From: **Eva M. Zito**
Recording Secretary

Date: **April 26, 2005**

Subject: **Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee**

The following members, alternates, and guests were in attendance:

John E. Aucott	**Acting Chair**	**RIEMA**
Raymond LaBelle	**Member**	**E-911**
Cathy Duquette `	**Member**	**HARI**
Chief Peter Brousseau	**Member**	**Police Chief's Assoc.**
Chief Robert Seltzer	**Member**	**Fire Chief's Assoc.**
Lt. Darren Delaney	**Member**	**RISP**
Terrie Fox Wetle	**Member**	**Brown University**
Carol Kent	**Member**	**MHRH**
Janice McClanaghan	**Member**	**RI Energy Office**
Capt. Mary Landry	**Member**	**USCG**
Aaron Aldrich	**Member**	**DOC**
John Enright	**Member**	**US Attorney's Office**
Rep. Peter Ginaitt	**Member**	**RI Hospital**
Robert E. Johnson, Jr.	**Member**	**Blackstone Valley Security**
Jim Ball	**Alternate**	**RI DEM**
Lt. Wendy Walsh	**Alternate**	**NACC Newport**
Dr. Anthony Cirillo	**Alternate**	**RI DOH**
Capt. James Swanberg	**Alternate**	**RISP**
Leo Messier	**Guest**	**Providence EMA**
Nathan Rodgers	**Guest**	**RIEMA**
John Soscia	**Guest**	**RIEMA**
Audra Dolan	**Guest**	**Volunteer Center of RI**
Robert J. Sestito	**Guest**	**US Dept. of Labor**
Douglas J. Pesce	**Guest**	**US DHS**
Al Richmond	**Guest**	**US DHS**

Members not in attendance:

RI Dept of Transportation	***RICOSH***
Office of the Governor	***URI***
VA Medical Center	***DOA/Office of Library and Info. Services***
Dept. of the Attorney General	***USAR***
RI Fire Marshal's Office	***Gov's Commission on Disabilities***
Office of the Lt. Governor	***Hazmat Technical Working Group***
RI Disaster Initiative	***American Red Cross***
Abulance Services Advisory Board	***RI Health Care Association***

The 42nd meeting of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 10:00am.

1. **Because of new people attending this meeting, Acting Chairman John Aucott asked everyone attending the meeting to introduce him or herself.**

2. **Minutes of the March 22, 2005 meeting were reviewed and accepted.**

3. **Reports:**

HAZMAT/DECON TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP-John Aucott-they meet on a regular basis and are working on a standardized equipment list.

COMMUNITY WMD PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP (in abeyance)

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-not present

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUIP-Chief Brousseau
Met two weeks ago and had a presentation on the progress of the Washington County Project.
Also had a presentation from a Motorola engineer on the rebanding of the frequencies involved in the Nextel project.
Meetings will now be held once a month.
(John Aucott)-Police Chief's Association using the majority of the law enforcement funds voted to endorse the extension of the 800 MHz System into another part of the State to Aquidneck Island, Little Compton, and Tiverton. Eventually we will have a statewide 800 MHz system.
We are in the process of installing Reverse 911, and we acquired this system thanks to Leo Messier who arranged a demonstration. We have acquired Reverse 911 for the entire State of Rhode Island. It will also be located here at RIEMA. Verizon has to do some wiring, but it is coming.
Dr. Cirillo asked about the Nextels
Nextels had some program issues but will be ready to be given out some day next week.
Nextels will be handed out to the communities who will put them on the hospital network which will give local EMS folks for the first time the ability to communicate directly from the scene of a Mass Casualty Incident to all the hospital in Rhode Island.

