

Warren County Public Health
Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Committee
Meeting Minutes - July 25, 2012
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Present: Dan Albert, Pat Auer, Kelly Barker, Amy Baulsir, Marie Capezzuti, Joanne Conley, Amy Drexel, Dan Durkee, Joyce Flower, Anita Gabalski, Ginelle Jones, Sandy LeBarron, Angela Meade, Cheryl Murphy, Barbara Orton, Sheri Norton, Laura Saffer, Warren Snyder, Laura Stebbins, Barbara Taggart, Will Valenza, Evelyn Wood - **Present 22.**

Barbara Orton called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. She announced her retirement, effective August 9, 2012. Barb thanked the committee, Pat Auer, Ginelle and Angela for their support over the past eight years. She introduced Dan Durkee, Public Health Educator, as the new committee facilitator; she stated she hoped the committee support would continue.

Warren Snyder, National Weather Service, presented an interesting weather program. He stated there are an average of 30 days of thunderstorms between June and August, a time when Warren County has a population surge due to visitors/tourists to the area. He recalled a few memorable storms to the area including the severe hailstorm on May 29th. Warren reported every May, NWS hosts a Spotter Training Course that is held at the County.

Next, Joanne Conley, Assistant Tourism Coordinator, presented the 2011 Occupancy Survey/Report. The report contains a 15 year historical pattern wherein Tourism does solicitation of responses and the Planning Department crunches the numbers. Joanne noted, that for various reasons, it was sometimes difficult for business owners to send back a response. She said most of the visitors to the Adirondack, Lake George area (average eight million per year) come to Warren County (43%) with the majority being in Lake George, which can present problems. Joanne said one half were day trippers and one half were overnighters. The largest impacted communities are Lake George Village (1 million) and the Town of Lake George (1 million) followed by Queensbury, Bolton, and Johnsburg. The busiest months in order are: August, July, May and February. Joanne noted that for emergency response purposes, Tourism would be the "communication tool" as was found out during Hurricane Irene. Emails can be set up with local businesses, media, county supervisors and government officials. In addition, she said, Tourism has a database of about 125, 000 people who have requested information about the area. Tourism would also be available to help OES with phones, staffing, etc. Tourism has a good outreach to the visiting public and community. If anyone wants a copy of the survey, please contact Joanne.

Agency Updates

- Brian LaFlure, Director, OES:
 1. Congratulated Barb Orton on her retirement
 2. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony on the new training facility. It is available to anyone looking for training space. A detailed site map was available for everyone to look at.
 3. An elaborate drill with the Saratoga and North Creek Railroad was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. this evening at Riverside. All were invited to attend, if interested.
 4. Upgrading the radio system. Currently competing for communication equipment to be used for interoperable communications. Government is now building a system of systems to create regional consortiums. Adirondack Consortium covers a huge portion of the state (nine counties with three more wanting to join) and a lot of partners. This system will provide for an intranet secure network.

- Warren Snyder, NWS:
 1. Discussed the major May 29th hail event
 2. Coming into a more active weather period during the next week or so.

- Anita Gabalski, Director, NYSDOH District Office:
 1. NYSDOH District Office issued a Boiled Water Order for Glens Falls after tests showed coliform bacteria in the water. The biggest impact was on the hospital.
 2. This was an unusual event for the City of Glens Falls. Hot washes are being held, and a comprehensive evaluation of the Glens Falls water supply is being made.
 3. Anita noted that once a coliform bacteria is discovered, they can re-occur.
 4. NYSDOH has also been working on a camp norovirus outbreak.

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5. Brian LaFlure said a conference call was held about the Boiled Water Order for Glens Falls, and it was determined it was prudent to notify residents of the City of Glens Falls if they had a landline. 14,000 calls were placed in about 20 minutes via Hyper-Reach. In addition, Town of Queensbury residents were also called as some use Glens Falls water. This created some negative feedback; and as a result, a list of City of Glens Falls water users residing in Queensbury will be created. As Warren County's Emergency Manager, Brian said he would always err on the side of caution.
- Sandy LeBarron, Environmental Control Manager, Finch Paper:
 1. Finch Paper responded to the Boiled Water Order by changing all filters and shutting down water fountains.
- Barbara Taggart, Administrator, Westmount Health Facility:
 1. Westmount's annual fire drill will be Thursday, July 26th at 6:00 p.m. She thanked Brian and Amy for their continued support.
- Amy Baulsir, BT Coordinator, Washington County:
 1. Introduced herself.
- Marie Capezutti, PH/BT Coordinator, Washington County:
 1. "Good luck to Barb. It has been a pleasure working with you over the past years".
- Sheri Norton, GIS Coordinator, Warren County:
 1. Attended a five day FEMA database training in Maryland.
- Laura Saffer, BT Health Educator:
 1. Completed training with volunteers on their responsibilities with PODs (Points of Distribution Sites).
 2. Laura asked Brian and Amy, if they had heard about "Smart 911", a Special Needs Registry. Brian noted the system for calling, as it is right now, is a Verizon database. Sheri asked how did Verizon database compare with OFA database. Those who do not have Verizon can register through the Sheriff's Office (see instructions below).

