

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: May 23, 2006 @ 10:00am

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

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

Robert J. Warren	Chairman	RIEMA
Ray LaBelle	Member	E-911
Chief Peter Brousseau	Member	RI Association of Police Chiefs
Chief Robert Seltzer	Member	RI Association of Fire Chiefs
Michael Mulhare	Member	RI DEM
Patrick Lynch	Member	Office of the Lt. Governor
Rick Stasiowski	Member	Hazmat/Decon Working Group
Dr. Selim Suner	Member	DMAT
Peter Marinucci	Member	Providence EMA
Howard Boksenbaum	Member	DOIT/Comm. Working Group
Janice McClanaghan	Member	RISEO
Janet Essex	Member	Office of the Governor
Aaron Aldrich	Member	Dept. of Corrections
Candie Cook	Member	RI DOH
Brian J. Pires	Member	US Attorney's Office for RI
Ron Pigeon	Alternate	USCG
Meredith Arnold	Alternate	HARI
John E. Aucott	Alternate	RIEMA
Tom Kilday	Alternate	RI DOH
Capt. James Swanberg	Alternate	RI SP
Mazen Alsabe	Alternate	RI DOT
Lt. Jeremy Wilkinson	Alternate	NACC Newport (NDMS)
Binyamin I. Efreom	Alternate	RI Gov. Comm. on Disabilities
Rob Kevan	Guest	DHS/GIT Washington, DC
Sandra Spinks	Guest	DHS/GIT Boston, MA
Joseph Cournoyer	Guest	RI EMA
Marie Strauss	Guest	RI Dept. of Elderly Affairs
Colonel Augustine Comella	Guest	RI Civil Air Patrol
Maryann Medeiros	Guest	US DOL/OSHA
Amy Grzybowski	Guest	RIEMA
Joseph S. Salter	Guest	TSA
Robert W. Thorne	Guest	TSA
Jim Blackburn	Guest	TSA
Amanda Milkovits	Guest	Providence Journal

Members not in attendance:
RI Dept. of Attorney General
American Red Cross of RI
RI Healthcare Association
Brown University
VA Medical Center
Urban Search and Rescue

RI State Fire Marshal's Office
Ambulance Service Advisory Board
RICOSH
URI
MHRH

The 54th Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert J. Warren. At 10:05 am.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Bob Warren welcomed everyone attending the meeting today which is being held in Classroom A because of construction in the EOC which hopefully will be finished by June 1, 2006.

John Aucott introduced Robb Kevan from the Department of Homeland Security. He stated that Robb is our State Preparedness Officer. He has worked very hard for us.

Robb Kevin-I am here to evaluate progress in the program. I am constantly being asked to explain how far along the nation is in preparedness. The strategy that you have should be your guiding light, and you should stay as close to it as you can. This is why I am here to see how far along you are.

Bob Warren introduced Sandra Spinks who is our DHS representative in grants and training. Sandra stated that the EMPG and MMRS programs went from FEMA to DHS about a year ago., and she is here to help with these two grants.

2. REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25TH MEETING

The minutes of the April 25, 2006 meeting were read, accepted and passed unanimously.

3. REPORTS

HAZMAT/DECON WORKING GROUP-Rick Stasiowski

Hazmat/Decon Working Group is still meeting monthly. A training schedule for this year has been set forth. We have a tower going up in the northern end of the state and one in the southern end of the state so that there will be better communications throughout the state with the teams.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-Howard Boksenbaum

This group also meets a couple of times per month. We are moving forward with implementation of the 800 MHz program. A handout on RITERN is passed out to everyone which is self explanatory.

John Aucott stated that on June 12, 2006 there will be a Providence meeting where Howard and local reps will be coming together to complete a Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan. The purpose of the plan is to have a procedure in place primarily for the first hour of the tactical part of an incident in a Providence

metropolitan area. We will then be required to exercise that plan by the end of September.

