

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: October 24, 2006

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

Nathan Rodgers	Acting Chair	RIEMA
Robert Patton	Member	VA Medical Ctr.
Candie Cook	Member	DOH
Peter Marinucci	Member	Providence EMA
Christopher Albert	Member	Lt. Governor's Office
Dr. Selim Suner	Member	RIDI-RI-1 DMAT
Rick Stasiowski	Member	HAZMAT Work. Grp.
Janice McClanaghan	Member	RI Energy Office
Mike Mulhare	Member	RI DEM
Jeremy Wilkinson	Alternate	Naval Health Clinic NE
Col. Anthony Vessella	Alternate	Civil Air Patrol
Capt. James Swanberg	Alternate	RISP
Norm Menard	Alternate	RI ARC
Richard James	Alternate	Fire Marshal's Office
Lt. Col. Rui Rodrigues	Guest	Civil Air Patrol
Marybeth Ouellette	Guest	RIEMA
Robert Thorne	Guest	TSA
Maryann Medeiros	Guest	USDOL-OSHA

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

RIDOT	Hospital Assoc. of RI (sent in report)
RI Police Chief's Assoc.	RI Fire Chief's Association
RI Dept of Attorney General	Office of the Governor
Ambulance Serv. Adv. Bd.	RI Health Center Association
RICOSH	Brown University
URI	E-9-1-1
Comm. Working Group	MHRH
USCG	Urban Search and Rescue
Dept. of Corrections	Dept. of Justice
Lifespan	Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Private Security Assoc.	Indian Health Clinic

The 58th Domestic Prepared Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Nathan Rodgers at 10:05 am.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-Nathan Rodgers

Nathan welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

2. REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26th MEETING

The minutes of the September 26th meeting were read, accepted and passed unanimously.

2. REPORTS:

HAZMAT DECON TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP-Rick Stasiowski

We had a meeting yesterday. We continue to make sure that everyone is on the same page with equipment and ongoing training. I received a letter from Director Warren in regard to a concern that Aquidneck Island has with the response for hazmat. We are going to do some test runs from East Providence, Hope Valley, West Warwick, and Warwick to see what we get for response times. I may have to sit down with Paul Wentworth and restructure the mutual aid plan accordingly.

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-not present

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-not present

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

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-Mike Mulhare

(DEM) We have turned the second page of the weather information project. We have installed a weather station on our building on Promenade Street which is tied into our Internet System. We have also contracted with Satellite Dish about getting Real Time weather information, and we are now putting it on our

web page. Hopefully this 2nd phase will be done in the next 60-90 days.

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE
(DOH/HARI)-prepared by Dawn Lewis and read by Robert
Patton

The Hospital Capacity System, a web based diversion system, is being installed on the Lifespan server this week. Training for end users runs 10/25-11-1. Scheduled simultaneous area hospital computer drills will commence in a few weeks. HARI/Health has selected a vendor for the Patient Tracking System. Globalstar Satellite phones have been delivered to all facilities. Two Behavioral Health courses are now available (1) Hospital s\Surge Behavioral Health Capacity-a 4 hour program hosted at your local hospital (2) Critical Incident Stress training on 11/2 and 11/3. *Note: HPPC rep to contact Susan Earley at 464-1492 if interested in having a workshop at their facility.*

HICS Guidelines were released on 10/7 available at <http://www.emsa.ca.gov/hics/hics.asp>.

NIMS training guidelines-HPPC will be organizing a separate work group to clarify and standardize statewide definition for each training level: All Emergency responders, First-line supervisors, Mid-level Response Supervisors, Senior-level Response Supervisors.

Discussion-Nathan Rodgers-An overarching issue among the HPPC Working Group has been the NIMS guidelines and clarification. There seems to have been some conflicting guidance between that of the HHS/ HRSA Grant and that of the Department of Homeland Security. The NIMS Integration Center recently produced a document entitled "NIMS Implementation Activities for Hospitals and Health Care Systems" dated September 12, 2006 and does a good job outlining 17 elements among 5 categories of NIMS preparedness and compliance activities. The five categories include (1) overall organization adoption of NIMS (2) Command and Control (3)

Preparedness Planning, Training, and Exercising (4) Information Management and (5) Resource Management.

