

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: April 25, 2006 @ 10:00 am

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

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

Robert J. Warren	Member	RIEMA
Robert Johnson	Member	BV Security
Carol Kent	Member	MHRH
Janet Essex	Member	Governor's Office
Aaron Aldrich	Member	Dept. of Corrections
Paul Choquette	Member	Gov. Commission on Disabilities
Chief Robert Seltzer	Member	RI Association of Fire Chiefs
Chief Peter Brousseau	Member	RI Police Chief's Association
Peter Ginaitt	Member	RI Hospital
Patrick Lynch	Member	Office of the Lt. Governor
Robert Patton	Member	Providence VA Medical Center
Nathan Rodgers	Alternate	RIEMA
Gregory Scungio	Alternate	E-911
William Gasbarro	Alternate	E-911
Meredith Arnold	Alternate	HARI
John E. Aucott	Alternate	RIEMA
Tom Kilday	Alternate	DOH
Todd Manni	Alternate	Providence EMA
Ronald Pigeon	Alternate	USCG
Binyamin I. Efreom	Alternate	Gov. Commission on Disabilities
Darren Delaney	Alternate	RISP
Mazen Alsage	Alternate	RI DOT
Matthew O. Pani	Guest	RIEMA
Gary Friedman	Guest	RIEMA
Joseph Cournoyer	Guest	RIEMA
Robin Winemiller	Guest	Salvation Army/Special Signals
Maryann Medeiros	Guest	OSHA
Amanda Milkovits	Guest	Providence Journal

Members not in Attendance:

RI Dept. of Attorney General
RI State Fire Marshal
RI Dept of Environmental Mgt.
Hazmat Tech. Working Group
RI Disaster Initiative
URI
Communications Working Group
Urban Search and Rescue

American Red Cross of RI
Ambulance Services Adv. Bd.
RI Healthcare Association
RICOSH
Brown University
Naval Ambulatory Care Ctr. Newport
RI Energy Office
Department of Justice

The 53rd Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Robert J. Warren at 10:05 am.

The minutes of the February 28, 2006 were read, accepted and passed unanimously. Bob Warren apologized for not meeting last month and stated that we had many planning functions and a lot of the staff was in different parts of the country.

Reports:

HAZMAT/DECON WORKING GROUP-Robert Warren

Capt. Stasiowski is not here today. They are at a meeting at the Radisson to discuss grant issues and white powder incidents. They are working on protocols and having a training session with all the local communities. We have added East Providence as a HAZMAT team. They are due to come online on May 1, 2006.

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-not present

We spoke about disbanding, but Patty Fairweather has asked us to keep this in place.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-not present

Bob Warren stated that the Warwick Police Department is switching over to the 800 system and North Providence should be online at the end of the summer.

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP- "Citizens Corp Council"-Joe Cournoyer

Joe Cournoyer was introduced to the group who has been working on two fronts-(1) a Donations Management plan and (2) to revive the Citizens Corp Council. Joe stated he is working with the local EMA Directors and Red Cross, and they want to reconvene the Corp possibly within the next sixty days. There is a great deal of local Citizens Corp activity in Warwick, Aquidneck Island, Smithfield and Providence. Concept is to regionalize it a little where there could be members of each county from the local council that could serve on the statewide council in addition to other statewide representatives like the Salvation Army, Red Cross etc.

HARI-Meredith Arnold

Last meeting was on April 18, 2006. Did not have a March meeting. We are making good progress on the web-based diversion system. We are finding a computer vendor to meet all our needs, and once it is up and running, it will be pilot tested. Registrations are coming in for the OSHA/DECON training courses for May and June. We have asked the hospitals to take a look at their portable water plans and we have that data in and are looking at it. Maybe Tom can allude to how we are going to pursue that a little further. One of the issues is that some of the hospitals are dependent on one supplier to get portable water into their facility.

Tom Kilday stated that they are looking at all the different vendors that the hospitals have identified and many of them have more than one vendor. He stated that they are also going to make sure that the hospitals have MOU's or some sort of

firm contract with the different vendors. We are also looking at water to make the facility function and not just drinkable water.