VOLUNTEER WORK GROUP- "Citizens Corp Council-Bob Warren

Joe Cournoyer attended a workshop in Los Angeles a few weeks ago, and we are making progress to get the Citizen Corp revitalized.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-Mike Mulhare

We are waiting for an updated contact list from EMA. June 24, 2006 EPA is putting on a Debris Management workshop bringing in people from Regions 4 and 5. EMA has a seat in that workshop. We have installed a weather station in the DEM office on Promenade Street. As soon as the details are worked out with DOIT, it will be on the web so that you can receive weather information from Providence. It is a two-part project. We are putting up a satellite dish so that we can hook up into other weather systems and this will also be on the web. Hopefully this will be up and running by hurricane season.

HARI-Meredith Arnold

Last meeting was on May 16, 2006. At that meeting the hospitals and other members had requested a directory of the local EMA directors for reach-out planning for Pandemic flu, etc. John sent it to me and I sent it to the people that requested it. At that meeting we had a presentation from the Yale-New Haven Hospital in regard to the Emergency Management Training. And the HRSA grant funding that has been given to Yale to reach out to all of New England to do emergency training. The RI Home Page is finalized and up and running so the members of the Preparedness Planning Committee will be reaching out and doing some training in that regard. Also, they will make CD's and videos available for those training purposes. We have a good partnership with Yale and they are working diligently to get Rhode Island up and running.

Tom Kilday-Yale has to train 50,000 healthcare professionals of all type throughout New England over the next three years. We want most of those folks to be from Rhode Island. This will be healthcare focused web-based training and will be available to everyone. As soon as their web site is finished, we will pass it out. It has NIMS and other ICS compliant courses. This past Saturday we had the RI Disaster Initiative Conference sponsored through DOH which went very well. In regards to decon we have through the hospital program, we have training upcoming from June 12-16th with a total of 30 people attending. The 19th to the 24th is the other OSHA course with 25 attending that program. We have invited the HAZMAT/DECON teams. We have begun finalizing the program on the Diversion System so that the hospitals will have a web based Diversion System for all of the hospitals. Had a HRSA Conference in Colorado a few weeks ago. They discussed the guidance for the new HRSA grant. They are anticipating a June 1, 2006 release date and it is due on July 1. If not on schedule they said that they would give us a few extra days. We know it is 5% less than we received before this.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISASTER RESPONSE WORKING GROUP-Carol Kent

Carol is at a conference in New Orleans and will be attending the next meeting.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE-Chief Robert Seltzer

They are continuing with training and also are purchasing a new vehicle. Chairman Warren, Chief Chartier, and myself have asked them to come up with an instate minor incident response so that if the local community has a small incident we can get equipment out there.

Rick Stasiowski-we have 35 members of the team that are involved in a structural collapse program through FEMA. Right now we are listed as a Level I Statewide Response Team. In order to maintain this down the road, we are going to have members that are in the structural collapse technician level. We have joined a statewide Urban Search and Rescue response teams throughout other states that have such teams because we are not under the FEMA guidelines. They are going to develop SOPS throughout all the teams. They have Level I, Level 2, and Level 3 teams with level I being the best, and right now this is where we are listed.

John Aucott-John asked if the MOU that we have in place with the USAR team needs to be revised. Right now it requires a Governor's Declaration of Emergency to activate the team. If we need to get a smaller team out for an urgent situation, it may not rise to a disaster declaration.

MASS CASUALTY WORKING GROUP-Status quo.

Nathan is in New London, CT at an exercise.

PORT SECURITY-Ron Pigeon

The Coast Guard will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday, May 24 with representatives of the CG regulated waterfront facilities to discuss hurricane preparedness. RI EMA and MEMA officials will be attending. The next meeting of the RI Port Safety and Security Forum will be at 9 a.m. on June 6th at the Community College of RI Knight Campus in Warwick, Presentation Room 4080. The agenda will include hurricane preparedness and the new Transportation ' Worker Identification Card requirements. The TWIC will apply to all long term (90 + days) employees and contractors who access port facilities. Facilities are required to submit information about their personnel to TSA for background screenings (terrorist watch lists, immigration status, and criminal background check). Personnel will then be cleared to obtain a TWIC costing approximately \$139.00 and will be valid for 5 years. The TWIC would utilize Smart Card technology and include the individual's photo, name, and biometric information and would include multiple fraud protection measures. The program should be in effect in the latter part of 2006. The RI & SEMA Area Committee which deals with response issues will be meeting on June 13th at 9 a.m. location TBD.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-Capt. Jim Swanberg

Monthly meetings and training are continuing. Last month our team along with the 13th Civil Support team had a radiological training exercise at Camp Varnum. Next month we have a 2-day training at URI. 13th Civil Support team will be doing a scenario in August or in the fall over in Block Island. Radios will be distributed next month.

