

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: September 27, 2005

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

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

Al Tardie	Member	Gov. Comm. On Disabilities
John E. Aucott	Member	RIEMA
John Enright	Member	US Attorney's Office
Dr. Selim Suner	Member	RI DMAT/RIDI
Carol Kent	Member	MHRH
Dr. Terrie Fox Wetle	Member	Brown University
Peter Marinucci	Member	Providence EMA
Michael Mulhare	Member	RIDEM
Peter Popko	Member	USCG
Nami Moghadam	Member	RIDOT
Aaron Aldrich	Member	Dept. of Corrections
Chief Robert Seltzer	Member	Fire Chief's Association
Candy Cook	Member	RIDOH
William Sharkey	Member	RIAG
Nathan Rodgers	Alternate	RIEMA
Meredith Arnold	Alternate	HARI
Tim Howe	Alternate	RI State Energy Office
Joseph Corrente	Alternate	Gov. Comm. On Disabilities
Ron Pigeon	Alternate	USCG
Maria Wah-Fitta	Alternate	RIDOH
Maryann Medeiros	Guest	USDOL/OSHA
Audra Dolan	Guest	Volunteer Center of RI
Douglas J. Pesce	Guest	Dept. of Homeland Security

Members not in attendance:

Governor's Office
Ambulance Services Advisory Board
RICOSH
URI
VA Medical Center
Urban Search and Rescue
E-911
VA Medical Center

Office of the Lt. Governor
RI Police Chief's Assoc.
RISP
Office of the Fire Marshal
Hazmat Tech Working Group
American Red Cross
Naval Amb. Care Center Newport
RI House of Rep/Lifespan

The 47th meeting of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee was called to order by our new chairman Robert J. Warren at 10:05 am.

1. Chairman Warren thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
2. Minutes of the August 23rd meeting were reviewed, accepted, and passed.

Discussion- Bob Warren

We had 60 people on the ground working in Louisiana and Mississippi which included our Hazmat/Decon and Search and Rescue teams. They left to go there right after the storm. John and I worked all weekend monitoring the events and their requests. Everyone is safe and no injuries are reported at this point. The last team is leaving this afternoon and should be home on Friday night.

HAZMAT/DECON TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP-Bob Warren

Rick Ski the Fire Captain from West Warwick will be taking over this working group. He is currently deployed with the USAR team in Louisiana. He had his first meeting as Chairman last month, and they are moving forward on some issues.

COMMUNITY WMD PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP (in abeyance)

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-not present

Have done a lot of work with Patty over the past few weeks getting an Emergency Declaration from the Governor from this State so that we could tie into the Louisiana Declaration that has been done.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-Howard Boksenbaum

Communications Working Group has not met since the last meeting. There has been a great deal of progress made with the 800 MHz radios. Rinet-Muni will be participating in the Cox Workshop for municipalities which will give a I28 connection for networking to any community. Workshops begin tomorrow in Newport, and then there is a series of three more. We will have a meeting of the user's group which will take place the third week of October.

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP-Audra Dolan

VOAD has been meeting informally. First formal meeting will be on October 20, 2005.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-Mike Mulhare

This group has not met recently. This group has not been active because several of the ESF's would not come to the meetings, (primarily the ESF's represented by EMA). I suggested that Director Warren and I meet in the near future to discuss the mission of the work group.

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE (DOH/HARI)-

Meredith Arnold

This committee last met on September 20, 2005.

First part of the meeting was spent receiving updates from the Health Department on the Rhode Island initiatives with hurricanes, especially Hurricane Katrina. Still perusing vendors and protocols for an electronic based tracking system for patient tracking.

In the second part of that meeting we unanimously approved the new standardized protocols for Homeland Security threat levels for hospitals.

HPPC had come together to come up with some standardized protocols for when the Homeland Security threat levels change.

We took different colors and made some combinations of those colors and we divided them into four levels. Meredith passed around a paper explaining all this.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CRISIS MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

(MHRH)-Carol Kent

We are still very busy down in Middletown at the Resource Center.

We have put in over 1300 hours in response to Katrina with State personnel and community-based agency personnel.

