

Warren County EPR/LEPC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
January 31st, 2024

In Attendance

Dan Durkee – Warren County Public Health
Bill Collins – City of Glens Falls (Mayor)
Steve DiRienzo – National Weather Service Albany
Christopher Gitro – National Weather Service Albany
John Bowe – Cornell Cooperative Extension
Donald James – Red Cross
Gregory Doriski – Red Cross
Sandy LeBarron – Finch Paper
Joel Walbridge – SUNY Adirondack
Mack Morin – SUNY Adirondack
Mallory Lloyd – Washington County Public Health
Jim Lieberum – Warren County Soil & Water
Jake Armstrong – Hudson Headwaters
Rob Coughlin – Red Cross
Maren Stoddard – Warren County Soil & Water
James Schrammel - Warren County OES
Jon Samiof – NYS DHSES-OEM
Ashley Rivers Warren County OES
Ann Marie Mason – Warren County OES
Joe Combs – Northern GI
John Taflan – County Administrator
Tammie DeLorenzo – Asst. County Administrator
Don Lehman – Warren County Administrator Office

The meeting began at 9:00am

Dan Durkee, Public Health – Began the meeting with a brief overview of the meeting purpose. He then asked attendees to briefly introduce themselves. Following introductions Dan introduced Jim Lieberum from Warren County Soil and Water to provide an overview of the Warren County Hazard mitigation plan and its updates.

Jim Lieberum, War. Co. Soil & Water – Stated the hazard mitigation plan had been approved by FEMA and that his office works closely with Office of Emergency Services to create and maintain the plan. Please see the attached slide for presentation information. Following the presentation Jim stated that organizations in need of hazard mitigation planning assistance can contact his office.

Committee Member Updates

**Ashley Rivers, Warren County OES -
LEPC Update**

- Tier II reports are coming in
 - Ferrell Gas
 - Frontier
 - Lowes
 - Sunoco
 - Verizon
- HazMat Response Plan – updates complete

Warren County Office of Emergency Services - Agency Update

Plans

- CEPA(County Emergency Preparedness Assessment) was moved to 2024
- County COOP updates in progress

Training

- Weather Spotter training was held
- ICISF – Assisting in Crisis; Group Crisis Helping responders recover after a crisis. Has a mental health focus.
- B-TERC – Basic Threat Evaluation Reporting Course
- In March, Ashley will be attending training related to CERT Team

Real Events

- Rain Storm, 12/17-12/18, response overview – damage was mainly in the northern part of the County with road wash outs.
- Met with National Grid for bi-annual meeting, this meeting is now including NYSDOT

Miscellaneous:

- NYSEMA Conference

Ashley Rivers, OES Bus Crash Summary - 13 ambulance crews and 1 helicopter crew responded. Multiple law enforcement agencies responded as well. Response activities went smoothly, and communications system worked well. **Dan Durkee**- Added to the bus crash incident discussion by sharing notes provided by Laura Stebbins from Glens Falls Hospital and its response.

From Laura Stebbins

Thank you to the multiple agencies that provided excellent response agencies/services for the injured and collaboration with GFH.

Brief GFH overview:

- Notification of bus accident with 24 people traveling from Canada to NYC. On scene, 1 fatality and 1 helicopter transport to AMC. Potential for 12-20 patients with less serious injuries to GFH. (GFH received 14).
- Immediate decompression of ED (current patients admitted or discharged) to prepare for incoming.
- Modified incident command due to number of expected patients and conditions.
- Message to managers from the Logistic Center to “be prepared”.
- Patient Experience representatives provided language tablets for interpretation needs.
- Chief Medical Officer briefed OR and Hospitalists
- Warren County OES (Ann Marie) contacted L. Stebbins that OES working with Red Cross for sheltering and transportation needs for discharged patients.

Rob Coughlin added that the Red Cross was prepared to set up a temporary shelter if needed but was notified that a local hotel offered their space and resources and that the Red Cross sheltering team would not be needed at that time. He also thanked all of the responding agencies and community organizations that offered assistance during the incident.

John Bowe, Cornell Cooperative Extension – EDEN or Extension Disaster Education Network, which has a key staffer on the Cornell campus, Dr. Keith Tidball, that sends out preparedness information to each county ahead of an event if possible. Then response information afterward to all county offices. The second is MyPI of My Preparedness Initiative which is a youth development program based on the FEMA Teen CERT training. I am the NYS program coordinator and there are 5 counties who currently have people trained for this. I am working with Anne Marie’s office on getting this started in Warren County, likely the fall of 2024. John also stated that he is working with Washington County on the County Animal Response program. Dan mentioned that Warren County is also included in that plan and if there are any meetings he would like to have Public Health or OES involved to just reach out.

Steve DiRienzo & Christopher Gitro, National Weather Service – Stated that NWS will hold a tabletop exercise (TTX) in February as part of the planning process for the potential impacts the Total Eclipse happening in April may create. Dan stated NYS Office of Health Emergency Preparedness has had several discussions and a TTX as well in anticipation of the

event. Maren (WCSW) stated that DEC is also reviewing plans in anticipation of people entering forests and wilderness areas to watch the event.

