

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: August 22, 2006

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

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

John E. Aucott	Acting Chairperson	RIEMA
Dr. Terrie Fox Wetle	Member	Brown University
Chief Peter Brousseau	Member	W. Warwick PD
Ray LaBelle	Member	E9-1-1
Capt. Jim Swanberg	Member	RISP
Christopher Albert	Member	Office of the Lt. Gov.
Janet Essex	Member	Office of the Gov.
Robert Patton	Member	VA Medical Ctr.
Aaron Aldrich	Member	ACI
Carol Kent	Member	MHRH
Peter Popko	Member	USCG Sector SENE
Peter Marinucci	Member	PEMA
Peter Ginaitt	Member	RI Hospital
Michael DiMascolo	Alternate	Fire Marshal's Office
Meredith Arnold	Alternate	HARI
Norm Menard	Alternate	American Red Cross
Binyamin I. Efreom	Alternate	Gov. Comm. on Dis.
Nathan Rodgers	Alternate	RIEMA
Alysia Mihalakos	Guest	RI DOH
Bob Thorne	Guest	TSA
Brittan Bates	Guest	RIEMA
Jeff Fry	Guest	USCG Sector SENE
Joe Cournoyer	Guest	RIEMA
Vin Marzullo	Guest	Corp. for Nat'l Serv.
James Blackburn	Guest	TSA

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

RI DOT

RI Dept of the Attorney General

HAZMAT Tech Working Group

Ambulatory Services Adv. Board

URI

RI Fire Chief's Association

RI DEM

RI Disaster Initiative

RI Health Center Association

Naval Amb. Care Center

*Energy Office
Department of Justice*

*Urban Search and Rescue
Private Security Association*

The 56th Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman John E. Aucott.

1. John mentioned that the July meeting was cancelled.
2. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 2006 MEETING.**
The minutes of the June 27, 2006 meeting were read, accepted and passed unanimously.

3. **REPORTS**

HAZMAT/DECON TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP-not present

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-in Abeyance

COMMUNICATION Working Group-Howard Boksenbaum
Working group has been meeting twice month. 800MHz is now covered over half of the state. Recently put the 7th antenna up on Two Capitol Hill. In South County the system is in full use. Hoping to continue to move North during the coming year depending on the availability of funding. By the end of the year 95% of the geographical territory of the state should be covered. RINET MUNI is now connected to each town hall. Next meeting will be on August 24, 2006.

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP-“Citizens Corp Council”-Joe Cournoyer and Vin Marzullo

Citizen Corp is moving along in a number of areas with CERT training moving forward and Providence doing quite a bit with their Volunteer Police Service.

On the Council side there has not been a Statewide Council or volunteer working group that has regularly met in some time. We went to New York City last week to a Region I Citizen Corp strategy session and looking at all the opportunities within the region as to how we can work together and best spend the Citizen Corp funding. Since 2002 Rhode Island has received over 1

million dollars in Citizen Corp funds. There is still a lot more to do.

Vin Marzullo stated that he is the Rhode Island Director of the Corporation for National Community Service which is a Federal Agency. We work with Americore, Vista Volunteer Services of America and a network of about 5000 senior volunteers. For the past few years we have worked with Red Cross, RIEMA, and the Salvation Army to help train community volunteers to support first responders. Recently, RIEMA asked me to help out reactivating the Citizens Corp Council. Just last week I organized with the Volunteer Center to have all of the RI Vista members train in disaster reception response center functioning. We will give this training to about 40 Vista members on September 5, 2006 so there is a bigger group to assist the Volunteer Center for RIEMA and PEMA's purposes should there be a disaster. The RI Service Alliance is working with PEMA on a training for shelter management, disaster assistance and even CERT for the balance of the Americore members here in Rhode Island. This will be held in September and October in three sessions. There is quite a bit that we do in the area of volunteers. For the past couple of years we have had about a dozen members working in Providence to support the Community Police where civilians are in each one of the Community Police Stations to help bridge the relationship between the community organizations and law enforcement officers.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-not present