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP-"Citizens Corps Council"-not present
John Aucott-Patty Fairweather from the Governor's Office is working on an Executive Order to appoint a Chair of the Citizens Corps Council.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-not present

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE-Dr. Cirillo

The HPPC has decided has requested that all the monies available be dedicated to creating a more intergraded information system for healthcare response to emergencies. We have come up with a draft plan of trying to intergrade a hospital diversion bed capacity system, together with a patient tracking system, together with an emergency recall system for the hospitals all together into one system that could be put on one platform. This way we can manage an incident on scene or away from the scene in an up to date world time information. We are putting together monies from the DHS grant and monies from the HRSA grant. We are meeting with different partners and vendors trying to create a one-time solution. Our counterparts in New England are all interested in having access to this system as well.

Dr. Duquette-Tom Kilday and Meredith Arnold are continuing to visit the health centers. They have done 4 out of 12. The standardized emergency code work group is very close to finalizing a list of Standard Codes that every hospital in this State will adopt by January 1, 2006.

John Aucott stated that Boston and Worcester MMRS have adopted a standardized patient tracking system with Verizon.
Dr. Cirillo stated that during the Boston Marathon they tried it, and all the runners had tabs that they were able to utilize when they had anyone who came in for medical care through the hospital system, DMAT system, or EMS system. Once they came to a definitive site, they were able to scan them using an RFID bracelet and they knew exactly who were in the medical tents and they could tell who the runners were or who had come in at any point and time.

John Aucott stated that it is definite that we set aside $500,000 for the hospitals for this project. A letter is needed to be sent out for this.

<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CRISIS MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE-Carol Kent</u>
The Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network had a half-day drill on 3.31.05 with 108 participants.
Red Cross setup a Family Assistance Center for us and we had a chance to practice psychological first aid.
From the evaluations that we collected at the end, everyone was pleased with the day.
We are In the process of doing the After Action Report now.
We will also participate with Southwest Airlines and the Red Cross in that a Family Assistance Center will be setup during the APEX Exercise on June 2, 2005.
Spent most of my time at the Family Assistance Center at the Connecticut TOPOFF Exercise

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP-Chief Seltzer
Doing more building and receiving more equipment
There will be an overnight training in May
John Aucott stated that FEMA will have a Canine Certification person come in from Oklahoma to start the process of National Certification of the USAR Team. They will obtain National Certification for the Canine members of the USAR Team.

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT WORKING GROUP-Nathan Rodgers
They will be meeting on April 27, 2005 to discuss equipment issues and also some exercises and training orientation programs.
There are 39 Nextels ready to go out next week to jurisdictions in the State and 2 for RIEMA
This brings the total Nextel count to 84 units and 55 users because some jurisdictions have more than one unit.
In March we launched a Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program local Tabletop exercise program which brings a local tabletop to every city and town in the State. This will continue through March 2006.
The first one will be in Coventry on May 9, 2005.
It is a very low-key exercise and the locals are advised just to show up at a certain time and facility.

MASS FATALITY WORKING GROUP-not present

PORT SECURITY-Capt Mary Landry
Executive Steering Committee Meeting was held last week with Southeaster MA and Rhode Island where John Riendeau did a nice presentation on information technology.
Quarterly Port Safety and Security meetings are this week and Rhode Island's is tomorrow morning at Johnson and Wales University from 9:00-12:00. Safety issues will be first at 9:00 and then security issues will follow at about 10:15 to l0:30.
Tomorrow the new CO Capt. Nash who is coming to take my place will be at this meeting.

John Aucott stated that in follow up of the ITEC Grant, Rhode Island was one of l2 grantees in the country for this innovative technology program. Bid specs should be moving out shortly.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-Capt. Swanberg
There will be a training exercise next week
There is also an exercise scheduled for June
Have established a good working relationship with Major Paul Pelletier

RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL-Peter Ginaitt-Spent l6 hours at TOPOFF 3 in Ct. Credit should be given to EMA and the first responders in the State's preparedness.
One of our neighbors to the South could only handle 31 patients in three hours. RI is very well prepared and very far ahead of other states.
Capt Landry stated that one thing that Connecticut has is existing evacuation plans that are exercised constantly due to the fact that Millstone is located there.

