



WARREN COUNTY EPR/LEPC COMMITTEE

1340 State Route 9, Lake George, NY 12845: www.WarrenCountyNY.gov

Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness Committee/LEPC MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2025 @ 9:00AM

1.) Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Dan Durkee. He gave a brief overview of the agenda items.
Recording of minutes: Nancy Rosati

Attendees:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Combs, Joe | Northern GI |
| DeLorenzo, Tammie | WCAdmin |
| Durkee, Dan | WCPH |
| Leach, Richard, Dr. | Physician |
| LeBarron, Sandy | Finch Paper |
| Lehman, Don | Warren County |
| Martin, Connor | HHHN |
| Mija, Sarah | PACE HH |
| Modert, Izzy | GFFD |
| Ozores, Charly | PACE HH |
| Rivers, Ashley | WCOES |
| Schrammel, Jamie | WC Hazmat Cord. |
| Stack, Donald | WCPH |
| Stebbins, Laura | Glens Falls Hospital |
| Vaisey, Wendell | SUNY Adirondack |
| Walbridge, Joel | SUNY Adirondack |

2.) Purpose of EPR/LEPC Meetings – Dan Durkee

An opportunity to bring community partners together to discuss preparedness ideas, risks and to share solutions and ideas on how others have handled or is handling emergencies.

3.) Glens Falls Hospital – Review of HVA – Laura Stebbins



HVA 2025.pdf

Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)

The Glens Falls Hospital HVA identifies potential emergencies or other circumstances that may impact the hospital and the community. It includes the direct and indirect effects these emergencies may have on the organization's operations and the demand for our services. Glens Falls Hospital (GFH) HVA reviewed annually by the multidisciplinary Emergency Management Committee and revised as needed. The HVA is brought to this committee today for review and any recommendations. The GFH HVA includes the most current Warren and Washington County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA). The GFH off campus sites develop individual HVAs that generally have the same potential hazards with each site including vulnerabilities/assets specific to their location and population served. The Emergency Management Team reviewed the current HVA and revised as needed based on:

- Weather predictions
- Crime statistics –local and national
- Facility structure and construction/renovation plans
- Public Health information
- Regulatory guidance from DNV, DOH, CMS, and CDC guidance

Revisions reviewed during meeting.

Top 7 Emergency Vulnerabilities as determined by Probability x Impact with

Scores 34-60

1. **Patient Surge**- illness outbreak, trauma, evacuation of other healthcare facilities (probability & impact)
2. **Mass Casualty incidents** –transportation, violence, chemical exposure (probability & impact)
3. **Pandemic** (impact)
4. **Workplace violence** (probability & impact)
5. **Blizzard/ice storms** (probability & impact)
6. **Information System failure**-intentional or accidental (impact)
7. **External HazMat incident** (probability & impact)

These vulnerabilities consistent with county CEPA and regional HVAs.

Education

2025 education & training determined by hospital, county & regional risks. You are all welcome to attend.

Tabletops 12-1pm GFH Community Learning Center

1/15 **MCI- vehicle ramming** -AAR includes excellent participation from representatives of Warren & Washington County OES & PH, SUNY Adirondack, Red Cross, RACES & hospital leaders. Discussion regarding different barriers for consideration with mass gatherings. Ramming event may be intentional or incidental due to a medical emergency such as MI. stroke, seizure, diabetic reaction. Tim Hardy, Washington County OES, reviewed their mitigation strategies planning for the Greenwich Tractor Parade which included barriers, limiting

vehicular access in pedestrian areas, etc. Warren County provides planning for mass gatherings such as Americade (scenario for the tabletop), Balloon Festival, Warrensburg Garage Sale, etc. Although mass gatherings are considered 5,000 or more participants, a much smaller number is a mass gathering in smaller towns and requires much planning regarding routes for emergency vehicles, EMS transportation capability, communication, etc.

2/19 GFH Construction site incident

3/19 GFH Behavioral Health hostage situation

4/16 Helicopter crash

5/21 Children's camp -foodborne illness

6/18 Fertilizer plant exposure

7/16 Recreational site mass gathering incident

8/20 School Shooting-Family Reunification Center

9/17 Cybersecurity event

10/15 Riot at the jail

11/19 Northeast power outage

- Stop the Bleed training
- Disaster mental health

NYSDOH Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC)

Annual Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE) scheduled **March 26**. The scenario will include an incident on a college campus with potential chemical component. There are no actual patients or patient movement with this exercise. It is expected that the exercise will provide communication to several of your facilities from Glens Falls Hospital regarding capabilities and potential assets (EMS transportation, staff, space, supplies, equipment, communication tools, etc. Please let me know if you would like your agency involved/contacted during this exercise.

Potential opportunity to include the Chempack as component of the exercise. The CDC developed the Chempack program post 9/11 as there was a concern that terrorists may use deadly nerve agents. Each state was allotted a number of Chempacks for health care facilities based on population density and facility capabilities to maintain and distribute the medications in an emergency situation.