RAIL SECURITY WORKING GROUP-Bob Thorne

We had a meeting on October 6th with the Lt. Governor, Congressmen Kennedy, US Attorney Bob Corrente, and a variety of key stakeholders and respective leadership to discuss the establishment of a Rail Security Working Group here in Rhode Island. The group did gain consensus for the need of a Rail Security Working Group. We are collecting all the names of the agencies that will form that group. In a month or so we should have our first meeting. We will be working with Amtrak, MBTA, Providence Worcester Rail and other rail associations along with key stakeholders from all levels of government. Some of the issues we are looking at include: rail awareness/ education training, random patrols and monitoring capabilities, infrastructure assessments, and information technology assessments and enhancements (investigate the plausibility of using cameras in the Providence station for example). The working group recognizes that regional collaboration is very important and we plan to collaborate closely with our counterparts in neighboring states- specifically those in Boston- and also attend one others meetings.

CIVIL AIR PATROL-Col Vassella/Lt. Col Lui Rodrigues

Just had a recent drill and we training on a consistent basis. Our rates have gone up because of insurance and fuel costs. We are now charging \$185 an hour for the aircraft using the satellite digital system because we have to pay a monthly fee for using the satellites. This cost includes a crew. For the slow scan it will cost \$120 an hour (again, including the crew). Regarding our recent drill, we tried to get ground teams, air crews, logistics and finance to work all together to run this mission. We learned a great deal, and everything went rather well overall. We have had a lot of trouble with the Globe Star system. 90% of the time we cannot send pictures through Globe Star and all the phone calls keep dropping. Col. Vassella stated that they are planning to get 8 more satellites by January 2007 of which they will have access. If you are planning a training exercise like we do with the State Police, if we know ahead of time we can incorporate that into our training exercise and we will not charge for this. If we are needed

for a special duty than RIEMA has to call our National Operating Center to get the approval.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK (MHRH)-not present

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE-Marybeth Ouellette

USAR Team continues to drill. The team is looking to have money to sustain themselves in the coming years. In fact, all special response teams- Hazmat, Decon, USAR, Mass Casualty, and Law Enforcement- will be in need of sustainment funding. These teams provide as a great protective asset to the state

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) Working Group-Nathan Rodgers

Have not met since the last meeting of this group. Trailers are at a 'ready' status. We will try our best to get together late this year- most likely right after Thanksgiving. Our intent is to review our inventory, discuss recent planning efforts, review lessons learned for the past year among other issues.

PORT SECURITY-not present

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-Capt. Jim Swanberg

We had a drill last week at the Ladd Center with the 13th Civil Support Team as well as a representative from the State Fire Marshal's office. We have other drills that are scheduled in November. This past September we participated in a training exercise at Zambarano Hospital as part of their annual training exercise. This team participated along with a number of fire departments up there in Northern Rhode Island along with the North Providence Decon Team and Burrillville Police.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS WORKING GROUP-not present

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER WORKING GROUP-Nathan Rodgers

This group is making good progress. We used a similar plan format of the Family Assistance Plan and have been working on the roles and responsibilities of key agencies involved. Our next meeting is November 6th and we should have a first compilation of an actual draft that week.

NEW BUSINESS-Candie Cook

Pan Flu Plans for all of the hospitals are in with different levels and some more detailed than others.

Working with EMA, Volunteers of RI, VOAD, MRC and DMAT to coordinate volunteers for a large scale event.

Health is having a problem with NIMS because it was not Health oriented.

We are working with Gary Moore through a grant with Gail and he is developing a plan that is Health oriented.

Nathan stated that if there are any questions regarding NIMS issues they should be channeled through EMA. At the Federal level, the NIMS Integration Center is recommending the states handle (or at least filter) the NIMS inquiries at the state level followed by the FEMA Region and then the NIMS Integration Center. Rhode Island has a FEMA Region 1 NIMS coordinator in Boston and has proven valuable in getting answers to those inquiries. In the effort to centralize NIMS inquiries, please forward such questions to RIEMA- specifically Nathan for the time being until someone else is assigned this task. RIEMA is hopeful to hire someone soon who will take on the NIMS implementation- statewide.

NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC NEW ENGLAND-Lt. Jeremy Wilkinson

I just returned from Northern Command (NorthCom) in Colorado and the Transportation Command wants to conduct a full scale exercise in 2007. They want to test the operational integration of the reserve air fleet into an emergency evacuation scenario. Typically, standard military aircraft would be used. NorthCom has secured funding for the event and will be coordinating with participating states. As general information, the scenario is driven by the likelihood of emergency

transportation requirements- civilian or military. The initial intent of the exercise is to send two aircraft to Quonset. I would like to find out from the hospitals if they are willing to receive mannequins as victims. If not, the mannequins will come to Quonset. I have started communications with the RI Air National Guard. The date at this time is May 13, 2007 which is a Sunday. This will be a good test of the system because we have never activated the Reserve Aircraft System before because it is so expensive. Homeland Security is teaming with DOD to provide the financial support and we're looking forward to the initiative.

Nathan asked Jeremy to keep RIEMA in the loop- specifically our Exercise Coordinator, Brittan Bates.

Dr. Suner asked if DMAT would be involved. Lt. Wilkinson stated that he would recommend that DMAT be involved.

Also, the Naval Ambulatory Care Center Newport has been renamed to the Naval Health Clinic New England.

PROVIDENCE EMA-Peter Marinucci

Reversed 911 System should be up and running after November 10th.

We were involved in the MCI drill of October 1, 2006 and I commend the people who took part in this drill in the rain. Continue to work on the MMRS Plan.

DMAT-Dr. Selim Suner

In terms of DMAT the NDMS has been authorized by Congress to move them back to Health and Human Services from the Department of Homeland Security effective January 1, 2007. Hopefully this will not affect operations.

There is a transition team that is being formed and both FEMA and DHS have pledged to continue support during this transition. Sometime after January our title will be changed.

RI ENERGY DEPARTMENT-Janice McClanaghan

Energy Office is now doing weekly terminal surveys as of October 1, 2006

We are now able to receive oil by barge and not ship.

All summer, our Emergency Fuel Program has been putting back on the people who had their gas and electric shut off.

As of Friday we had turned back on 1014 families.

Our Emergency Fuel Program for oil will begin next week and we have hired two additional temporary employees.

Expecting about 13.4 million dollars for the low income assistance program. We should be able to service about 29,000 customers.

We have received 16, 614 applications back which is 3600 more than last week alone.

We will continue to take additional applications in the event we get additional dollars.

CITCO along with Citizens Energy is serving 16 states where they will be giving 60-40 split where all the low income households can get 40% on time delivery free.

USDOL-OSHA-Maryann Medeiros

At the last meeting I spoke about the seminar that we were having for all-hazard preparedness for business. It was very well attended with 300+ people. I want to thank RIEMA and Nathan for supporting that effort. This helped businesses to understand the importance of emergency preparedness planning and what was available in the State to support. There were a few questions from residential care facilities particularly long term care. The questions were about what they are supposed to do with their patients. I spoke with Nick Logothets from Red Cross last week and he told me that not one single nursing home in RI has approached the Red Cross for assistance with their disaster preparedness plan.

Discussion-Dr. Dosa from Brown University is working on disaster plans for long term facilities and nursing homes. He can be reached at david_dosa@brown.edu. He has federal funding to work on the development of plans. I think that those facilities are required to have evacuation plans. Candy Cook (HEALTH) stated that she knows that there are plans out there and suggested that Maryann's idea to get in touch with Marie Stoekel is a good one. Peter Marinucci suggested that these people be required to have a plan in place in order to get their license. Maryann stated that she will get in touch with Dr. Dosa, Marie Stoekel, and the Health Association of RI and put it on the table to them. On the federal side, Jeremy Wilkinson (Naval Health Clinic New

England) stated that right now the federal government does not have MOA's in place or a system in place for long-term care patients.

Restructuring of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

Nathan Rodgers stated that he and Director Warren had a discussion about how we conduct the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee and about changing the format. We have not adjusted the agenda or the general way we conduct these meetings since the Committee's inception over 5 years ago. I think that to some degree we have become complacent in conducting these meetings. I think that we need to revamp how we approach this meeting and enhance the effectiveness of it. Additionally, we need to enhance the way we integrate our efforts here (at the DPS) with the overarching Lt Governors Advisory Committee. RIEMA is looking to put together a draft proposal on how we can change the meeting format and productivity. We encourage feedback from you as stakeholders in this suggestive process. Once consideration already discussed is the concept of categorizing our discussions- such as that of Preparedness Planning, Response Operations, Recovery, Training/ Exercises.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE-Rick James

Tentatively we will probably be moving to the Cranston Street Armory.

NEXT MEETING:

DECEMBER 12, 2006 @ 10:00am

Note: we are combining the November and December meetings.