

Warren County EPR/LEPC Committee
Meeting Minutes 04/28/2021

In Attendance

Tammie Delorenzo – Warren Co. Administrator's Office
Mike Lewis – NYS Police
John Phelps – NYS Police
Laura Stebbins – Glens Falls Hospital
Sandy LeBarron – Finch Paper
Donald James – red Cross/SkyWarn
Tim Hardy - Wash. Co. Public Safety
Jay Ogden - Warren Co. Fire Coordinator
Ann Marie Mason – Warren Co. OES
Dr. Ellis – NYS Ag & Markets
Leo Lloyd – Salvation Army
Dept. of Homeland Security?
Cory – NYSDOH
Chris Hanchett - Warren Co. DSS
Pat Belden – Warren Co. Public Health
Dan Durkee – Warren Co. Public Health

The meet was called to order at 9:08am by Dan Durkee. Dan Durkee provided a brief introduction and overview of the EPR/LEPC committee for new committee members.

Ann Marie Mason, warren Co. OES – She stated that she had met with the seven County HAZMAT Consortium recently, *and will hopefully have a functional exercise this year*. She mentioned that there are several SkyWarn weather trainings scheduled for later this spring. A copy of the announcement has been added to the minutes. She also announced that the Warren County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan had been approved by the Board of Supervisors in April. She stated that the Warren County HAZMAT *Hazard Mitigation* plan was due for its *annual 5 year* review this summer. She also mentioned that her office was working with several other partners to begin preparing for the Adirondack Balloon Festival and Americade Events scheduled for September. She also introduced Jay Ogden the new fire coordinator for Warren County

Dan Durkee announced to the committee the retirement of Brian LaFlure Director of Warren County OES and the resignation of Amy Drexel Asst. Director of warren County OES.

Laura Stebbins, Glens Falls Hospital – Laura presented the Hospital's annual Hazard Vulnerability Assessment. She highlighted several areas of highest concern

Severe Weather Events – Tornadoes and Winter Blizzard/Ice Storm

Facility & IT Risks - Critical Supply Shortage and It System Failure

Medical Surge Risks – Mass Casualty Incident, Pandemic, Patient Surge and Transportation Incident involving Passengers

Security Events – Cyber attack

Laura also stated that the Hospital had restarted their Ebola workgroup and reviewed the Ebola plan as required by New York State Department of Health. She also said that the Hospital facility response team

(formally the HAZMAT team) has restarted their monthly meetings. Laura also said that preliminary talks about conducting the Chempack training this fall had started. No details to the format or date have been given at this time. Finally, Laura asked for committee members to let the Hospital know if there were any trainings or exercises coming up they could participate in.

Pat Belden Warren County Public Health – Pat stated that currently daily COVID-19 numbers were decreasing which has provided a nice break for staff that are still conducting contact tracing. She also stated that a number of college students that had worked part-time for Warren County Public Health during the winter would be coming back to the area and would help boost staffing. Pat reported that vaccine supply was up but that demand was way down. She said there are ongoing discussions with local schools to get Pfizer vaccine to students 16+ years of age in the very near future. General discussion ensued among the group about vaccine hesitancy and how to get the population that has received the vaccine to want to get the vaccine. Dr. Ellis asked that Warren County Public Health to look into getting the equine community to get vaccinated similar to the efforts Washington County Public Health has made for their agricultural population.

Dr. Ellis, NYS Ag. & Markets – Not a whole lot of new information from Ag & Markets. He stated that there are questions among the experts about whether or not dog and cats can be infected with COVID-19 and can they pass it along to humans. He also stated that whitetail deer can carry it but it does not seem to affect them much. Worldwide mink are a known carrier and many have been humanely destroyed, but a close relative ferrets (which some people keep as pets) do not seem to carry the virus. Dr. Ellis talked briefly about the County Animal Response Teams and that the pandemic has made meeting and planning difficult for the CART groups.

Tamie Delorenzo, Warren Co. Office of the Administrator – She announced that most County buildings were now open to the public, but that DMV and County Clerk were still only seeing people by appointment. She stated that before being allowed to open safety plans were reviewed by each Department to ensure employee and public safety.

Chris Hanchett, Warren County DSS – He started by thanking everyone for their efforts during the pandemic. Next he provide several updates

1. He stated that the ERAP program which is designed to make sure landlords get paid for past-due rent and current rent was being finalized. Once the program is ready it will be posted to the Warren County website.
2. HEAP and SNAP benefits had been extended due to the pandemic and cool spring. So if anyone knows of anyone in need of assistance they can contact Warren County Department of Social Services.