We have brought in the OSHA folks to do the Decon Train- the-Trainer program for all the hospitals to create a long term capability so that they can provide for their own training. We are looking at training five individuals from each facility. We have opened up five slots for State EMA and five for DOH. We have also sat down with the HAZMAT/DECON group to offer slots for them. The issue is that the HAZMAT/DECON folks are trained beyond what this class offers so we are asking them to serve as ambassadors and come to the class so that they can meet some of the hospital players.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISASTER RESPONSE WORKING GROUP—Carol Kent

Carol stated that her working group name has been changed to the above name. She stated that they have been working as a group and their focus has been about the Pandemic flu. We are particularly looking at the issues of distribution of Methadone and psychiatric medications. Should there be travel restrictions they are also looking at how they will get around in an event. This has to be arranged because there are a number of residential programs and things that have to be kept going during an event like this. They have all developed their Continuity of Operations plans and have raised many questions.

Have a Behavior of Operations training coming up on May 17th and 18th for the hospitals courtesy of the HRSA funding via the Department of Health. The University of Miami Deep Center coming to conduct this training. At this point the training is closed for both days.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE-Bob Warren

Looking into some extra insurance for the Task Force members of both the Urban Search and Rescue teams and the Wilderness group. Lt. Delaney stated that the last time he spoke to Patty Fairweather, they were looking into doing an amendment to the statute. When the USAR team trains on Saturday and Sunday in Scituate, in order to cover them in the past, we gave them a mission number so that they were acting under that authority of the Governor. This is also being looked at to make sure that this is correct.

MASS CASUALTY WORKING GROUP-Nathan Rodgers

Nothing to report at this time.

PORT SECURITY-Ron Pigeon

Last month the Coast Guard has worked to establish subcommittees of the area Maritime Security Committee and for the sub-port areas which represents Point Judith, Block Island, Quonset Point, Davisville, Newport, Jamestown, Providence and East Providence. These are basically composed of representatives of yacht clubs, mariners, local and State Police, fire, EMA. We are using this to come up with resource capabilities and needs for port security. We are also looking to

expand this to a national working group for all hazards planning. Hosted an internal security exercise last month. The maritime security level has been raised to a Level 2. We are now working on an After Action Report which should be available soon.

LAW ENFORCEMENT-Lt. Darren Delaney

Lt Robert Mackisey is the new Swat Team Commander

Just certified 7 people for the boat.

Bob Warren stated that we purchased more equipment for the team.

SPECIAL NEEDS WORKING GROUP-Paul Choquette

We have also changed our name. We met yesterday and we are working with the Department of Health and E-911 on a registration form that identifies people with special needs. Suggestions were made to give first responders more information on going into someone's home. At our next meeting we will be discussing how to publicize this capability a lot better to try to capture data for more people. Also, we discussed mass evacuation and how peoples needs will be met within a shelter. We will be meeting again next month.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP-Nathan Rodgers

We are nearing completion of our Family Assistance Center Plan. Today I have passed out the latest draft. We are just waiting for standardization of the forms we are going to use for collecting data. Now is the time you might want to make any comments to us about the Plan. This Plan should be done by June.

OLD BUSINESS-Bob Warren

Web EOC is on track. We sent three people down for training along with someone from DOIT. We are meeting with the local director's tomorrow morning.

Generator has been installed and is up and running.

NEW BUSINESS-John Aucott

FY 04 HS grant expires at the end of May, and there is about 8 or 9 million dollars in the pipeline at the local level. We gave out about 12-14 million dollars to the locals for FY 04, and there is 9 million dollars left to be spent in the next four weeks. It could be that the numbers are high because some of the locals have not reported and our reports are not up to date. Important thing is that the locals get their projects completed before the end of May. Purchase orders have to be cut, and then we will handle the reimbursement. If we have sub-grantees out there that know right now that they will not be able to do a project, let us know right away so that we can reallocate the money. We have communities out there that have spent their money and looking for more assistance.

Patrick Lynch asked if the money could be reallocated before the locals tell you that they will not be spending it. Peter Ginaitt asked if there was a way to send out to all the sub-grantees an ASAP response as to what residual money they are going to have. John stated that Amy sent out a letter to the sub-grantees introducing herself

and talking about the grants. She received several phone calls from that letter from folks stating "I did not know that we had a grant". John thought it was a good idea to do a data call in the next week or so instead of waiting for the quarter reports. Chief Seltzer stated that he will put a message on the Fire Chief's Web Site in regard to this to remind them. John Aucott stated that the end of May was an obligation deadline.