We will be in a transition point by the end of this week and need to shift it to the local providers.

Have had an opportunity to apply for some Federal funds and the application is due this Thursday to extend it out another eight weeks.

This FEMA money is to provide outreach and education to those people who have experienced trauma.

Putting together a program that will work out of the “Duplex” in Middletown where most of the activity goes on. We will continue to provide support groups there and they are being staffed by the Newport County Mental Health Center. We have already trained about 350-400 people.

There is a big difference with the needs of those who arrived on the plane and the self evacuees. We have 195 people living at Anchorage Housing, 13 people have already left, and there are 40 children in daycare and public schools.

Dr. Suner mentioned that there is another group of people who came here and have fallen through the cracks. They are those who have come here with their own resources who have family members here and they are not registered.

Candy Cook mentioned that Dr. Gifford put out a plan to all the practitioners reminding them that the evacuees have to register with Red Cross in order to have benefits.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP-Not present

Bob Warren stated that they are doing great work down there. They have been training for a few years now, and when they got the “thumbs up” to go, they went. John Aucott processed the paperwork, and they were on their way. Now they are on their way back and should arrive by Friday.

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) WORKING GROUP-Nathan Rodgers

We have implemented the MCI plan statewide through our local respond teams. We are now testing the Nextels on a monthly basis, the next one being on October 11, 2005 @ 11:00am.

There was one Nextel given to each community

We are planning a meeting this fall, and we will discuss equipment and planning issues and exercises, of course, are always ongoing.

John Aucott mentioned that one of the suggestions of the Station Fire After Action Report was that there is a need for a State Family Assistance Center Plan. There is a need to get together with the Department of Health, Red Cross, and EMA to do this.

PORT SECURITY-Peter Popko

Peter introduced Ron Pigeon who is a planner from the USCG office.

Full scale oil spill response exercise plan has been postponed because of Katrina until the week of February 13, 2006.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-not present

4. OLD BUSINESS-Peter Popko/Peter Marinucci

Entire Port of Providence received a 1.9 million dollar grant to purchase equipment that will increase their security capabilities.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES-AI Tardie

I have been incapacitated for the past few months.

I talked to John, and he mentioned something about a Subcommittee Working Group that would address the issues of the people with disabilities.

John Aucott stated that this past Friday a Disabled Working Group was created.

AI Tardie mentioned that he has some suggestions for a Chair of this group.

Dr. Suner suggested that this working group should be for the special needs population and the elderly.

Bob Warren suggested that we call this group the **DISABLED AND ELDERLY PERSONS WORKING GROUP**.

5. NEW BUSINESS-Nathan Rodgers

There will be a WMD tabletop exercise on October 19, 2005.

There will be a full-scale exercise at Barrington High School on October 18, 2005.

There will be a tabletop exercise at URI on October 20, 2005

We have five communities lined up for tabletop exercises between now and the end of this year.

Rhode Island is looking to host a Region I Homeland Security exercise in Newport in either December or early 2006.

Nathan was asked if the exercise calendar be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE-John Enright

Flyer is passed out regarding a seminar for Anti-Terrorism Training Seminar being held at Roger Williams University in conjunction with the US Attorney's Office on November 7, 2005. (flyer passed out by John) It is being held for law enforcement and private security and anyone here that would like to attend or key people that would like to go please register. The fee is \$50.00 which includes breakfast and lunch. It is about five hours of instruction and similar to what my office has been doing around the state.

We have put out a bulletin more specific to law enforcement and more generic for the private security industry.

In the last three-four months there has been significant video taping one individual in Connecticut and two significant incidents in Massachusetts during the summer. There were two significant incidents right after the bombings in London here in Rhode Island. In all of these incidents, there were no direct ties to any terrorist organizations. I would like to stress that when you look at more of the secure facilities, you very rarely see security outside. When I arrive at most places, I never see security until I come to the gate or go inside the building. The surveillance is happening outside. This has been more significant than I have seen in the past three years.

RIDMAT-Dr. Selim Suner

The team has been active since the Sunday before Katrina and the initial team got deployed and was standing by when Katrina hit in Baton Rouge, and responded to that. A second team was then activated. We could not have done it without the Medical Reserve Corps. I would like to thank the State and the Department of Health for all their help. They are still on alert and have not been stood down even though there are no assets out of the State at this time, and everyone is back home safely.

