

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: May 24, 2005

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

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

John Soscia	Acting Chair	RI EMA
Aaron Aldrich	Member	RI DOC
Dr. Ken Williams	Member	RI DOH
Raymond LaBelle	Member	E-911
Michael Mulhare	Member	RI DEM
Janice McClanaghan	Member	RI SEO
Darren Delaney	Member	RI SP
Chief Robert Warren	Member	Cranston Fire Dept.
Al Tardie	Member	Gov's Comm. on Dis.
Robert Johnson	Member	Private Security Assoc.
John Enright	Member	US Attorney's Office
Carol Kent	Member	MHRH
Chief Peter Brousseau	Member	RI Police Chief's Assoc.
Meredith Arnold	Alternate	HARI
Kim A. Mallett	Alternate	RI DOC
Wendy Walsh	Alternate	NACC Newport
Maria Wah-Fitta	Alternate	RI DOH
Robin Winemiller	Guest	Salvation Army
Audra Dolan	Guest	Volunteer Ctr. of RI
CDR Patrick Little	Guest	MSO Providence
Julie Mountain	Guest	Verizon

Members not in attendance:

<i>RI Dept of Transportation</i>	<i>RI COSH</i>
<i>Office of the Governor</i>	<i>URI</i>
<i>VA Medical Center</i>	<i>DOA/Division of Information Technology</i>
<i>Dept. of the Attorney General</i>	<i>USAR</i>
<i>Office of the Lt. Governor</i>	<i>American Red Cross</i>
<i>RI Disaster Initiative</i>	<i>Communications Working Group</i>
<i>Volunteer Working Group</i>	<i>Emergency Support Function Working Group</i>

The 43rd meeting of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee was called to order on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 10:00am.

1. The minutes of the April 26, 2005 meeting were reviewed, accepted, and passed.

2. Reports:

HAZMAT/ DECON TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP-Chief Robert Warren

Formed a committee to plan a multi-team drill in September in Newport Working on getting the Newport Navy Base Hazmat Team back up and running.

Cranston and Warwick teams were called out for an incident at the airport and West Warwick and Hope Valley teams were called out for an industrial accident in Westerly. Everything seemed to work out fine.

COMMUNITY WMD PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP (in abeyance)

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-not present

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-not present

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP-“Citizens Corp Council”-not present

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-not present

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE-(DOH/HARI)-Meredith Arnold

Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee last met on May 17, 2005.

Finally came to an agreement on the revised internal hospital emergency codes

We are adopting the HEICS format for these codes. Come January 2006 in each hospital when you hear a code red it will mean fire.

Next group to meet will be the Security Threat Working Group, and they will work on standardizing internal hospital codes for when the National Security threat levels change.

Tom Kilday and I continue to meet with the Rhode Island Health Centers and have met with 9 out of 12.

They are working on their search plans which are due on May 30, 2005.

We have worked on a third vendor for portable isolation units for hospitals and then it will go out to bid.

Each hospital will acquire a portable unit that will be set up to create negative pressure and isolation.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CRISIS MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
(MHRH)-Carol Kent**

We are preparing to participate in the airport exercise in the Southwest Family and Friends Center on June 2, 2005.

I am working on a format for the hospitals for behavioral health response in a search situation. We have some contract obligations that we are also working on.

Essentially it is ongoing projects including responding to the Governor on disabled individuals and how we are going to handle them in a disaster.

FEMA is also trying to put something together, and I hope that I will be able to use some of their information.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP-John Soccia

Equipment is still arriving on a weekly basis.

Training continues

They had canine certification one-two weeks ago which went very well.

As soon as the building in Scituate is completed, we will have a meeting there.

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) WORKING GROUP- John Soccia

32 of 39 municipal hospital Nextels have been distributed. These phones provide the capability for a first responder (Incident Commander, Transport Officer) to communicate directly with the hospital community over the Nextel Hospital Communications Network.

The protocol of use for the 39 municipal Nextels is currently being worked on by RIEMA, RIDOH and the Hospital Association of RI who together are making good progress toward a completed product.

