

**Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
(DEMHS Region 3) (UASI Region 3)
January 18, 2024
9:30 a.m.
CRCOG, In person and via Zoom**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Harley Graime.

Public Comment – none

Adoption of the Minutes

Don Janelle, seconded by Terri Thompson, moved to adopt the minutes from the October 19, 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. Josh Cingranelli reported that Emily Hein is back from maternity leave and available at the Region 3 office. He is in the process of reviewing the LEOP's. Please submit any damage assessments from the January 9/10 flooding event. Training opportunities are posted on the DEMHS training calendar.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

DEMHS EMD & CEO Presentation

Josh Cingranelli went through the PowerPoint presentation he will give to Chief Elected Officials and their Emergency Management Directors regarding Region 3 and our capabilities upon request. He asked for feedback from the group and discussion followed.

Election Security Set-aside funding

Cheryl Assis stated that the FY 21 SHSGP funds included a \$10,000 set aside for Election Security. She has spoken with several registrars and the CRCOG Municipal Services Committee, however, there have not been any project ideas. At a recent DEMHS meeting, the five regional fiduciaries discussed pooling the funds and partnering with the Secretary of State's office to deliver a training. It was the concurrence of the group that this made good sense.

Cheryl Assis stated that the region has completed the purchase of the modular Mobile Vehicle Barrier System through the Protection of Soft Targets set-aside funding. A training session was held. This equipment will be stored in Bristol and is for use by any department within the region.

The SWAT Commanders recently hosted a meeting at the New England Disaster Training Center and we will hold our Annual SWAT Training Day there on May 15th.

ESF- Selected Committee Reports

RESF-1 Transportation –Terri Thompson stated that DOT is updating the diversion plans and will also be working on some of the roadways not previously covered such as 384. The standpipe issue is still ongoing.

RESF-2 Communications

Mike Boucher stated that the group is working with the Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association on a solution for the RAFS system. They will be updating the firmware for all DEMHS portable radios.

ESF-5 Emergency Management – Bill Perkins reported on the scheduled ICS classes for March and April.

RESF-6 Sub-Committee for Volunteer Management – Harley Graime reported that there was a Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council meeting held on January 8th. We have held 2 regional CERT classes with one currently ongoing.

RESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services –In Pat Srenaski’s absence, Bill Perkins read her report. See below.

Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps-Katherine McCormack stated that the Healthcare Coalition recently approved funding for the CR-MRC. She thanked CRCOG for all the administrative support. Allyson Schulz will present our Long-term Care Mission Set project at the upcoming Public Health Preparedness Summit in Cleveland. Wayne Rioux has done a great job building a Logistics Team.

RESF-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE – Don Janelle reported that they are currently training with the canines on cadaver searches, live finds, etc. He discussed legislation which could ban the use of Chinese made drones.

RESF-10 HAZMAT – Cheryl Assis reported that the team recently purchased a bonding and grounding kit and will receive training shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2024.

Region 3 ESF 8 Update for CREPC - January 18, 2024

- Region 3 ESF 8 is sponsoring a TEEEX course in Glastonbury today and tomorrow. The 2-day course entitled “Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing (POD), Planning and Response” is being attended by 39 people from Region 3 and across the state.
- Region 3 ESF 8 is an active member in the CT Healthcare Coalition represented by chair, Pat Srenaski and co-chair, Mary Grace Keating. Campaign underway to increase participation in the coalition by members of hospitals, public health, EMS, emergency management, and especially by long-term care, home care providers and other health care partners. All are invited to attend the Healthcare Coalition as a guest.
- Home care safety and workplace violence being seriously addressed since the murder of a home care nurse in Willimantic this past fall. Home care agencies, outreach organizations and community providers are developing safety programs, safety apps and providing training. The “Healthcare Safety and Workplace Violence Webinar” had one showing for 100 people; will be offered again on February 6, 2024 at 8:30-10 a.m. Contact www.nwcares.org to register.
- **Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corp –**
 1. CR-MRC Funding received from the CT Healthcare Coalition for \$36k for multiple trainings, website, a LTC project, speaking events to share best practices, etc.
 2. Allyson Schulz, CR-MRC Trainer and Andrew McGuire, CT LTC-MAP Program Manager, will present at the Preparedness Summit on March 25, 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio. Their presentation titled “Prepping MRC Volunteers for the Next Rumble: Regional Bedside and Coordinating Center Readiness in Long-term Care” will feature a case study of post-pandemic collaboration to enhance readiness of MRC volunteers to support response teams at the bedside or in a coordinating center during emergencies affecting long-term care facilities. This collaborative training initiative strengthened regional capacity to mitigate surge events while sustaining volunteer engagement.
- **Region 3 Public Health -**
 1. Planning has begun for the **Project Public Health Ready** national recognition, by reviewing plans and establishing workgroups to address the three PPHR project goals: all-hazards emergency preparedness and response planning, workforce capacity development and quality improvement through exercises and real events.
- Public Health continues to monitor COVID-Flu-RSV status; hospital in-patient beds nearing capacity; some hospitals are reinitiating mandatory masking for staff

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Srenaski, RN
Region 3 ESF 8 Chair