

From: Eva M. Zito

Recording Secretary

Date: June 28, 2005

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

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

John Soscia Acting Chair RIEMA

Aaron Aldrich Member RIDOC

Patrick Lynch Member Lt. Governor's Office

Ray LaBelle Member E-911

William Sharkey Member Dept. of the Attorney General

Michael Mulhare Member RIDEM

Robert Patton Member VA Medical Center

Howard Boksenbaum Member DOIT

Al Tardie Member Governor's Comm. on Disabilities

Carol Kent Member MHRH

Peter Marinucci Alternate Providence EMA

Capt. James Swanberg Alternate RISP

Tim Howe Alternate RISEO

Lt. Wendy Walsh Alternate NHCNE

Joseph Corrente Alternate Governor's Comm. on Disabilities

Meredith Arnold Alternate HARI

Peter Leary Alternate RIDOH

Robin Winemiller Guest Salvation Army

Lori Adamo Guest Code Red Business

Audra Dolan Guest VCRI

Maryann Medeiros Guest USDOL-OSHA

Members not in attendance:

RI Dept. of Transportation RI Police Chief's Association

RI Fire Chief's Association RI State Fire Marshal

Governor's Office Hazmat Technical Working Group

RI Disaster Initiative American Red Cross

RICOSH Brown University

URI USAR

US Coast Guard Dept of Justice

Private Security Association House of Representatives/Lifespan

The 44th meeting of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee was called to order on Tuesday, June 28, 2005 @ 10:05 am.

1. The minutes of the May 24, 2005 meeting were reviewed, accepted, and passed.

2. Reports:

HAZMAT/DECON TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP-not present

**COMMUNITY WMD PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP (in
abeyance)**

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-not present

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-Howard Boksenbaum

Keeping account of four things right now

The Washington County piece of the 800 MHz interoperable radio system that we envision for the whole state should be operating by the Fall.

There is also interest in grant money that is waiting to be spent. As soon as we get the Washington County infrastructure in, it will be expanded north to Warwick and West Warwick. We also started to get some serious interest in Aquidneck Island to Tiverton and Little Compton. The rebanding has also led us to all the licenses that the state owns. We are probably in the middle of our first ever inventory of radios that are located at DOC, Transportation etc. We are helping Providence to apply for their COPS grant.

RINET-Muni is also going along, and the Help America Voter Registry is up and running in all the municipalities. There are some technical things to be ironed out with vital records. Finishing up with a broader study of telecommunications throughout the State.

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP/CITIZENS CORP COUNCIL-not present

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-Mike Mulhare
Nothing to report at this time.**

**HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING
COMMITTEE-DOH/HARI-Meredith Arnold**

Last meeting was held on June 21, 2005. At that time the members of the HPPC began to review a grid of the grant guidelines for the HRSA for this upcoming year. That is in the process of being finalized and the HPPC members are offering their input and questions and comments to Tom Kilday who is writing the grant. That delivery date deadline is July 13, 2005.

At that meeting they were shown the final version of the hospital emergency codes and Meredith passed around a sample. Each hospital will have their personal call letters. They are in print at the present time, and then will be distributed to the hospitals. The deadline for implementation statewide is January 2006. Under this next grant year the HRSA grant will help to provide ID badges for all the employees and healthcare workers to attach to their photo ID with the codes imprinted on them as well.

Part II of these statewide emergency codes is we would like to work with EMS people. Second meeting of the Security Threat Working Group met about two weeks ago. We are in the process of standardizing the security threat levels for hospital generic

procedures. The Homeland Security people are going to change the yellows, greens, blues, oranges and reds to only three categories. We are trying to select three categories from day to day operations.

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

I have been working with HPPC and we are developing some guidelines as to where Behavioral Health input will be needed in a surge event within a hospital. There are several points either in support of the victims, families or hospital staff where a Behavioral Health Support Group will be needed. They will be reviewing this as they do their surge capacity planning.

MHRH is also part of that funding plan in HRSA and with the CDC monies they will continue to fund us. This will allow us to do some additional training for the hospitals. We did participate in the airport exercise on June 2, 2005, and all of these exercises are a learning experience. We will be working on some protocols for the Family Assistance Center. We set a date to begin some Red Cross training in August for some of our membership.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP-not present

John Soscia stated that they still are continuing to receive equipment and training.

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT WORKING GROUP (MCI)-not present

John Soscia stated that they are working on an AED problem. The

manufacturer recalled most of them because they were defective, and they are working on getting new ones. One of the Mass Casualty trailers was on standby at the Air Show in support of the DMAT team.

PORT SECURITY-not present

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-Capt. Swanberg

Had training on June 13, 2005 up at the old Bridgewater State Prison. Still receiving equipment and as it comes in, we are training with it.

HAZMAT/DECON WORKING GROUP-not present

John Soscia stated that they are continuing their monthly meetings and training.

OLD BUSINESS-John Soscia

We had hoped that the FY05 Homeland Security Grant would be out by now, but they are not. They were held up because we had to complete our federal reporting first. Bi-annual reporting is going on right now in Classroom A. Locals know what they are getting, but the state agencies do not. If you want that information now, I will be glad to give it to you.