SPECIAL NEEDS WORKING GROUP-Binyamin I. Efreom

Special Needs Group met yesterday. There was follow up with the 911 representatives requiring the status of the disability project. Next meeting on June 26, 2006 there will be representatives from the subcontracted DOH for an update and exchange of ideas and views on marketing of the registry forms.

Bob stated that we now have money to bring in signers on an on call basis. We also have been in contact with the International House in Providence to get people to translate from other languages in order to assist us in communications during a disaster.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER WORKING GROUP-Tom Kilday

Carol Kent, Nick Logothets, and I met to discuss some of the final pieces related to the development of forms. We have reviewed some of the items that Red Cross had. Next step is to get together with the State Police regarding the Missing Persons Report and try to create either a single form or just adopt the State Police form for the plan as well as a few minor items. It is very close to being finalized. We are going to start to work on the Resource Center.

OLD BUSINESS-Robert Warren

Regarding the cell phone 911 question that came up last month. John Aucott stated that last month he briefed us on the cellular disruption plan which gives us the ability to shut down cellular service in an area in the event this needs to be done. Yes, this includes the 911 service.

John Aucott stated that the FY04 grant is about to expire at the end of May. There are about 7 or 8 million dollars still at the local level. The locals have to get the purchase order cut before the end of May or we will reallocate the funds. There is also about \$800,000 left in the state's 20% that has not been spent.

NEW BUSINESS-John Aucott

Have spoken the past year or so of creating Emergency Management Regions within Rhode Island. The general consensus is to use the five counties plus the city of Providence to create six regional management planning organizations. As far as the Pandemic Flu planning that is being done by the DOH, I feel that this will work well. Tom Kilday asked if we would continue to work on which entity is going to manage that region. First thing that we need to do is agree upon the region and concept. This also fits with the Citizens Corp program where the Citizens Corp Council of RI is also using these geographical areas. Chief Seltzer stated that at the Fire Chief's Association meeting there was not a strong feeling one way or the other. Police

Chief's Association fully supported the county concept. Mike Mulhare agreed that the county system makes a lot of sense. What we will be missing is local government involvement, and we need to have them involved. Dr. Suner asked if we were planning on creating offices in each region. John answered that we do not have money to build new facilities. We will pick a community within each region that would have responsibility for coordinating information flow within those surrounding communities. We would try to use HS funds to make those communications more robust. We do not have money to put a satellite dish in 39 cities and towns, but may have the money to put in each community. The second observation that Dr. Suner mentioned is the discrepancy within the regions with regards to healthcare in an emergency. Some regions are geographically large with little resources. Tom Kilday mentioned that we need to have the GIS people lay the 10 regions that Health created over the county map and see where the discrepancies are and address them.

MOTION IS MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT TO USE THE FIVE COUNTIES PLUS THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE FOR REGIONALIZATION.

Patrick Lynch is leaving the Lt. Governor's office on June 9, 2006 to attend Suffolk Law School. Chris Albert, Chief of Staff, will be attending these meetings.

PROVIDENCE EMA-Peter Marinucci

City of Providence is having a Port exercise on June 7, 2006. We are going to test the Reverse 911 system. This time we will also test the alternate sites.

E-911-Ray LaBelle

As far as giving out information to the Police, Fire etc, our research in Reverse 911 indicates that we are not in conflict with Federal Law. Have a report put together today to give to Patty Fairweather to let her know.

