

From: Eva M. Zito
Recording Secretary

Date: December 12, 2006

Subject: Minutes of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee

Robert J. Warren	Chair	RIEMA
Dawn-Marie Lewis	Member	HARI
Chief Peter Brousseau	Member	RI Police Chief's Assoc.
William Sharkey	Member	Attorney General Dept.
Rick Stasiowski	Member	Hazmat/Decon Work Gr.
Dr. Kenneth Williams	Member	Amb. Serv. Advis. Bd.
Raymond LaBelle	Member	E-9-1-1
Robert H. Patton	Member	VA Medical Center
Carol Kent	Member	MHRH
Janice McClanaghan	Member	Dept. of Energy
Robert E. Johnson	Member	Private Security Assoc.
Peter Marinucci	Member	Prov. EMA & HS
Jason Hernandez	Member	Office of the Lt. Gov.
Brian Pires	Member	US Attorney's Ofs.
Tom Kilday	Alternate	RI DOH
Nathan Rodgers	Alternate	RIEMA
Arthur G. Bovis	Alternate	RI DOT
Bernie Frezza	Alternate	RI DOT
Rui Rodrigues	Guest	RI Civil Air Patrol
Marybeth Ouellette	Guest	RIEMA
Amy Grzybowski	Guest	RIEMA
Robert Thorne	Guest	TSA
Jim Blackburn	Guest	TSA
Amanda Milkovitz	Guest	Providence Journal
Geof Milnor	Guest	RI-Satern
Nancy Smith Greer	Guest	US Dept of HUD
Maryann Medeiros	Guest	USDOL/OSHA
Larry Grimaldi	Guest	Dept. of Elderly Affairs
Joe Cournoyer	Guest	RIEMA
Jim Benz	Guest	US Secret Service
Bob Guneyi, MD	Guest	Progreso Latino, Inc.
Ramon Martinez	Guest	Progreso Latino, Inc.

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

**BROWN UNIVERSITY
RI FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
RI STATE POLICE
RI STATE FIRE MARSHAL
RI DEM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RICOSH
GOVERNOR'S COMM ON DISABILITIES**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS
URI
NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC NE
US COAST GUARD
URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
DEPT OF CORRECTIONS
DEPT OF JUSTICE
INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC**

The 59th Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee meeting was call to order by Chairman Robert J. Warren at 10:05am.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Bob welcomed everyone to the December meeting. Bob thanked Nathan Rodgers for taking over the last few meetings while he was away at various functions.
2. **REVIEWED AND ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING**
The minutes of the October 24, 2006 meeting were read, accepted, and passed unanimously.
3. **REPORTS:**

HAZMAT DECON TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP-Rick Stasiowski
Hazmat/Decon group continues to meet on a monthly basis. We are in the process of putting together our training calendar for 2007 and also working on the 2007 budgets. Because of the new technology out there, we need to update our detection equipment.

USAR-Rick Stasiowski

We also meet on a monthly basis. We also have just put together our training calendar and budgets for 2007. Our biggest efforts for the next year will be training. We are doing a large training in the next two months with the Air Guard. We will be moving the team with helicopters and also working with Block Island on training along with the Air Guard so that in the event of an emergency we will be able to move the team there. Our deployment next year will be on Block Island.

EMERGENCY LEGAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP-NOT PRESENT

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP-Nathan Rodgers

Communications Working Group continues to meet twice a month. Installation of the infrastructure for the 800 project continues. We are looking to revamp the use of the RINET MUNI system to provide a redundant electronic communications mechanism for our local cities and towns. It is being used on a day to day basis in most school departments and municipal offices. We are hoping to utilize the system more to its potential by including it in various continuity plans. On January 2, 2007 we are going to present here at RIEMA our intentions of the system as we go forward for the continued outreach of this system.

Tom Kilday stated that Howard Boksenbaum has accepted a new position within the Department of Administration. They are doing a statewide upgrade to the 800 MHz System tomorrow. They will be programming the latest version of the software. If you have any questions about this, Capt. Dean Hoxie from the Narragansett Police is the contact person.

Bob Warren stated that we are putting money in the state budget to maintain this system. We may be asking for letters of support to go to the Legislature. I do believe that the Governor is in support of this.

Bob also stated that today members of his staff are participating in a Region I Communications drill 9-12 this morning and at 1-4 this afternoon. We are doing a lot of communications work especially working on getting the WEB EOC standardized among the six New England states and also the 5 Eastern Provinces of Canada.