There is a big change in the FY 06 grant where there has been a change from the distribution formula to a competitive grant. John wants to thank the Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs Associations, State Police, DOIT, DEM, E-911, State Fire Marshal's Office and the DOH. A great deal of hard work was done over a month and one half to develop our state's competitive grant application. This year there is less money in the pool. John had the opportunity to participate as a peer reviewer. I spent a week down in Emittsburg at the National Fire Academy reviewing HS grants. I was responsible for reviewing 5-6 states and I can state that we did a very good job with our application and much better than the ones that I looked at. No one knows how much of this will impact our final result. At the end of May we will find out what Rhode Island will get.

A few of us at EMA participated in a regional TSA meeting in Boston. TSA is branching out beyond just the airline security and have responsibility for several transportation modalities including rail.

John Aucott stated that DHS has come out with a Cellular Service Disruption Plan and that he will be conducting a conference call with all of the Police Departments in Rhode Island over the next week or so doing a briefing on this.

COOP PLANS-the General and Dr. Gifford sent out a letter a few weeks ago to all of the cities and towns asking each of them to develop a Continuity of Operations Plan with the emphasis on preparing for Pandemic flu and asked to submit these plans by July 1, 2006.

John gave a presentation on the Homeland Security Information Network-Rhode Island (HSIN). The URL address is <https://rhodeisland.jries.dhs.gov>. Please call John Aucott for log in and password.

WILLIAM GASBARRO-Bill asked if all cell phones were suddenly shut off could John checks with the telecommunication carriers and find out if they could keep 911 active.

NEW BUSINESS-Bob Warren

The Debris Management Plan first draft has been sent to the General and DEM is also reviewing it.

Going along on version 4E of the Hurricane Plan.

Donations Management Plan first draft will be presented tomorrow to the EMA

Directors. We are also working on a Food, Water, and Ice Distribution Plan which is called a Resource Plan in conjunction with FEMA. Met with State

Purchasing last week and we will have MOU's and contracts in place for food, water, and ice by June 1, 2006.

RI Resource Recovery has been active with the Debris Management Plan and working with DEM. We have had a great deal of help for the Rhode Island Airport Corporation and the MOU is signed for the alternate EOC. John and Nathan have done a lot on internal hurricane preparedness within the Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-Tom Kilday

Working with EMA for some of the exercise planning for this coming spring and summer. We just released a new Diversion Plan. Working with EMA on EMS and MRS related issues.

OSHA-Maryann Medeiros

Recently I met with Nathan to talk about the involvement of the Public and Private Sector Working Group. Bob Kurr was there from the Cardi Corporation to discuss integrating the construction industry with OSHA and the working Group.

FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION-Chief Robert Seltzer

Back on April 6th the fire chiefs sent 24 chiefs to the congressional fire service dinner in Washington DC. On that same day we met with Senators Chafee and Reed, and Congressmen Langevin and Kennedy and spoke about fire service related issues as well as HS funding. We stressed the fact that this funding is a mess. They were very receptive to what we had to say.

POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION-Chief Peter Brousseau

At our last meeting we had a briefing from Major O'Donnell and John Soscia on the Intelligence Fusion Center.

John Aucott stated that the big push is on to create 5-6 regional EOC's and ask a community within that region to be responsible for working with the communities in their region so that things will be more effective. Some suggestions as to how to proceed will be helpful. Chief Seltzer suggested that perhaps a new working group should be created. Meredith suggested that DOC is talking about regionalizing Pandemic flu and now we are talking about regionalizing EOC's. Maybe these could be meshed together so that we don't have 10 regions for one thing and 10 for another. John Aucott agreed 100%, and the same argument could be made for the (9) LEPC's. Whatever Emergency Management regions we come up with should fit the LEPC structure because they are made up of police, fire, EMS, hospitals, industry etc. which was developed by the Fire Chiefs Association in 1986.

We will place this on the agenda for next month.

Motion is made and seconded to adjourn this meeting at 11:17 am.

