

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: January 24, 2006

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

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

Robert J. Warren	Member	RIEMA
Patrick A. Lynch	Member	Office of the Lt. Governor
Mike Mulhare	Member	RIDEM
Paul Choquette	Member	Gov's Commission on Disabilities
Howard Boksenbaum	Member	DOIT
Aaron Aldrich	Member	Dept. of Corrections
Peter Marinucci	Member	Providence EMA
Peter Popko	Member	USCG
Dr. Selim Suner	Member	RI-DMAT/RIDI
Chief Peter Brousseau	Member	RI Police Chief's Association
Chief Robert Seltzer	Member	RI Fire Chief's Association
Rep. Peter T. Ginaitt	Member	Lifespan
Robert Johnson	Member	Private Security
Robert Patton	Member	VA Medical Center
Dana Cernigliaro	Alternate	Brown University
Capt. James Swanberg	Alternate	RISP
Meredith Arnold	Alternate	HARI
Al Tardie	Alternate	Gov's Commission on Disabilities
Binyamin I. Efreom	Alternate	Gov's Commission on Disabilities
Jim Benz	Alternate	US Secret Service
Tim Howe	Alternate	RI Energy Office
Elaina Goldstein	Guest	URI College of Pharmacy
Marie Strauss	Guest	RI Department of Elderly
Gary Friedman	Guest	RIEMA
Audra Dolan	Guest	Volunteer Center of RI
Jeffrey Worley	Guest	Alcatel(Venda)

Members not in attendanc:

Department of Health
Department of the Attorney General
Office of the Governor
Ambulance Services Advisory Board
RICOSH
Naval Ambulance Care Center Newport
Department of Justice(ATTF)

Department of Transportation
RI State Fire Marshal
American Red Cross of RI
RI Health Center Association
E-911
Urban Search and Rescue

The 51st Meeting of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Robert J. Warren at 10:00am.

1. No new introductions at this meeting.
2. Minutes of the December 27, 2005 were reviewed, accepted, and passed.
3. **REPORTS:**

HAZMAT/DECON WORKING GROUP-Robert Warren

They are rewriting some of their agreements that they have with EMA.

There have been some training issues in a few communities

They are now going to have some bench marks that they have to meet.

They have been complaining about RIEMA not paying the bills in a timely fashion.

Rep. Peter Ginaitt mentioned that the hospitals are not part of this group but would be happy to sit on it and work together.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-Howard Boksenbaum

800MHz interoperable radio system is working well.

North Providence is in it's design stage.

South County is able to move into the East Bay to some extent.

Antenna's are up to extend coverage there.

Antenna has been put up on top of CCRI.

The FCC is requiring all MHz licenses to revamp to remove their frequencies because of the deal they have made with Jamestown.

Looking at the grant from RIEMA the project after this would be to hire the same engineering consultant that did Washington County.

We will revisit the protocols and probably taking a look at all the MOA's between the five state agencies.

Had put together a power point presentation in December, and it is now out of date.

We will be meeting to bring this up to date.

Peter Popko mentioned that the Coast Guard will become part of that system for coverage on the bay for safety and response operations.

Bob Warren mentioned that RIEMA will also be on line and his vehicle is now a part of the South County system for the time being.

Block Island also has coverage.

Chief Brousseau stated that everything has been ordered for West Warwick and will probably be online in the next few months.

Providence will fill in the gap.

Howard mentioned that geographically we now cover 45% of the state and by the time Chief Brousseau and Chief Spaziano hook up there will be about 90-95% coverage.

Mike Mulhare mentioned that he had a call yesterday and was offered a cell tower on Escoheag Hill Road. They wanted to know if DEM wanted it. The deadline for the answer is this coming Thursday.

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

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-Mike Mulhare

Attended a meeting of the North East Nuclear Waste Transportation Task Force last month which was very educational.

One thing presented from the Dept of Energy was a Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program which has been linked with DHS, and they are going to provide training dealing with low level radiation incidents. Mike stated that he would give the information to Bob on this.

Bob stated that there is a meeting on Friday with RIEMA and DOT, and we will look at the transportation support functions.

Gray Friedman stated that ESF 14 and 15 currently are military and behavioral. In order to realign with the National Response Plan, we will have to remove those. They are tentatively earmarked to be 18 and 19.

Bob stated that we are working on getting the old State EOP Plan out to everyone because we found out that some agencies do not have it. As changes are made, we can send them to everyone.

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE (DOH/HARI)

Meredith Arnold

Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee met on January 17, 2006.