Sandy LeBarron, Finch Paper – Stated that in February their Preparedness staff will be conducting a TTX at the plant to train new staff. It will cover incidents specific to the plant.

Mack Morin & Joel Walbridge, SUNY Adirondack – Stated that they are conducting a lockdown/lockout drill on January 31st. They drill was testing multiple components including the communications system. The drills are conducted multiple times per year. It was also reported that SUNY Adirondack experienced a power failure in October 2023 and the emergency communications system was utilized for that incident. It was also reported that the failure identified weakness in the power system at ACC and that updates are being made to eliminate those weaknesses in future events. The campus power grid was established in the 1960's and is in need of upgrades. During the outage a ACC was able to find a generator to provide power to the food services and residential hall, but that also had some complications since there was no system in place to hook a large portable generator directly into the residential hall or food service buildings. They were able to overcome those problems and are upgrading the power grids to be able to hook directly to a large generator should this happen in the future.

Jake Armstrong, Hudson Headwaters – Stated that the Hudson Headwaters Health system has reinstated mask mandates for all patients and visitors to their health centers. He also stated HHHN is working with law enforcement to provide active shooter training to staff throughout the health system. Lastly, he stated that some eclipse planning in some of the northern health clinics outside Warren County is occurring.

James Schrammel, Warren County OES/Hazmat – Stated the Hazmat team is now equipped to handle incidences that involve propane fires. He also said that a work is being done to get a Spill Response Trailer equipped for Warren County should an incident occur. Warren County was not included in another program that provided trailers to agency because no railroads operate in the County. In addition to the spill response trailer Hazmat is developing a training that can be provided to County and local DPW staff so they are better equipped to handle larger spills that could occur at one of their locations. James said there were 5 Hazmat incidences in 2023 which is high for Warren County. Finally, he stated that Warren County has assumed fiduciary responsibilities for the 7-county hazmat consortium.

Dan Durkee on behalf of Laura Stebbins

GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL REPORT, JANUARY 31, 2024

- Monthly emergency preparedness **tabletops will restart March 20th**. Scheduled the 3rd Wednesday 12-1pm in the Community Learning Center (CLC) at Glens Falls Hospital (across from Bistro on first floor). Refer to attached list.
- NYSDOH MRSE (**Medical Response & Surge Exercise**) **scheduled April 23rd**. I will be reaching out to several of your facilities to participate.
- RACES amateur radio group upgrading the GFH amateur radio. Thank you to Frank Gitto and Mickey Corentto.
- The HEPC Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Work Group is reviewing and revising the **NYSDOH Pediatric & Obstetrical Toolkit** for healthcare facilities. This is a guideline document to assist with pediatric planning and training.
- The Glens Falls Hospital Hazardous Vulnerability Assessment will be reviewed at next meeting.

Jon Samiof, NYS DHSES-OEM, - Stated that DSHES is holding a winter weather TTX on February 21st that is open to regional County OES's and other partners. Will also be conducting a County emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) in the 2nd or 3rd quarter for Warren County.

Dan Durkee, Public Health – Stated that masking at Public Health clinics including WIC clinics is now required. Also stated that Public health successfully completed a 3-of-3 Drill testing the department's ability to notify, assemble and staff a primary POD clinic in <4 hours. He did state that one issue was identified with the new online security features NYSDOH has implemented to access online reporting systems, but workarounds are being identified. Dan also said that

respiratory diseases are on the rise in the County and region and that Public Health has flu and COVID vaccines available if anyone is interested.

Being no further discussion, the meeting ended at 10:18am.

Minutes Submitted by

Dan Durkee, Co-Chair
Warren County EPR/LEPC Committee

GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TABLETOPS 2024

Glens Falls Hospital will re-establish monthly tabletops to further develop our emergency management plans and strong partnerships with our community response agencies. The programs will be provided the **third Wednesday** of each month **1200-1300** in the **Community Learning Center** at Glens Falls Hospital (enter main lobby on first floor, turn left, CLC located across from bistro). Topics determined by the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) identified by the Emergency Management Committee & county agencies. The programs will focus on an all-hazards approach to disaster response utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command (ICS) process and include the critical elements of emergency management.

Please contact Laura Stebbins at 518-926-3122 or lstebbins@glensfallshosp.org with any questions. Your expertise is what made the programs successful for 20 years. Thank you for your continued support and integration in preparing our communities for any potential emergency event.

3/20/24 "Eclipse" incident

4/17/24 Fire -facility evacuation

5/15/24 Belmont Stakes event

6/19/24 Cyberterrorism in healthcare facility

7/17/24 Incident at Children's Camp/pediatric surge

8/21/24 Boating accident on Lake George/MCI

9/18/24 Explosion at fertilizer plant in Washington County

10/16/24 Illness outbreak at school

11/21/24 Severe winter ice storm

12/18/24 Roof collapse at nursing home