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP-Joe Cournoyer

We recently submitted some strategies with the Office of Grants and Training to further align our volunteer issues with our overall Homeland Security and Emergency Management goals. We met recently with a group of clinical social workers on having some of our CERT teams assist dialysis patients in some preparedness issues. We are furthering the Constitution of our Statewide Council.

Ramon Martinez-I am the President of Progreso Latino which is a community-based organization and I have been here for the past five months. I am also a retired Colonel from the Air Force. Here with me is Bob Guneyi, MD, and we both have Homeland Security background. He is Homeland Security certified for bioterrorism and also counterterrorism. I was the person that actually analyzed all of the documents captured from Al Qaida in Afghanistan and have published articles on Homeland Security. We are going to be forming a work group along the lines of Citizens Corp but we will be calling it the Community Council so that we can involve all the minority community based organizations along with the volunteer group. The idea is to develop a comprehensive integrated plan to mobilize all the different communities within Rhode Island.

THE EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION WORKING GROUP-Bob Warren

My plan this year is to do some work with this group. We have been meeting here at RIEMA with our counterparts from Region I. Joe attended an ESF meeting yesterday in Boston. I am hoping after the first of the year getting these ESF's a little more refined. We have worked with some of our state partners. David Leonard from our staff is taking the lead on this. He has a deadline of April 1, 2007 to rewrite the EOP and we need to incorporate that into this. This will be one of our priorities in 2007.

HPPC-Dawn Lewis

HPPC has been focusing on communications issue. They are also working on the Patient Tracking System which is now in the design phase. We are working with EMA, the vendor, the hospitals, and the Department of Health We hope to design a system that will track patients from point of site at an

incident through the hospital system. We are also looking at another system which is called the E Notify system which allows for blast communications during a disaster as well as being utilized as an On Call system. We are also looking at putting a whole new communication package and giving this to our hospitals.

LIFESPAN-Dr. Ken Williams

The New England Council for EMS Medical met a few weeks ago and we they are trying to get some coordination among the New England states for ambulance resources including something like a task force. We pointed out that here they would want to coordinate with the existing Mutual Aid Plan. They are working on things liked reciprocity, licenses, protocols, and standardization of communications. There is a group within the New England Council working on this. Massachusetts has worked something out within in the State so that they can move a task force of ambulances from Western Massachusetts to Eastern Massachusetts on call. They would be able to bring food, water, and clothing for themselves and then move across the State and augment care within an area. This is a resource that may be available to us within one year.

MHRH-Carol Kent

We had a 2-day training where we trained another 50 Behavioral Health responders group and now we are close to 500 who have received this 2-day training. We also offered a 1-day refresher course for the responders that took the 2-day training some time ago. We have also developed a training package for the hospitals. Emphasis is where they need to think about behavior health supports in surge planning. We have been to Newport Hospital, Landmark, and South County is scheduled for January 2007. We are also attracting other kinds of people to the trainings like the private practice community and people on hospital staffs that do mental health kinds of work. In this process I discovered that the DMAT team has mental health people on it. We are trying to enhance our coordination with that group.

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCD)WORKING GROUP-Nathan

On December 4, 2006 we had a meeting here to have a year in review as far as mass casualty preparedness efforts and respond tactics are concerned. We also included an equipment demonstration. A number of the trailers came here for the meeting to share best practices of inventory equipment and routine maintenance and accountability checks and it was a highly productive meeting. Other topics included hospital evacuations and also regional planning and exercising initiatives.

PORT SECURITY-Bob Warren

The area committee met last week and they are working on a lot of initiatives. They are working on their funding sources, plans, and web program. On December 14, 2006 there is a Security Meeting.

RAIL SECURITY WORKING GROUP-Bob Thorne

Over Thanksgiving we decided to do a Pulse Operation and put together a small task force and visited the Providence Station three times, Kingston Station twice, and Westerly once. The public really appreciated seeing the added security. The people involved were the RISP, RI Fire Marshal's Canine Team, local police, TSA Rail Security Inspectors. We plan to do the same Pulse Operation concept during the Christmas holidays and will go back to Providence, Kingston, and Westerly.