The RI Disaster Initiative (RI DI) and Battelle hosted a Rhode Island Disaster Responder Conference this past Saturday, May 21, 2005 at the Crown Plaza. This event included capability briefings on a variety of organization like RIDI, the Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT), and the RI Critical Incident Stress Management Team, OSHA, Red Cross, Coast Guard, RI USAR and DMAT. This event also included equipment demonstrations from numerous agencies like the 13th CST, Warwick HAZ/MAT, TF Green MCI trailer, DMAT, Med Star from Connecticut and others. Many participants commented in favor of having this type of conference every year.

PORT SECURITY-CDR Patrick Little

Latest round of the port security grants have been announced.

This time they have limited who can participate in them, using the Army Corps of Engineers statistics who have limited it to the top 66 ports.

In the area, only the Port of Providence would be eligible.

On the flip side, they are allowing state and local agencies in the layer of defense of maritime facilities to compete for grants.

We have been running Maritime Security Level II drills.

Yesterday we did a Notification Drill of all the facilities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-Darren Delaney

The LNG is possibly no longer an issue with us.

Working with Davisville and the Coast Guard with our drug dogs when ships are coming in from overseas and docking at Davisville.

John Soscia mentioned that there is a Port Evacuation Tabletop Drill going on in Providence and the actual exercise will be on June 8, 2005.

Law Enforcement Team continues to train.

Swat Team is starting to get some of their equipment in

Most of the team will be working on the Airport Disaster Drill on June 2, 2005.

Update on Amber Alert-last week we signed an MOU with an organization called Amber and we will be using their technology which is free to us. We are now establishing training between E-911 and us. We are the first to have this in New England and second in the country.

OLD BUSINESS-John Soscia

FY05 Homeland Security Grant is still on tract and we have requested a date from the Governor's office hopefully in the first week of June, but have not received a date as of yet. They will be doing a presentation at a municipality to hand out the checks to the locals. Immediately following that we will be putting the actual documents in the mail. State awards should go out at the same time or perhaps one week later.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-Maria Wah-Fitta

We have the guidelines for the new Emergency Preparedness Grant.

It is for FY06 and goes from August to August and is basically based on drills and performance measures.

We are having a basic course on Risk Communications for Bioterrorism on June 8, 2005 which is open to anyone. On July 20, 2005 we are having a course in Risk Communications for residential type institutions such as colleges, universities and boarding schools. This is the first year of a five-year cycle.

HRSA Grant-Meredith Arnold

Last fiscal year and the year before, we received 2.6 millions dollars and now have been cut to 2.1 million dollars. There is about an 18% decrease in the grant funding. The focus is on training people NIMS in particular as opposed to buying equipment.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES-AI Tardie

I am concerned about the fact that no one from any agency has done anything to work with the people with disabilities in the time of an emergency.

TV goes on and the deaf community has no real time captioning.

During the Station Fire the Governor gave many press conferences and the deaf community had no idea what was going on.

John Soscia mentioned that there was a project in the works that was started here to obtain the translators etc, but unfortunately it was halted. John does not know why this was stopped.

Al Tardie mentioned that Providence is working very diligently on this problem, but Al's question is "why is not the State doing the same thing?" He has been complaining about this problem for the last four years, and nothing has been done in the last four years. John Soscia stated that he will pass it on up to the chain.

Maria Wah-Fitta mentioned that the DOH has what they call "Special Communications Population". In this group we are including anyone who is not able to understand and act accordingly to whatever instructions we are giving out. We are including the people whose first language is not English, mentally and physically disabled, etc. Maria would like to be involved in the Governor's Commission on Disabilities so that she can talk about it.

John Enright suggested that maybe we need to have another Subcommittee Working Group to address this problem.

John Soscia stated that perhaps it should be brought up at the next meeting of this Subcommittee.

Carol Kent stated that it should be an integrated kind of approach and all of us deal with different pieces of it.