NACC NEWPORT-Lt. Wendy Walsh
Lt. Walsh will be taking Lt. Jeremy Wilkinson's place at the conference in Florida because he has been deployed. He was also working on a patient tracking system. She will see what information she can obtain at the conference and give us some input when she returns.

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND-Audra Dolan
At CCRI on May l7, 2005 I am hosting a training session at the Volunteer Reception Center which is in operation to manage spontaneous volunteers in case of an emergency.

RISP-Lt. Darren Delaney
Working with the Health Department concerning CDC and the MEDS Program. We are in the process of developing a Security Plan for the Warehouse and Distribution Program.

Dr. Cirillo stated that he will be working with the volunteer group to come up with some kind of an ID badge that can be shared.

John Aucott stated that RIEMA is working with a Middletown company called Antion. We are working with this company to come up with an Emergency Response ID card (Smart Card) following Homeland Security standards. We are moving towards getting an ID card for all l5, 000 state employees. It has been done in the DC, Maryland and Virginia areas, and we would like to do the same thing. John stated that he will be issuing a memo to all grantees requiring any grantee or sub-grantee that is using Homeland Security grant funds to follow this new standard.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY SECURITY-Bob Johnson
Continue to build our Private Security List which is almost done.
Working with John on increasing our training programs
Coast Guard has a new Waterways Program that they are rolling out this summer that we will have presentation for
We are keeping the communication going and getting the state training programs out to the private security companies.

RI POLICE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION-Chief Peter Brousseau-no report at this time

OSHIA-Robert J. Sestito
This is his first meeting so he has nothing to add at this time.

US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE-John Enright
Starting to focus more on recruitment issues. There is evidence of more and more instances of American citizens getting recruited into more fundamentalist forms of the Islamic religion, and then getting recruited by terrorist organizations. Now when we go out to train law enforcement folks, we are focusing on these recruitment issues. We have trained the entire Cranston Police Department and the training is now 4 hours, but it is expandable to 8 hours and it is offered to any law enforcement agency in the state. We have also done this training for the DPW Directors and DOT. We are going to tower a 1 hour training session to anyone who would like it especially around this table.

BROWN UNIVERSITY-Dr. Terrie Fox Wetle
We ran a MEDS clinic at Brown last Friday, and the scenario used a Q fever exposure in the library. We held a day long clinic to do a health assessment and prophylaxis exercise with students, faculty, and staff. This was a collaboration with the Department of Health, the Providence Emergency Management Agency and other first responder organizations. It included local neighborhood people and students from local schools who passed through the demonstration clinic. Representatives of FEMA, CDC, and DOH from Vermont were observers and evaluators. We wished we had more students passing through, but unfortunately it was Spring Weekend. It was a great experience and we learned a lot. It was somewhat different from the URI experiences where nursing and pharmacy students staffed the clinics. We used Brown staff from relevant departments to model what would happen in a real emergency. It was a great deal of work and a good heads up. We are doing a Hot Wash on May 5, 2005 at this time.

PROVIDENCE EMA-Leo Messier
I want to commend Brown University for stepping up to the plate on that drill. Every other college should do something similar to this.
Providence LEPC-Chief Dillon from the Providence Fire Department is doing a great job working with evacuation planning for the Port of Providence. On June 8th we will be having a major evacuation drill in the City.
We will also be using MMRS funding to obtain Reverse 911
We put out an RFP for an ID system for the City of Providence and this will also include our Red Cross trained volunteers, and our CERT volunteers. I would like to invite John and Dr. Cirillo to see these ID cards and make sure they follow standards and also see what this company has to offer.
We are also trying to do a Communication Drill.
We have received some Homeland Security funding for radios and some ham radios and we will be activating our EOC. No date has been set as of yet.

