

Plymouth County Emergency Preparedness Coalition

Full Coalition Meeting Minutes May 14, 2013

Middleboro Town Hall, 10 Nickerson Ave. Middleboro MA

Attendees: Janice McCarthy, Cheryl Cates, Arthur Boyle, Karen Walega, Amanda Stone, Robert Casper, Lou D'Arpino, Cathy Drinan, Rob Tinkham, Dale Barrows, Bob Ethier, Lisa Cullity, Elaine LaCoursiere, Peter Fallabella, Tracy Mayo, Brian Gallant, Sandy Landry, Jeanne Spalding, Arthur Boyle,

The meeting opened at 1pm with a Motion by Lisa Cullity to approve March minutes, seconded by Arthur Boyle with all voting in favor.

Executive Board Announcements – Janice McCarthy reported that Robert Collett, director of the Cape Cod Tobacco Control Program has requested to come before the next full coalition meeting. She asked if the coalition would like to have him come to the July 9th meeting. There was a majority show of hands in favor and no opposition. She also reported that the coalition is looking at a 9% reduction in funding for BP 2, and as a result, the Coalition will no longer pay for routine maintenance such as batteries, toner etc.

Lisa Cullity suggested that people not be allowed to double dip and get both cell and data plans.

Marcia Benes gave anticipated but not confirmed budget numbers for BP 2 \$227,234 - and compared with the current BP1 amount of \$251,352. She stressed that the FY 2014 (BP 2) numbers have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated to be a 9% cut. She also said that there has been entirely positive feedback for the planners, and the intent of the Executive Committee was to continue with the same contractors, since it is an intra-contract year, we do not need to go out to bid again. However, due to questions regarding final budget, we cannot yet determine what funds will be available for contracting. It is expected that as soon as the total number is confirmed, the Exec. Committee will draw up a proposed budget with MAHB's assistance, and it will be up to the Full coalition to approve the budget. Hopefully that will happen at the July meeting.

Communications – Marcia Benes read a list of those towns who most recently requested a data plan, and asked if anyone was previously approved or funded to contact Elaine to be sure that nobody is accidentally left off.

Planner Updates – Sandy Landry, Jeanne Benincasa, Brian Gallant – Jeanne was not present do to an illness in her family. Brian and Sandy have been very busy with TAR and a large table top in Randolph with AAR.

Statewide Advisory Committee Update – Lisa Cullity For the first time ever, the LSAC meeting had three additional communities said what are we doing, we are no better prepared than 5 years ago. The information flow between MEMA and LSAC is broadening. From top down there was an acknowledgement that the system was not working and there will be an effort to change it. Lisa said "Whereas before I thought I was getting lip service, I felt that the acknowledgements - to cuts to MRCs – Local Public Health restored the MRC funding back to the MRCs, as the largest support to the smallest communities. I found that refreshing and

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hopeful.” She discussed how to change the culture that does not value local public health contributions to local emergency response. Lisa will send out a blast email on this topic.

DPH Update- Diane Brown Couture gave a brief update on deliverables for next year.

New Business – Jeanne Spalding said that there was a discussion at the Region 5 MRC meeting this morning of the shared problem of needing grass roots people on the ground – Jeanne doesn’t have time to do the recruiting and training in each individual town. Tracy did a great job on the training day, with excellent turnout, presentations and food. MRCs are having difficulty in retaining volunteers. How many are really available and participate in trainings. Meeting core competencies is difficult, and agents don’t have time to do this. It would be really helpful to get some assistance for the Plymouth Coalition, if not for Plymouth and Bristol.

In the budget discussions coming up, we are hoping to get some funding for meeting this need. Tracy Mayo said that Rick Reuss is going to get some job descriptions from other areas. For deployment, it would be helpful to have one main person to take this responsibility, as with Region 4A.

Cathy Drinan commented that some of the unrecognized volunteers can serve an important role. Some people are willing to be specialized volunteers who can train in the areas where they can be utilized.

Lisa Cullity noted that Boston reworked all union plans so that all town employees are volunteers in the event of an emergency.

Cathy Drinan noted a letter from the Plympton BOH naming her health agent.

A Motion was made Bob Tinkham by to adjourn at 1:40, with a second by Dale Barrows and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Benes

Next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2013