Initially, each EMS agency was provided a small kit to carry on their ambulances, but they expired years ago. Now only hospitals and DOH agencies maintain. Glens Falls Hospital has staged a Chempack exercise with Warren and Washington County emergency response agencies annually since receipt of the Chempack years ago. Chempack medications are also needed for organophosphate poisonings used in pesticides, a potential risk in our agricultural communities. The Chempack can be opened and deployed for a single or large- scale incident. Doses for 1000 people in hospital pack, 494 in EMS pack and Moses Ludington pack

Excellent recommendation from Jamie Schrammel, HazMat Coordinator, to develop a training program for Hazmat, EMS and GFH regarding the clinical and decontamination components of a nerve agent or organophosphate exposure. JS, LS and AR to schedule a meeting to discuss & develop.

Noted that in a mass casualty incident, people unfamiliar with our area needing medical care will go to the nearest “healthcare facility” listed, which could be a health center. Noted importance of notification of any MCI to HHHN and GFH off campus facilities.

- Annual Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Seminar scheduled **May 15th** at the Albany School of Public Health. Will also be available as webinar.
- System hospitals (GFH, AMC, Saratoga, Columbia Memorial) to adopt plain code language first quarter.
- Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Work Group reviewed and revised the NYSDOH Pediatric & Obstetrical Toolkit.
- HRSA site visit to GFH with NYSDOH EMS Pediatric Coordinator to review Pediatric work group initiatives

2025 Exercises

- Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE)
- Interoperable communication
- GFH Person with a weapon exercise
- Person with a weapon at GFH off campus sites and department specific tabletop/workshop
- Chempack exercise (may incorporate with MRSE)
- Decontamination drills/training
- Evacuation drills/equipment training
- Infant abduction drills
- Monthly National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) bed capacity reporting

Please let me know if your agencies are planning any exercises/drills that GFH could participate in or if you would like GFH to facilitate a specific exercise that would assist your agency.

4.) Warren County OES – Updates

Ashley Rivers:

- 3 Members from the ARHMC completed Dry DeCon Train the Trainer course in VA.
- Grant funded equipment is arriving – Marine Rescue, HazMat
- Commodity Flow Study is underway – forward Tier II reports that were file sin 2024 – any HazMat related incidents that were reported to DEC over the last 5 years.
- Tier II reports are trickling in – about 1/3 of the reports received.
- Software Suite of different Apps have been put out by the EPA – Ashley reviewing

Plans

- CEPA (County Emergency Preparedness Assessment): due to flooding events that impacted staff from NY DHSES, this was moved to 2025
- Update and Review will begin this quarter for the following plans:
 - CEMP
 - Bioterrorism
 - Mass Fatality Plan
 - CART – Animal Rescue Trailer

Training

- Sky Warn Weather Spotter Training was held in December to a full class
- Ashley completed TTT course for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). She will be able to train the community members that will be part of this team. Learning from other counties too.
- TAM (Threat Assessment Management Team): Monthly Training relating to threat assessment.
- Citizens Preparedness Course – 3/15/25, 11:00am – Sheriff’s Office Training Room – A flyer is being put together for this training.

Miscellaneous

- NYSEMA Conference – 2/11-2/13 in Syracuse
- Adirondack Gateway Safety Partners – Warren and Washington Counties and the Town of Moreau.

Jamie Schrammel added: he is willing to provide presentations on the county’s capabilities and equipment tier responses

5.) Public Health Updates

- H5N1, Current Flu Season: many cases of both, lingers for a few weeks
- With WHO being paused, not sure how it will impact communication, info sharing from other parts of the world
- Training Calendar –
<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/emergency-preparedness/training>
NEMBA will be offered in Lake George this year – great opportunity for us. CDC Website has several other trainings that may be of interest.

6.) Committee Member Updates

- **SUNY Adirondack**
 - 33 Staff Members were trained on CPR.
 - Construction South End of Bay Road will be under construction all summer long. Constricted to 2 entrances only. May impact Fire and Emergency Vehicles

7.) Hudson Headwaters – PACE

- 55+ nursing home without walls.
- The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is a community-based program that provides coordinated medical and social services to eligible older adults who want to continue living in their own home despite chronic care needs. The PACE at Hudson Headwaters team works with each participant to develop a care plan that promotes independence and the highest quality of life while allowing choice and dignity for participants and their families. PACE at Hudson Headwaters services select zip codes in Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties.
- Most PACE participants are dual-eligible, meaning they qualify for both Medicaid and Medicare although there are also private pay options. PACE is responsible for managing and paying for all services delivered to participants. Participants may be liable for the cost of unauthorized services outside of the PACE at Hudson Headwaters network.
- www.pacehh.org

8.) Warren County

- Installing the Magnetometer in DMV
- Construction the roof and chimneys

Dan Durkee asked if there are any other agenda items than the ones he lists, please either bring it with you to the next meeting or send Dan the topic to add to the agenda.

Next 2025 Tentative Meeting Dates

April 30th, July 30th, October 29th

Closed the meeting at 10:36 am

Minutes submitted by:

Nancy Rosati

February 20, 2025