In follow up of the Domestic Preparedness Meeting in December, we did put together a working group represented by police, fire, and State Police to talk about the hospital emergency codes.

The group came up with common language for definitions of the codes.

We will next make posters for all fire, police, and State Police in RI so they will have hard copy references to the hospital internal codes.

We also developed some common language for the hospital to use when they are calling to the State Police, fire, or local police regarding bombs, hostages etc.

Satellite phones are in the process of being installed in all hospitals, and I believe that as of this date, two have been completed. This will be another redundant system for communications for emergency preparedness.

In regards to regional planning for the Pandemic Influenza the Health Department is beginning their visits to the four volunteer hospitals.

The Rhode Island Diversion Plan which is regulated by the Department of Health will be changing their terminology to be in line with NIMS.

Bob Johnson stated that the Private Security Group has an extensive e-mail network, and when the bomb threats occurred they actually communicated with all the hospital security directors. One of the facilities that the Private

Security Group covers is Pawtucket Memorial, and they received 5-6 calls from an individual during the Christmas holidays saying that he was going to come in and kill some children in Pediatrics. We still have their Pediatric Unit in lockdown. In the future if this information comes to private security, we will send it out to all the hospitals very quickly. Westerly Hospital is the only one that we do not have a contact person.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CRISIS MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE (MHRH)-not present

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP-not present

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) WORKING GROUP –not present

PORT SECURITY-Peter Popko

There was a Port Security Grant Conference last month in Boston. They did announce the next round of grants for Port Security might be coming up this month.

We will be coordinating with EMA to make sure that we have a good plan. They are really stressing cooperative efforts and a new port wide risk assessment program.

MSO Providence will be merging with the USCG Group Woods Hole probably at the end of February into what will be called Sector Southeastern New England, and the current Commanding Officer of MSO Providence, Captain Roy Nash, will become the new commander of the Sector.

Major Oil Spill Response Exercise is coming up starting on February 13, 2006 here at EMA for player/participant pre-exercise training.

We will stand up the Unified Command on February 16, 2006 to deal with real-time oil-spill related issues.

Anyone interested in participating or observing in this exercise, Peter has some information and registration forms with him to fill out and return to him.

March 15, 2006 Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England will conduct a command post exercise to test the processes and communications needed to raise regional security levels.

Next RI Port Safety and Security Committee meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2006. Location and agenda will follow.

The Coast Guard has been working with the Narragansett Police Department to become part of the state's 800 Mhz radio system. With both base stations and portable radio units, the Coast Guard will be able to communicate with state and local agencies throughout Narragansett Bay.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-Capt Jim Swanberg

Had a meeting earlier this week at USAR Headquarters in Scituate. Passed out some equipment that had come in.

This past week they had the team practice some tactics at the Kent County Courthouse.

During the school vacation in February they will be practicing at LaSalle Academy in Providence.

In March there will be training at another location.

ELDERLY AND DISABLED WORKING GROUP-Paul Choquette

First meeting was held on January 23, 2006 and it went well.

There was a discussion of issues and concerns for elders and people with disabilities in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning. We will be working on a registration system. DOH is working on updating their system, and we will try to get involved with that.

Next meeting is on February 27, 2006, and we will be focusing on the development of priorities.

FAMILY RESOURCE WORKING GROUP- not present

4. OLD BUSINESS-none at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS- Rep. Peter Ginaitt

Nathan and Rep. Peter Ginaitt talked about a Central Calendar of all pending events like training and exercises.

This would be a good thing to put on the web site as to what the event is, what the duration of the event is, and what the goals and objectives are so that people can make a decision if they want to take part in it so there are no conflicts.

Bob mentioned that we are looking for a new alternate EOC. If anyone has a site that could be used, please let us know.

Bob stated that last week he went to the Bahamas. The State National Guard is involved with a partnership program. They want these Guard units in each state to go out and work with these people to try to advocate democracy. Rhode Island has been assigned the Bahamas and in March EMA has been assigned to teach down there for two days.

Bob also stated that Captain Manning here runs the program, and that some of the EMA Staff will be going down to offer some advice and expertise. If anyone has a program that they would like to present on preparedness please let me know. General Enright is really involved in this and wants EMA to get involved.

RIEMA is also switching over shortly from the National Guard Secure System to the State Secure System. There is some work to be done in the building which the General has approved. The State is hiring a new web master, and he will be involved in our web programs.

Audra Dolan is returning back to school and we wish her well.

Joshua Hussey will be taking over for her group, and he will be attending these meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 11.13.06.

**NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28,
2006 @10:00AM.**