

Warren County Public Health
Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Committee
Meeting Minutes - October 24, 2012
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2013 Meeting Dates: (4th Wednesday)

January 23, 2013, April 24, 2013, July 24, 2013, October 23, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Warren County Board of Supervisors Board Room
2nd Floor of Municipal Center

Directions:

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.

Present: Amy Baulsir, Pat Belden, Skip Bessaw, Marie Capezzuti, Scott Combs, Joanne Conley, Dan Durkee, Barbara Gaige, John Greening, Bruce Hersey, Ginelle Jones, Brian LaFlure, Dan Larson, Richard Leach, Jim Lieberum, Angela Meade, Laura Saffer, Keith Scherer, Mike Shaw, Warren Snyder, Laura Stebbins, Gary Tuthill, Stephen Wilbur, **Present 23.**

Dan Durkee called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

Pat Belden reported on a suspect meningitis case resulting in the death of a 16-year old Queensbury student at the end of August. Pat said it was a meningitis of some sort, but because the test of choice a “spinal tap” could not be done, the exact meningitis strain was not determined. Pat reported Warren County Public Health erred on the side of caution regarding prophylaxis. She explained the time frame and procedures implemented. A Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet was distributed to everyone. Dr. Larson added to the reporting this morning. General discussion ensued.

Dan Durkee noted meeting location change for 2013 will be the Warren County Board of Supervisors Board Room (2nd Floor of the Municipal Center). This room has been used for the past two meetings and has served the committee well. It has enough horseshoe seating so we can all see each other and microphones so we can all hear each other better.

Agency Updates

- Bruce Hersey, Coordinating Chaplain, Adirondack Emergency Community Chaplains (AECC):
 1. One of the AECC Chaplains passed away suddenly, and they are looking for a replacement.
- Brian LaFlure, Director/Fire Coordinator, Warren County Office of Emergency Services (OES):
 1. The narrow banding of all Warren County radio systems to supply additional frequencies has been completed.
 2. Satellite phones are being changed over to Iridium because Global Star was deteriorating to the point of worthless. OES still needs to update Public Health and Glens Falls Hospital.
 3. Two years ago \$3 million was allocated to upgrade radio systems. Brian passed out a two-page handout noting page one shows the regional system, The Adirondack Interoperable Communications Consortium (AICC). More and more partners are being picked up as the system progresses. Page two highlights New York State with the AICC comprising a very large area, 26% of the entire state.
 4. New York State no longer has funds to maintain the HazMat system because it is too costly. The options were to turn the equipment back in or maintain the equipment ourselves (neither was an option). Now, there is a \$300,000 grant available to consortiums and OES will apply for dollars to maintain the equipment.
 5. Communications bus is being completed and will be put into service soon.

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6. Brian noted that 99% of grants are FEMA and all grants dropped 40%.
 7. The Training Center is up and running and doing very well. Anyone wanting to use it, please contact OES.
 8. The Saratoga and North Creek railroad drill went very well, as did the Saratoga/Washington County Conklinville Dam exercise.
 9. OES is working on the following plans: Chempack, Cart and a new BT Plan.
- Skip Bessaw, Westmount Health Facility:
 1. The annual drill with neighboring fire departments will be November 1st. Incorporating the brand new sprinkler system into this year's drill will be different.
 - Marie Capezzuti, PH/BT Coordinator, Washington County:
 1. An Anthrax scenario POD drill will be held on October 25th.
 2. Planning an active shooter drill.
 3. A current real event was the rock slide in Washington County which will be discussed at the November 1st BT meeting.
 - 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**

October 2012 Report

Provider Partnership in Preparedness

- START and JumpSTART triage reviewed with physician office and health center representatives. Training to be provided for the AMS nursing coalition. Dr. McTiernan reviewed process with Department of Pediatrics.
- Standing agenda item for Department of Medicine and Department of Pediatrics
- Continuing education with staff and physicians on emergency management.
- The annual Department of Health meeting was a good review of the Chempack and SNS Plans.
- The Pediatric Response Project will continue over the next couple of years.

Exercises/Tabletop sessions in 2012

- August 15 TT- pesticide spray in apple orchard/pediatric response
 - September 19 TT- Hostage situation/active shooter in hospital
 - October 10 TT - Zoonosis/Hantavirus
 - November TT- AMS health centers/blizzard
 - December 19 -Avalanche at ski center
 - HPOD exercise -9/6 nearly 800 participants
 - Participated in Mall tabletop facilitated by Amy Drexel 9/26
 - Infant and child abduction exercises
 - Internal chemical spill/exposure exercise 11/13 with pharmacy
 - *Please let Laura know of any other exercises planned in the community, as GFH would like to participate and any recommendations for 2013 exercises and tabletop sessions*
- Gary Tuthill and Stephen Wilbur, Regional Coordinators, Region III, NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM):
 1. Reported they were new to the committee and intended to come to future meetings.

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- Warren Snyder, National Weather Service (NWS):
 1. Radar upgrades were made in the late spring.
 2. Media Workshop was held this week.
 3. Services Assessment, used to plan and improve services, and the Winter Operations Plan is on the web page.
 4. DOT and NYS Thruway are having meetings relative to weather happenings.
 5. There were two fairly significant weather outbreaks in September resulting in lots of wind, rain and localized flooding.
 6. Had scattered frost and a hard freeze about a week ago.
 7. NWS is hosting a conference for visiting scientists doing operational research October 31 and November 1. Expecting 50-70 participants.
 8. As of today, the weather forecast for late this weekend and early next week has predicted a perfect storm type scenario. Need to pay attention. 40-70 mph winds and 6"- 12" of rain are predicted. This is a "Hurricane Irene on steroids". Possibly in for a rough period late Sunday into Tuesday. More information on: weather.gov/aoy.

- Joanne Conley, Assistant Tourism Coordinator, Warren County Tourism:
 1. Joanne reported on the recent rafting accident on the upper Hudson River resulting in one fatality. She noted that in the height of the rafting season, April and May, there are a number of rafts on area rivers. She expressed concern that at this time of year there were not many people on the river and that emergency communication was something to consider. She suggested this scenario as a possible tabletop exercise.

- Jim Lieberum, County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, Soil & Water Conservation District:
 1. Jim reported his role is dealing with pre-disaster hazard mitigation and to assist areas to reduce problems with flooding, icing, etc.
 2. In light of the storm predicted this weekend, should Schroon River receive an additional 3"-4" of rain, there will be flooding in Warrensburg, Bolton and Chester. Roads and travel may be problem. He is happy to help any of the communities.

- Dan Durkee, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator:
 1. Reported on the Flu Pod Exercise held on October 23, 2012. This exercise is a grant deliverable to show capabilities to meet need in the event of an outbreak. The throughput goal of vaccinating 50 people in 15 minutes or 200/ hour was met. In addition, WCPH used their own equipment and did not rely on NYSDOH assets. Dan said WCPH has come a long way since Day 1 and have grown our capabilities as this is our role and responsibility.
 2. In the process of working with OES and IT Departments on establishing a new Special Needs Registry. Looking to coordinate with GIS and current E911 System.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela M. Meade