Directions to sign up for Emergency Notifications in Warren County:

Start at the Warren County website

<http://sheriff.co.warren.ny.us/>

Click on ***Register for Emergency Notifications*** on the right hand side

Click on **Community Signup Page** at the bottom

This will open a brief form to fill out. Don't forget to read the **Terms and Conditions**, prior to clicking on the **I Accept** button and **Submitting**.

3. Amy said a Special Needs Registry was available with Office for the Aging. Amy asked Laura for additional "Smart 911" information.

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- Laura Stebbins, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Glens Falls Hospital (GFH):
 1. Following is Laura's report as presented, in writing, for the minutes.

**WARREN COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL**

July 2012 Report

Provider Partnership in Preparedness

- Development of respiratory guidelines for pediatric patients
- Emergency preparedness brochure for expectant mothers in draft
- START and JumpSTART triage review with office staff in September

Exercises/Tabletop sessions in 2012

- April—outbreak of influenza at children's camp
- May—escape of correctional facility patient within the hospital
- June— fire in a movie theater
- July— train event
- HPOD scheduled for September
- Please let Laura know of any other exercises planned in the community, as GFH would like to participate

Events

- Boil water order (*Laura thanked Anita and Brian for all their support*)
- Scheduled evacuation/reoccupation of 4 West

Helistop

- Education for responders
- Data collection
- Safety PI observations
- Notifications with cranes/construction

Barb has been a wonderful resource and support for the hospital over these many years. She has developed a wonderful partnership among all of us to be prepared for any type of emergency as a team. I wish her every joy and happiness in her retirement. I will miss you, Barb.

- Amy Drexel, Coordinator, OES:
 1. Happy with Dan replacing Barb. "You will be missed".
 2. Propane incident at CR Bard resulted in revised plans and a walk-through of the facility.
 3. Dam Plans - lots of meetings, tabletops, etc.
 4. From the new hazard analysis, the top three Warren County hazards are flooding, hazmat and dams.
- Amy Drexel, Chair, LEPC:
 1. The new 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook for first responders is out. She reviewed some of the changes and encouraged those using the book to refresh themselves on the content.
- Evelyn Wood, Town of Thurman Supervisor:
 1. Glad to see the Training Center is open; stating it is a tremendous asset to the county.
- Kelly Barker, Warren County Social Services:
 1. Introduced herself as representing Social Services this morning.

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- Cheryl Murphy, Regional Response Manager, American Red Cross:
 1. Doing extensive work on capabilities and capacities on real time numbers. This has been a daunting task.
 2. Red Cross is always looking for more volunteers and partnership training.
 3. Cheryl is thrilled about the training center.

- Dan Albert, Project Assistant, NYS Office of Homeland Security:
 1. Relative to the tragic movie theatre shooting event in Colorado, Dan said this was very unpredictable, and one of the challenges is when the perpetrator operates alone, as it is difficult to detect. He noted the person was educated, and a lot of planning went into this event. Other “copy cat” events may arise
 2. He reminded everyone to remain alert in public places, and report and err on the side of caution.
 3. Since this event there have been three different arrests in other parts of the country.
 4. Homeland Security receives and releases much information every day, as greater consequences could arise if information is not shared.

- Ginelle Jones, ADPH, Warren County Health Services:
 1. Ginelle apologized for being late.
 2. She echoed thankfulness for having worked with Barb. Ginelle said Barb did an absolutely amazing job, pulled partners together, and recognized the importance of the EPR Committee. She added that Barb was very enthusiastic, always smiling, never had a bad day, was resourceful, sincere and dedicated.
 3. Ginelle said she was excited about having Dan on the team and what he could bring to the table.
 4. Ginelle presented Barb with a Certificate of Appreciation.

- Dan Durkee, Public Health Educator:
 1. Dan said he was in the process of learning what’s needed for his new role, and there was a lot to catch up on to get up-to-speed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela M. Meade

Directions:

Remaining 2012 Meeting Date: (4th Wednesday)

October 24, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Warren County Board of Supervisors Board Room

from the south: I-87 Exit 20 – take a right at the light – left at light - Enter at main entrance (by the flagpole), take elevator to the 2nd floor.

from the north: I-87 Exit 20 – take a left – across Route 9 - Enter at main entrance (by the flagpole), take elevator to the 2nd floor.