Al Tardie mentioned that the Red Cross is very much on top of it.

John Soscia mentioned that he will make sure it is on next month's agenda.

E-911-Ray LaBelle

11 communities have been completed in Geo Coding.

Cranston followed by Pawtucket will be next two to be done.

As far as Pictometry, we are finally getting some download back feed from them. I am calling a meeting of selective communities including Providence, Cranston, Warwick and Newport with orientation on June 1st and/or June 2nd. When this is implemented, I invite all of you to come and see the technology.

RI ENERGY OFFICE-Janice McClanaghan

This week we started our summer electricity calls with the region.

Tomorrow ISO New England is doing a practice call-in number for emergency electricity.

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND- Audra Dolan

On May 17, 2005 had some training at the CCRI Volunteer Reception Center. 15 people came half of which were teenagers and the other half were adults.

I am also going to hold the same training again on June 15, 2005 at the North Smithfield EOC. Audra was asked how this training was advertised. She stated that she advertised this in the Valley Breeze, Woonsocket Call, and Providence Journal and put postings in some of the libraries. Since it is not an area that I am familiar with, it is difficult to know who to contact. John Enright suggested that we give notice to the Police and Fire Departments.

Ray LaBelle suggested getting the announcements to the Police and Fire Chief's Associations.

John Soscia suggested that we could help by blast faxing because we have many different people listed on our Blast Fax Contact List.

US ATTORNEY's OFFICE-John Enright

The frustration that we are dealing with from the ATAC perspective is not be able to do as much training as we did last year.

I am hearing from the Police Chiefs that they don't have the overtime money to get their people trained.

We are doing pretty close to nothing in training to make people aware in how to prevent this stuff.

In regard to the Port Security grants leaving out Point Judith and Newport, they are leaving out our biggest economic piece of this state which is tourism. For them to not get any money for security especially with the targets that are there like the cruise ships and ferries etc. is unfortunate.

The Private Security Network is starting an initiative with ATAC. Hopefully we will work out training to make it more feasible and reachable for the Private Security Network. We trained a number of first responders, and now we are going to set up a training program that will reach more private security people.

POLICE Chief's ASSOCIATION-Chief Peter Brousseau

John Enright and I have had a few discussions about awareness training. The Association is aware that this is a problem and hopefully we will get more law enforcement training. Overtime is certainly a major stumbling block.

NACC -NEWPORT-Lt Wendy Walsh

Attended a NDMS Conference in late April in Florida, and we looked at a patient tracking system which is a very efficient system. Presentations occurred reporting the results of the Northwest Regional Exercise that took place called the "Ultimate Cadeusus 2005". It is a web tracking system called IRIS (Incident Response Information System). Meredith Arnold suggested that Lt. Walsh get in touch with Dr. Cirillo to discuss the system she saw and also learn about what he has been working on.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH/EMS-Dr. Ken Williams

We also attended the NDMD Conference and together in one session we presented five papers on the results of the research project. RI DMAT Team was there in force and we had about 20 people there. It was a good training and network opportunity. Saturday had about 200 people attend from many of your agencies involved in presenting the basic format with a couple of briefings in the morning and some keynote things. We had comments from Senator Chafee and Congressman Langevin at lunch. We also had outside demos set up with everything from the RI CST, Red Cross, and DMAT. In the afternoon we had three panels that were 15-minute short briefings stating this is my agency and this is what we do and it was coordinated through Nathan Rodgers from EMA. Several people commented afterwards saying that we should make this into an annual event. Our RIDI/Lifeguard EMS vehicle is almost done and should be on the road in a month or two.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS-Aaron Aldrich

Aaron introduced Kim Mallett who will be an alternate at this meeting. Aaron asked if the Department of Corrections would be activated at the Airport Drill on June 2nd. Darren Delaney suggested that Aaron call Chris Mathieson at the Warwick Police Department who is coordinating the drill with Capt. Swanberg.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

**NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY,
JUNE 28, 2005 AT 10:00AM.**