HPPC-Meredith Arnold

We last met on August 15, 2006. Major content at that meeting was discussion and demonstration on the Web-based Diversion System. There is a contractor developing that system, and it is in the final stages. All the equipment to support this system has been installed. Our next focus will be to get together with the Emergency Department nurse managers, nurse executives, and the EMS group and get their input into the Web-based Diversion System and how it is going to work. This meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2006. We are hopeful that this will be piloted in the

month of September and up and running on October 1, 2006. At this meeting we also discussed the Patient Tracking System which is another computerized system being put into place. We have sent out the RFP and have received two. The third thing that I want to mention is that the hospitals are installing all the Global Star Satellite phone systems throughout their facilities.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK-
Carol Kent**

We have a meeting scheduled in September. In the meantime, I have met with Nick Logothets and they have a special certification program for mental health responders which has been revised. It is called Foundations of Mental Health and the training is scheduled for September 14, 2006. Met with RI Hospital yesterday and we are contemplating having a 1/2 day hospital based behavioral health training. We will be getting together in September and map this out, and then taking it around from hospital to hospital.

Pandemic Flu planning continues. Earlier in August I did a joint presentation with the DOH for the Public Information Officers of the Rhode Island Universities and Colleges.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE-not present

**MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) WORKING GROUP-
Nathan Rodgers**

Nothing to report at this time.

PORT SECURITY-Peter Popko

Next RI Port Safety and Security Forum will be held at Johnson and Wales University Harborside campus on September 12, 2006. We have just completed the 2006 Port Security Grant Field Review with expected awarding of the grants by September 30, 2006. 2007 grants may be announced by the end of the calendar year.

Motiva Terminal Fire-The deconstruction of the pier continues under the direction of the Unified Command.

The I-Way bridge section is expected to be moved this week from Davisville to Providence. There will be a safety zone established for the transit keeping other vessels and boats out of the way.

The Coast Guard is connecting up with the 800 MHz system. We are also participating in the RI Port Security Communications Network.

Pete introduced Jeff Fry who is new in the CG Unit. He comes from Officers Candidate School and before that he was an enlisted member of the Coast Guard in Delaware Bay.

John mentioned that he was at a Narragansett Town meeting last night and they approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the CG and the state of RI.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-Capt Jim Swanberg

Monthly Training is still going well. Earlier this month with the 13 Civil Support Team we had a 2-day exercise on Block Island. First time law enforcement worked with the military using aircraft. Two weeks ago we had the cities of Warwick, our agency Newport, and Woonsocket go to a 3-day aircraft school in preparation of the upcoming exercise in the fall. It went very well.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS WORKING GROUP-Binyamin Efreom

Special Populations Working Group will meet on Monday, August 28, 2006 here at RIEMA. We met on the 31st with a representative from the BSI Company. We spent a lot of time on the Registry Form Agreement. Touched briefly on what might be the next target area for review. Will possibly be looking at all of the local plans and see if there is any common thread existing.

E-9-1-1-Ray Labelle- In the past we have had registries with the DOH, Frequent Flyer at the Children's Hospital, and RIEMA for evacuations and also 911. We are trying to get everyone together so that we can have one centralized registry. We have been waiting for the CAD and just got it in three weeks ago. We are now setting up training with the locals. As soon as the CAD is in place we will be able to start implementing this.

Dr. Wetle commented that a group of people at Brown are working on the problem of evacuation of nursing home residents.

One of the biggest tragedies of Katrina was the number of nursing home resident deaths from people who died not only in the facility but also while being evacuated. What Brown is doing in collaboration with the Department of Health, Memorial, and Lifespan is developing data information about every nursing home resident which is required by CMS to be reported on a regular basis and take that information to develop a decision tool to help with decisions regarding whether or not groups of patients ought to be evacuated and under what circumstances. Proposal is intended to take into account not only the characteristics of the patients themselves but also the nature of the risk and also the facility characteristics. This will be submitted in October.