PROVIDENCE EMA-Peter Marinucci

We have received over six million dollars for the 800 MHz system.

We had an MCI exercise drill at Providence Place Mall on 9.18.05.

It was organized by Providence EMA, Providence Fire Department, and others.

Have a new ID system for all city employees.

Continue to work on the MMRS program.

Have completed the two year Sustainment plan and it has been accepted by the regional project manager. We should be getting some additional funds. If you are one of these people that belongs to this group, please attend the meeting on Thursday @ 10:00am.

RI ENERGY OFFICE-Tim Howe

Prices are increasing and the Government is changing our budget everyday.

Residential gas has increased 19% over the last year.

Oil has practically doubled.

Question is asked whether these evacuees have heat and utilities in their facilities or are they going to be on heating assistant programs.

Bob Warren stated that the Governor's office is working on a lease with GMH, but as of last week it had not been signed.

FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION-Chief Robert Seltzer

During the Katrina incident the First Chief's Association stood up a Fire Chief's Resource Center here at EMA, and we generated a list of 85 fire people available and ready to be deployed to the South if they needed assistance. That list is still active, but we have not had any requests for them. We had some fire fighters involved in the USAR Team, and a lot in the DECON teams as well. We will continue to offer this assistance to EMA in the future, but I feel that it went fairly well for the first time around.

BROWN UNIVERSITY-Dr. Terrie Fox Wetle

Brown has been hosting about 140 displaced students, faculty, and staff. As part of this hosting we have been providing housing, computers and whatever is needed.

Just had a faculty member arrive yesterday with two pairs of blue jeans and a sun dress.

A "Warm Coat Drive" is underway and we have delivered eight cartons of clothing to the local Red Cross for distribution in Middletown and anywhere else it is needed. We have some people with special expertise who have been called upon and we have been providing information to the special committee on aging about vulnerable population, nursing home population and elders and some of the difficulties faced. Also, we have a group of medical students who are working with Habitat for Humanity who volunteered to go down and help rebuild a medical clinic.

Audra wanted to say that on the volunteer center's web site we have been posting any volunteer needs or efforts in relation to Katrina. If you have a clothing drive, we will post it for you.

Dr. Suner asked if we are really ready to receive volunteers in this State. This was one of the largest problems that he saw when he was down there. It was the haphazard handling of volunteers that came in. Some of it was organized but a great deal of it was not. I am wondering if this group can do something about that.

Audra Dolan stated that the Volunteer Center of RI can set up a Volunteer Reception Center specifically to handle spontaneous volunteers.

Dr. Suner stated that it is a bigger issue than just setting up a center because there are medical law issues that come in, licensing issues that come in, nursing licensing issues, fire fighters who come in and many other issues.

Carol Kent stated that there is a whole group working on this headed by Dr. Cirillo. Dr. Suner stated that there were medical personnel from hospitals that just set up in the parking lot and were seeing patients. I think between the DOH and EMA there

should be some statewide clearing house for volunteers including medical, nursing, fire and the issues that go along with that.

Bob Warren stated that we have to look at that and that another issue is the donation issue here which needs to be worked on. We definitely need to get a donation branch setup sooner by this agency. This is one of the things that we will ask Michelle to get going.

John Aucott also stated that the Volunteer and Donation Management branch must be addressed.

Also would like to say that this was the largest deployment in the history of EMAC where over 29,000 individuals were down in Louisiana and Mississippi through EMAC.

I have read that there has been a lot of money for Homeland Security and they have forgotten about natural hazards. In Rhode Island we have developed a capacity that can respond to not only terrorism but also natural disasters. Four of our DECON teams were funded, developed and trained because of the threat of terrorism and to respond to a nerve agent attack or mustard gas attack. This time they were actually deployed to a natural hazard incident and this is a great example of dual use and how our Homeland Security Strategy in RI has increased our overall capacity to respond. Same thing for the USAR team.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 am.

**NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 25, 2005 AT 10:00 AM.**

