

**Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
(DEMHS Region 3) (UASI Region 3)
August 10, 2023
9:30 a.m.
CRCOG, In person and via Zoom**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman Dustin Rendock.

Public Comment – none

Adoption of the Minutes

Don Gouin, seconded by Harley Graime, moved to adopt the minutes from the April 20, 2023, meeting. All in favor, so voted.

Federal and State Liaison Reports

Congressman Larson's office sent notification that his office would not be represented at this meeting. Bill Turley reported for DEMHS that Mike Caplet will be in the role of Region 3 coordinator for two weeks, beginning tomorrow. and continue until Josh Cingranelli assumes the position on September 1. The 2023 EPPI will be held on October 14 and 18 and the scenario will be a HAZMAT incident. As his briefing on current DEMHS efforts and upcoming training opportunities was extensive, *his full report is attached to the minutes.*

Unfinished Business

SHSGP Grants Update –Cheryl Assis reported that we completely closed out the FY 19 with a successful review by DEMHS and are working on the FY 20 grant. The new chairs for the Manchester RCC were received and the barricade system will be delivered shortly. We recently purchased 3 stair climbing robots and pole cameras for use by the regional SWAT teams and provided upgrades to the West Hartford bearcat. We are working on repairs to the Manchester Bearcat and some training sessions for SWAT members.

Cheryl called attention to the **SHSGP FY 23 draft Spending Plan** which was included in the materials posted for the meeting. She briefly described the intended / possible uses of funds in each of the categories shown in the draft. Her *detailed comments are included as an attachment to the minutes.* After discussion, Don Jannelle, seconded by Don Gouin, moved that the draft spending plan be adopted. All in favor, so voted.

New Business

Allyson Schulz, CR-MRC, presented material describing CR-MRC's "New Long Term Care Capabilities and Missions". Registered medical and non-medical volunteers now total 1800. Long term care facilities requested medical support during COVID, and the AAR for COVID response noted the need to continue to train and to be better prepared. CR-MRC's funding is under the CT Healthcare Coalition. They are grateful for the support received from CRCOG, Region 3 ESF8, and the Manchester EOC which has been used for training. The PowerPoint slides used as the framework for her discussion can be made available to those interested. One focus of the discussion was the importance of preparing both medical and non-medical volunteers to be able to assist long term care facilities which have varying protocols and computer systems. The importance of being able to revert to paper records was also raised, which in turn raised the issue of the need for back up computer systems (Business Continuity Access computers).

ESF- Selected Committee Reports

RESF-1 Transportation –No report

ESF-5 Emergency Management – Bill Perkins reported he had attended training on weather and climate control issues. He and Steve Huleatt attended the NHS conference last month which focused on cybersecurity and school security. There is a high demand for ICS 300/400 classes in the region. These classes are scheduled for October and November. CRCOG is having initial discussions about hiring someone to assist Bill with training. Training opportunities are posted on the DEMHS training calendar.

RESF-6 Sub-Committee for Volunteer Management – Don Janelle reported CERT Training Day will be September 30 at the Fire Academy. Recruitment and retention of CERT members needs to be addressed. A PERT – Public Education Recruitment Team – has been formed Katherine McCormack suggested that non-medical MRC volunteers be recruited for CERT training. Don noted that they are conducting regional CERT training now, which offers more opportunities for volunteers to be trained. The question was raised about the viability of on-line training for at least part of the course.

RESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services –Pat Srenaski reported that they have been holding monthly hybrid meetings with 40-50 active participants. Over the past few months, ESF 8 members participated in a Medical Response and Surge exercise, attended the CT HCC conference, and began preparing for the Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP) full scale exercise on October 23. MRC responder training at the RCC focused on long term care bedside support. The need to revert to simple language rather than acronyms was acknowledged. ESF8 completed an Anthrax TTX in June and will participate in a Pandemic Vax TTX in September.

MRC – Katherine McCormack noted that only \$150,000 is available statewide for the MRC, and they are seeking more resources from the CT Health Care Coalition. The MRC is grateful to South Windsor for providing storage space for mannequins and bags of supplies for MRC volunteers.

RESF-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE – No Report

RESF-10 HAZMAT – Bill Perkins reported that DEMHS had a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting focusing on climate change issues for mitigation plans at which Doug Glowacki gave a 2023 hurricane season report. It is now expected that along the east coast will have a worse hurricane season this year and heavier snow this winter than had previously been expected.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2023.

Attached:

- Meeting attendance record
- Briefing report from DEHMS Region 3 Coordinator – Bill Turley
- FY23 HSGP grant draft spending plan information – Cheryl Assis