Meredith Arnold stated that the DOH has contracted with the Hospital Association again, and they are in the final phases of development of a long-term care facility assessment tool in regards to location, demographics, and residents and this is also a work in progress.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER WORKING GROUP-Nathan Rodgers

In September the existing members of the Family Assistance Center Working Group will reconvene with additional agency representation to proceed on the development of the RI Family and Survivor Resource Center Plan. This plan will closely mimic the format of the Family Assistance Center plan to include roles and responsibilities of key agencies with a likely emphasis on the Department of Health and Human Services.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS-Aaron Aldrich

Nothing to report at this time.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-Alysia Mihalakos

Tomorrow Bob Warren and several planners are meeting at the Department of Health with the hospital planners to review the next steps that they are taking with their Pandemic Flu plans for the 10 healthcare regions. On Monday and Tuesday at the Naval War College the state health officers from the New England States and New York will be participating in a tabletop exercise about command and control and how we will communicate across the

states to insure that we are providing consistent messages and policies if the Pandemic Flu should hit. On June 29th and 30th they met in Boston surrounding eight separate issues that have to do with Pandemic Flu and built consensus around some of those issues so that we could insure what RI is doing is consistent with Connecticut and Massachusetts. In terms of the Medical Emergency Distribution System the letter that was sent out by General Bray and Dr. Gifford to every municipality requesting their MEDS Plan and Continuity of Government Plan we have received 32 of 39 plans. We have reviewed all of them and meeting with the municipalities on Friday.

OLD BUSINESS-Dr. Wetle

Working with the DOH to develop a manual for universities and colleges to use for the meds distribution system and doing it collaboratively with URI. While I was in Italy I had the opportunity to participate in two information distribution and fairs where the local first responders brought out their equipment and information systems and had people walking around in suits demonstrating how they would handle spills and exposures. It was all very interesting.

E-911-Ray LaBelle

Hopefully by October our Alternate Call Center will be in operation. Room is set up, equipment is in, and the wiring was completed last week. Had a meeting with the United Way, and shortly we will have a 211 system in the state. This is for human needs and governmental services.

TSA-Bob Thorne

We will be having a full-scale exercise in mid November. We have Delta Corporation working with us supplying aircraft. The last time that the airport had a full-scale exercise was in 1985. FBI Boston and Providence will be working with us very closely.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE Michale DiMascolo

Marshal Farrell is the new State Fire Marshal but could not be here today. He will either be attending these meetings himself or sending a representative. He sends his greetings to this committee.

PROVIDENCE EMA-Peter Marinucci

City of Providence will conduct an MCI exercise on October 1, 2006. It will involve the Mutual Aid Community, Law Enforcement, RIEMA and other organizations. We are looking for 200 victims to volunteer. Exercise will take place from 8-12:00. Post Office in Providence will have an exercise to test the bio detection alert. No date as of yet, but Providence EMA will participate. Continue to work on MMRS.

NEW BUSINESS-John Aucott

I would like to introduce some of the new members of our staff. Brittan Bates is our Exercise Program Coordinator. Nathan Rodgers has been promoted to Stakeholder. Had an Open House for our new EOC. Classrooms A and B have also been renovated. We have pods for the ESF's and invite you to stop in and see these new renovations. Very shortly we should be announcing the allocations for the FY06 grant.

TSA-Bob Thorne

On June 28, 2006 we had a Rail Security Awareness Forum. We had 110 people attend. One of the outcomes of that meeting was a pretty strong consensus of opinion that we need to organize a Rail Security Working Group for the state. Joe Salter will send an invitation out to the Heads of Government along with the FBI, MBTA, the Fusion Center and other agencies interested in rail security. Worldwide there have been about 200 terrorist attacks involving railways in the last several years. They are highly vulnerable. We would like to have this group added to the list for reports. The first meeting of this group will be in October. John Aucott stated that he will bring this idea back to Bob Warren.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2006 @ 10:00am.