We also will have volunteers from the Salvation Army operating our ham radios.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS-Aaron Aldrich
Just graduated 40 new recruits
This brings us up to 1000 in uniformed strength which is a good resource for us.

RI DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY-Janice McClanaghan
Regional calls are over
Summer calls will start in June for electricity
Prices are still very high and will remain high
Terminals still report to us on a regular basis
Closed our fuel assisted program and we serviced 26,700 folks
We did 5700 emergency deliveries

FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION-Chief Robert Seltzer
Thanks to John Soscia and his crew the 2005 grant process is running smoothly
About one year ago we did Incident Management Team training for about 30 police, fire, EMA officials and the Civil Support Team. Since then we have not done much with it.
I brought this up at the Fire Chief's Association meeting and I have to speak to Chief Brousseau about this as well, but we would like to co-sponsor this with the Police Chief's Association to coordinate this effort. I spoke to John and he seems to be receptive to this.

E-911-Raymond LaBelle
We are going to be interfacing with the Transport Management Center very soon.
When we get a 911 call we will be able to activate the camera that covers that area, and when I get my CAD, I will be able to send this information to the local responders. We are in the process of putting together our purchasing information so we can get the equipment.
As far as Pictometry the pilot cities will be Providence, Warwick, Cranston, and Newport. When we get this, I am inviting all of you to come and see what it looks like on our screens.

GRANTS-John Soscia
For 2005 we started processing yesterday to do our initial spending and implementation plans which is basically reporting to the FEDS where everyone is going locally and statewide. It will be completed on Friday because Saturday is the deadline. As soon as we finish that, we will be able to start to generate the award letters to the locals about two weeks after we finish. State awards will also be coming out around the same time or maybe one week later. We finally received our extension for the 2003 grants at the end of last week. We will be sending a letter to the locals and state agencies with the new end dates. Training will be May 16-27th in conjunction with the State Threat Assessment Committee.

It is called the Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model. It is a comprehensive methodology and there are 2-4 spots left in this training. If anyone is interested or knows someone that is interested, pleases give me a call. Maximum is 30 students and we have about 25 now. The course is two full weeks. It is a military course and coming in from the Virginia National Guard. and it has been adopted by many states.

John Aucott stated that there will be an award ceremony probably in the next three weeks similar to what we did last year.

John Aucott-Six months ago Chief Brousseau made a motion to look at the application of the Rhode Island Open Meeting Laws to see if they apply to this body and they do. We have completed the steps necessary to file the Attorney General's and Secretary of State's Guidelines. Some steps include posting advertisements of meeting dates on the Secretary of State's website and also posting the minutes within ten days of the meeting date. We can call special meeting with 48 hours notice and also emergency meetings. We can go into Executive Session to discuss security sensitive information.

I attended a RIMUNI meeting and it has to do with municipal internet access. The DOH, Secretary of State's office, education and EMA are all contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to RIMUNI. It started as the Secretary of State's effort to help voters comply with the voting registration so that every city and town hall is connected to RIMUNI. The DOH and EMA are contributing funds to this project because of the connectivity can be expanded to connect other public safety entities within the jurisdiction.

<u>INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW PEOPLE-John Enright</u>
John introduced two new Homeland Security Protective Security Advisors-Douglas Pesce who will cover Connecticut and Rhode Island and Al Richmond who will cover Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. They are here to deal with critical infrastructure protection etc.
John Aucott welcomed them aboard

<u>RIDEM-Jim Ball</u>
Have been in school in Alabama and enjoyed it.

On June 2, 2005 at 8:30am there will be a full-scale exercise at the airport with all of the hospitals in the state, the airport, and FAA and they will simulate an air crash. A big component of this exercise will be the Family Assistance Center. On May 12, 2005 8:30 in the FIS Facility in the lower level there will be a Tabletop exercise.

The meeting was adjourned at l0:15am.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE MAY 24, 2005 AT 10:00.