NEW BUSINESS-John Soscia

Discussion:

At the last meeting there was a discussion about starting a Disabled Persons Working Group and it is put on the agenda for this meeting.

We would like to discuss or make a motion on creating this group. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to create this working group. We should think about naming a Chairman.

Mr. Tardie will not be here for a few months, and therefore feels that he would not be a good choice at this time because he will not be able to attend the meetings. There should be someone from the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, RIEMA, Providence EMA and other state agencies be on this working group. Providence has done a lot in the past on this so maybe we can piggyback from what they and others have done. Joe Corrente from the Governor's Commission on Disabilities has asked to be on this Committee. Carol Kent also suggested that MHRH should also be on this Committee. John Soscia suggested that a small core have a meeting in the very near future to talk about expanded membership of this group to make sure that all points are covered. Al Tardie stated that nothing has been done for the hearing impaired. Sometimes Real Time Captioning comes on but not all the time. Mentally disabled are also overlooked tremendously. We just had an incident with Amber Alert which was beautiful on TV but there was no interpreter. Meredith stated that Maria Wah-Fitta from the Department of Health asked to be a member of this group. John Soscia stated that he would reach out to the people we have mentioned and try to set up a meeting of this group within the next two weeks. Al suggested that John Enright who showed interest in this group be included along with E-911. Wendy Walsh stated that at the conference in Florida in May there was a speaker that spoke on this very same issue. Wendy stated that

she can look up her name because she could be a good resource. She is based out of Florida with the Department of Health. Al Tardie stated that at the airport exercise there was a gentleman who posed as being deaf looking for his daughter, and the first responders and the others that were there was a total atrocity.

John Soscia stated that he has two other orders of new business. There was a vote on the table to make a representative from Providence as an actual voting member of this Committee. A representative has been sitting at these meetings since its inception and it was thought to be a good idea to have he/she as a voting member. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to have Providence be a voting member of this Committee.

New England Disaster Recovery Information Exchange-Lori Adamo (member)

John Soscia stated that General Centracchio and EMA are very much in support of NEDRIX and we are partners in it along with the public and private sector. Lori gave an overview of exactly what NEDRIX is all about. It is a non-profit organization. They have asked Lori to take the lead with RIEMA to put this private/public initiative together. NEDRIX's role is to provide training, seminars, and conferences and anything to do with disaster recovery and business continuity and safety planning in the business sector. It allows businesses that are members to receive quick notification if there is any disruption or danger that these businesses need to engage their business

continuity or contingency plans. This is basically done through the e-mail system. Automated notification system provided by Envoy Worldwide Systems which has donated their time and services to put this notification system together. It connects to the folks who are members. If there were an event like the snow that we had last year, a Committee would come in and sit at RIEMA and answer the phones for businesses who have questions to ask about their plans. We are now putting together materials so that we can outreach to the business world and tell them what NEDRIX is all about and it is free to be a member. We have one problem here in Rhode Island we have to add to our membership list. We now have 45 people involved but some businesses have more than one representative. We need your help to spread the word. We are now putting together the NEDRIX Guide to Rhode Island Resources.

OSHA-Maryann Medeiros

Maryann spoke about her having lists of the safety people throughout the State. They would probably be the businesses that would be most interested in NEDRIX.

E-911-Ray Labelle

The Pictometry training for the pilot cities has been postponed to the middle of July. I have legislation pending at the State House that will coerce the carriers to pay the surcharge in a more timely basis. We have also added a prepay surcharge. It passed the Senate two weeks ago and I go before the House Finance Committee this afternoon. It

looks like it will be smooth sailing.

SALVATION ARMY-Robin Winemiller

Nothing to report at this time.

PROVIDENCE EMA-Peter Marinucci

We continue to work with developing the MMRS deliverables. Just completed the plan that I will submit to the Feds. and hopefully they will review it quickly and release the funds. The Steering Committee on MMRS meets monthly and hopefully the Plan will be completed by December 2005. We are also working with Dr. Combs and Dr. Ken Williams to resolve the issue of the protocols so that the EMT's can carry certain meds in their rescues. On June 8, 2005 Providence LEPC #5 had an evacuation drill which was aimed at the businesses at the port. This exercise went very well. FEMA also exercised the new ID system that we are putting in place and created ID's for spontaneous volunteers at the scene. Looking into putting sirens as a warning system in the city We are purchasing the Reverse 911 system. John Soscia thanked Peter and Leo for being so proactive and doing such a great job in Providence.

John Soscia also welcomed Patrick Lynch from the Lt. Governor's office to the meeting today. Patrick stated that if there is anything that the Lt. Governor can help with, please call Patrick at 222-5388.

Meredith Arnold asked if a test had been done on the Nextel system.

John Soscia stated that there is one more phone to be delivered to Block Island and then we can schedule a test.

Ray Labelle asked about the new Mobile Command Post. John stated that it is in located in Massachusetts at the dealership. It should be here by Thursday but will be located at the Scituate Warehouse, and it cannot be moved until it is registered. There will be a full week of training on the technology that is inside. We will then pass that training on to locals that will be using it.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.