DMAT-Dr. Selim Suner

We had the National Disaster Medical System Conference last month which was attended heavily by our team members. We had several presentations there and heard about what could potentially happen in the next few years if the EMS is moved out of FEMA, but nothing is finalized on this issue as of yet. We were on alert for five days for the flooding that could have occurred. We are planning for summer training sessions with the biggest one being with the RI Air National Guard Air Show. We will be participating in some training missions that will be scattered throughout the summer.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE-no report at this time

DOH-Candie Cook

First Pandemic Flu Tabletop took place last Thursday with our (4) pilot hospitals which went well. We are getting all of this information together and then moving

forward with the other six hospitals. Another tabletop will take place on June 15, 2006. We are also doing a technical briefing tomorrow with managing editors and news directors and other directors to discuss flu planning and where we are with communications with Dr. Gifford, DEM, DOH, and EMA. Last night DOH and DEM did a presentation to some backyard farmers which were well received.

OSHA- Maryann Medeiros-GET HER REPORT-she will e-mail it to me because she is too far away from the mic and I cannot hear her report.

TSA-Joseph Salter

Yesterday RIAC had a tabletop exercise for a mass disaster of an air crash which was required by law. In July TSA will be having a tabletop exercise in coordination with RIEMA, RISP, the FBI along with other state and local agencies. It will include a hijack at the aircraft in combination with a radiological special device as part of the scenario. In the fall there will be a full-scale exercise. TSA also has the responsibility for other transportation besides civil aviation and rail has been thrust upon us without our boots being on the ground. Had a recent meeting with the US Attorney's office, the FBI, and this will be followed by meetings with EMA, State Police and others to come up with a training program to make everyone aware of the fact that we have rail concerns out there. As far as a potential hurricane in Rhode Island, TSA has come up with an ER team from a national group who could provide us with assistance.

Jim Blackburn from the US Department of Homeland Security is from the Federal Air Marshal Service and is also my assistant. He is an attorney and was with the FBI for a number of years. Recently Providence put on a tabletop exercises which dealt with a threat against the Amtrak station in Providence. My concerns are not solely concerned with the City of Providence but go beyond the City of Providence further up or down the road and how we would deal with a toxic plume and this would involve everyone in the state. We are going to be working on an awareness program and training as well.

John Aucott introduced Brian Pires from the US Attorney's office.

US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE- Brian Pires

Brian introduced himself and stated that his office phone number is 709.5042 and his cell phone number is 714.4284. Just want to mention that his office is partnering with TSA on this rail security initiative. I have put in a request for information to all of the Intel specialists representing the US Attorney ATAC to see if anyone at the US Attorney's office has knowledge of their EMA or TSA partners would actually receive the freight-train concept manifest so that if there were an event, there would be a "go to" point of contact. It is my knowledge that there are not any groups within the state that receives an electronic manifest of the train concepts which is something that I would like to propose to work on and try to get EMA or TSA or some other entity should have the ability to get an immediate electronic transmitted

manifest of what is on these freight trains that pass through our state. A fact sheet is passed out. **Get a copy of this fact sheet.**

RI POLICE Chief's ASSOCIATION-Chief Peter Brousseau
No report at this time.

RI ENERGY OFFICE-Janice McClanaghan

There were 4100 emergency deliveries. We had 29,000 get heating assistance. Now open for price assistance through the summer. We stayed open 6 weeks longer than they normally do

RI CIVIL AIR PATROL-Colonel Augustine Comella

In our organization there are 4 aircraft based in RI. We have 2 satellite digital imaging systems which were purchased through EMA. If you would like to use this service, it is paid for by the Air Force just call us or go through EMA. Also available for training. We are a government agency that is fully insured by the government. We have 240 members and 13 vans to support you through an event. We have extensive communication capabilities in the aircraft. If any of your agencies want to upload your frequencies into our airplanes, in the event that you ever have to use us in an emergency, you can speak to us directly in the aircraft in the event you might need a photo. We also have satellite phone capabilities. You are all welcome to come and visit our facility.

NDMS NAVY HEALTH CARE NEW ENGLAND-Lt. Jeremy D. Wilkinson

Attended the National Disaster Conference. Lot of changes are taking place. Working with EMA. and DOH in order to mesh the public-private partnership in a different way using the assets that we have available economically instead of trying to buy it.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:15s.m.

