. FEMA Corps members receive a \$400 stipend, education awards and sometimes academic credits and learn all types of skills that expand their professional development.

Open Discussion/Comments/Suggestions/Recommendations:

Shelter Plan Update – Director Gaynor stated we are approaching this plan as locally driven and state supervised and it is a joint effort between State, ARC and EOHHS. It will also be heavily reliant upon local level preparedness. The Shelter Plan is a critical component of the Governor's request for Federal assistance and is demand based, not regionally based. The Director provided more information regarding the tiers and staging in a power point format.

A discussion took place. It was noted that storing equipment is always a challenge and they are starting with 8 Conex boxes and establishing proposed sites taking into consideration population, etc.

Alysia Mihalakos informed the SBAC that DEM has a plan in place to address the Avian Influenza expected to come into RI. DEM is presently finessing the details and at the end of September plan to run an exercise.

Announcements:

Liz McDonald from American Red Cross noted that a smoke detector company is sponsoring a statewide free smoke detector initiative.

Closing Comments:

Next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm at Clean Care New England.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Goodrich
Executive Assistant to Lt. Governor Daniel J. McKee

DRAFT