There is a lot of construction going on in the airport and despite that the security lines have been going through pretty quickly.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP-not present

SPECIAL POPULATION WORKING GROUP-not present

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER-Nathan Rodgers

Group continues to make progress with the Family Survival Family Resource Plan. We are working closing with the Department of Health and Human Services, Red Cross, Department of Health, RIEMA and the DOIT. The next meeting is tomorrow afternoon. We will continue to provide input into the plan not only in structure and organization but also in the supplementary material. Another benefit is bringing onboard the Division of Information Technology.

4. OLD BUSINESS-Maryann Medeiros

Last meeting we spoke about nursing home preparedness and that we needed to place that somewhere. Spoke with the Health Department and apparently there was a resolution passed within the last legislative period requiring nursing homes to be more prepared than they were in the past. They are going to try to form a working group which will include RIEMA.

Bob Warren stated that we have met with DOH. Don Williams is contacting the Senator who sponsored the resolution to make sure that they are aware of it. We are having some issues because of the way that it was worded which states that each facility has to do a plan and the way it was written is that each plan would be reviewed by the local EMA Director. The policy would be changed to read that RIEMA and DOH would review it.

Tom Kilday stated that a letter is going out and then we will reconvene once we get a response from that.

Bob Warren stated that we are working with the DOH to get Mark I kits and PPE equipment on the ambulances and first responder transport vehicles. This morning there was a meeting and they are having a problem with narcotics. We are going to use the DOH to distribute most of the products that will go on the trucks. The problem is Versed is a narcotic and we will need to get that delivered to the hospitals.

5. NEW BUSINESS-Dawn Lewis and Tom Kilday

A Power Point presentation was done of the Hospital Capacity System which is designed around the Hospital Diversion System.

Bob Warren stated that Nathan is leaving us on December 28, 2006. He has accepted a position in Washington, DC doing exercises for DHS. He is going to try to do more on the Resource Plan before he leaves. We wish him well. Brittan Bates has taken over the Exercise position.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to get a letter from the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee thanking him for his time.

Armand Randolph has taken a 2-year deployment to the Bahamas.

Jim Bell is taking a 9-month deployment in this country to do lot of re-banding and infrastructure of the radio system of the National Guard. He will be back around October.

Joseph Cournoyer who has been a contract employer for the past six months has accepted a full-time position at RIEMA. We are looking at the Citizens Funding to see if we can hire a contract employee as a replacement. We welcome Joe to RIEMA.

EMPG Grant Guidance came in last week. We are meeting this afternoon to get this budget in line. We are meeting with the local directors on December 14, 2006. About 20 of the 39 cities and towns get some money from this grant. This funding has changed to a project-based format. We are also working with the PDM Grant and Larry Macedo is the contact for this grant. This usually gets into flooding issues. We did not get any last year but there is a set amount of dollars available throughout the nation.

Two weeks ago Amy, Nathan, Brittan and I went to the Grants and Training Conference in Washington, DC. Providence sent Peter Marinucci, Leo Messier and Peter Popko. A lot of information was covered in the 3-4 days. That grant guidance is coming out on December 18, 2006. As soon as we get it, we will send it to everyone. We received 7.6 or 7.8 million last year. We are trying to move that number up for this year. My staff will be rewriting

the Enhancement Document that goes along with that. Hopefully we will have more information at the next meeting.

Today the state auditors started their audit here at RIEMA. Because we did get the 7 million dollars last year we had to be audited.

Last month we were audited by DHS. They did find some areas that they are going to look into but nothing drastic.

The other thing that came up at the DHS meeting in Washington was the critical infrastructure. While we have been working forward in that area and we have been working on the buffer. My feeling is that we need to do more. One of things that we are looking into for January 2007 is to try to expand our critical infrastructure protection. We may have changes internally with the staff and what they are delegated to do. I think that we will try to tie this in with the private-public sector partnership and expand this out. We are trying to get them a seat in the EOC so we can get information to them quickly. I think we will take this committee and reach out and get some critical infrastructure going. Bob Johnson stated that he thought this was a very good idea.

Regional Planners-we did advertise for them and they will be contract employees. We are looking internally to where they will be physically placed. We need to reach out to each community to sign an MOU with this agency. Some have done that. We hope to get these people on the road shortly after the first of the year and start the planning at the local level.

Janice announced that she is retiring on December 29, 2006.

Nathan Rodgers thanked everyone that he has worked with in the past four years.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:13am.

**NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 23,
2007.**