Cory DeLorenzo, NYSDOH – In response to a question about summer camps he stated that currently it is anticipated that summer camps will be allowed to open and that it is also likely that overnight camps (which were not allowed to open last year) will be allowed to open. He anticipates that updated guidance for camps will be coming in the next couple of weeks.

Sandy LeBarron, Finch Paper – She stated that vaccination uptake by employees was slow. In an effort to boost vaccination rates she said Finch Paper has offered a number of different incentives but they have not done much. She said that many of the employees were hesitant from the start and that the J&J

vaccine pause just increased the hesitancy. She also said many of the employees choosing to not get vaccinated do not believe they are at high risk or that the virus is any worse than the flu. Dan Durkee asked if they had thought about bringing vaccine to the workplace. She said that had discussed it but did not contract to bring any organization onsite to do vaccinations.

Donald James, Red Cross & SkyWarn – Speaking as part of the Red Cross Donald mentioned that the Red Cross could assist Counties and other agencies with vaccinations if needed. They could provide staff to help with crowd/traffic control and to do data entry. He said 3-5 days lead time would be helpful to find volunteers, but if there was an acute need it might be possible to find help in a shorter period of time. Next Donald talked about the SkyWarn weather trainings and how to sign up. He provided a link to the SkyWarn registration page <https://www.weather.gov/aly/skywarn> .

Tim Hardy, Washington Co. Public safety – He stated that people using the Washington County Buildings are still required to make appointments at this time. He also stated that Washington County Public Health is finding it difficult to get people to want to be vaccinated. He said a number of clinics held on Saturdays have not been close to capacity. Tim also spoke about the efforts by Washington County to vaccinate farm and agricultural workers in the county by going to the farms. He stated Washington County is planning on setting up a vaccination clinic at one of the larger farms and inviting workers from nearby smaller farms to get vaccinated at that location as well.

Jay Ogden, Warren County Fire Coordinator – Jay introduced himself to the committee and encouraged people to contact him if there was anything they needed his help with.

Leo Lloyd, Salvation Army – He began by thanking everyone for their efforts during the pandemic. Dan Durkee replied that he and his group deserved just as much thanks for their help with the most vulnerable populations in or area during the pandemic. Leo reported that since March of last year they have provided enough food to people in our area for 1200 meals a day every day. He and his team of workers and volunteers have logged over 40,000 service hrs. Leo updated the committee about upgrades happening to the Salvation Army Broad Street location including the addition of an emergency generator so the location could be used as an emergency shelter if needed. He also said that the Salvation Army has created an EDS sub-committee that would be asked to get the Salvation Army better prepared for future emergencies. If anyone was interested in being part of that committee they were asked to contact him.

Mike Lewis, New York State Police – No updates

John Waszak, Department of Homeland Security, Sup. Chemical Security Inspector – Stated he hopes to resume in-person inspections soon. No other updates.

Dan Durkee read the following updates from Kristina Santiago with Hudson Headwaters health Network

- We have grown to 21 Health center locations.
 - With the most recent additions of Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake in October 2020.
- 942 employees.
- We are proud to announce the addition of a Mobile Health Unit. This unit will begin seeing patients during the month of June. We are in the process of finalizing parking locations; however, we will be in Salem on Mondays and Tuesdays and Whitehall on Thursdays and Fridays.

- All health center leaders received a qualitative fit test kit and were educated on use for recertifications.
- The Network purchased 2 quantitative fit test machines to service our Northern and Southern health centers.

Dan Durkee closed the meeting by reminding everyone of the tentative future dates for the quarterly EPR/LEPC meeting. The dates are July 28th and October 27th both starting at 9:00am.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.

Submitted by

Dan Durkee
 Co-Chair Warren County EPR/LEPC Committee
 4/29/2021



2021 WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

Day	Date	Time	Webinar Registration
Wednesday	March 31 st	7:00 – 9:00 PM	
Wednesday	April 14 th	7:00 – 9:00 PM	
Monday	April 19 th	7:00 – 9:00 PM	
Monday	April 26 th	2:00 – 4:00 PM	
Wednesday	May 5 th	7:00 – 9:00 PM	
Wednesday	May 12 th	7:00 – 9:00 PM	
Monday	May 17 th	Noon – 2:00 PM	



Registration & Information available at
<https://www.weather.gov/aly/skywarn>




