

Minutes of the Quad Cities Emergency Planning Committee

September 25, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting called by: Decker Ploehn, Chair

Attendees: Paul Andorf, Joe Caffery, Terry Conklin, Jason Cook, Amy DeClerck, Dave Donovan, Robin Dunn, Linda Fredriksen, Dennis Frisch, Gayle Lundeen, Chuck Gipson, Nicole Gonner, Don Hahn, Adam Haut, Jim Hawkes, Joe Heim, Chance Kness, Steve Knorrek, Jeff Koenig, Kevin Lange, Laura McDonald, Bruce Mckee, Kate Meyer, Mindy Meyers, David Osborne, Decker Ploehn, Troy Said, Jordan Schneider, John Showalter, Adam Sowell, Chris Varnes, Richard Vermeer, Todd Whitchelo, Brian Wright, Jeffrey Yerkey, Darin Keith, and Jake Tumbleson all via Zoom

Call to Order – Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes of the August 28th, 2020 Meeting

Dave Donovan motioned to approve the QCEPC August 28th, 2020, meeting minutes; Jeff Yerkey seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Homeland Security/EMA/IMT/PIO Workshop

Dave Donovan and Jim Hawkes, both from Scott County EMA, discussed that EOC is still open and hosting virtual meetings. Discussed how shelters have been impacted during COVID. Jim Hawkes has been working with the shelters and local agencies to make sure people get what they needed during these times. Donovan advised still working on the PPE stockpile and watching prices due to the high demand.

Donovan advised that FEMA opened up a disaster recovery center in Bettendorf to assist with aid for people affected by the storms. Will be moving to Davenport within the week.

Iowa Department of Human Services opened a center at the fairgrounds to assist with food replacement program. This program helps people that don't qualify for state programs. Jim Hawkes stated that they are averaging 480-500 people going through the line at this center per day.

Mindy Meyer, Rock Island County EMA, had a virtual excerside with Exelon. No issues with the training and received credit for the training. Did receive PPE from the state for the election that is coming up.

Brian Wright, Muscatine EMA, working with local agencies to prepare for vaccines. Has another local outbreak at a long term facility.

QCLEPC: Training, Planning, Exercise

Mindy Meyer, Rock Island County, discussed their recent training they held. Received feedback and going through that to continue to grow. 3M was in the EOC for this training to see how Rock Island County operates.

Communication Center Updates

Dave Donovan, SECC, advised center on a lockdown due to COVID and other centers following suit. Radio project is moving forward. Updated group with who won the bid, T Steele Construction, for both Scott County and Rock Island County. Will start construction October 1 or around that date. Towers and Constructions on order and

waiting for them to arrive. Looking to be completed around March but no later than May. Once towers completed, RACOM will put up their equipment. P25 Advisory Group has met 3 times and working on talk groups at this time. Continue to work with each other to discuss issues with coordination and system operation. Advised the group who was on the advisory group from both Iowa and Illinois. Discussed the coverage the new towers will provide from county to county.

Dave and Tracey meeting with each agency to discuss the talk groups that will be used on the new radio system. Will need to open the meetings up so they can get more feedback from the agencies. Illinois has their own group to work on getting the talkgroups in place. Need to still have discussions with bordering counties for mutual aid requests.

No Communication reports from Illinois at this time.

Healthcare Coalition Updates

Adam Sowell, Trinity, advised patient numbers are still up. Gave an update on visitor hours within their hospitals. Recently had a virtual table top on pediatrics and it went well.

Adam Sowell advised that their region has started to drop for hospitalizations. Advised that they have a lack of beds within their region. Advised that ICU beds have been tough to find for patients due to outbreaks within the region. Meeting regularly within the region to discuss how they can help each other. Down to 3 longterm center outbreaks from 8 from an earlier report.

Other Hospital/Healthcare Reports

Kate Meyers, Rock Island County Health Department, gave an update on COVID cases. Opening up a temporary site for testing at Tax Slayer Center for two days. Going to have a flu vaccine clinic on September 30th. Working with schools and businesses answering questions about COVID and continuing with contract tracing with these businesses.

Dave Donovan, Scott County, advised Test Iowa is still open. Starting discussions on rapid testing for the county. Looking at costs and providers for these rapid tests. Advised that there is a clinic in Muscatine County where they have results in less than an hour.

EMS Reports – QCA Opioid Crisis

Adam Sowell, Trinity, advised that EMS system has been busy. Looking for help from EMT's and Paramedics. Starting to look at protocols for this coming season.

Linda Fredriksen, MEDIC EMS, provided the group with a pdf of their use on NARCAN. Discussed that the expiration date on NARCAN has been expanded due to the quick turn around on their expiration dates. Has seen a rise in cardiac arrests over the year.

Adam Haut, Geneise EMS, advised seeing the same things as Linda and Adam. Also, looking for help due to the demand and short staff.

Fire Service Reports

Jeff Yerkey, Rock Island Fire, is in the same situation for recruiting as their colleagues in EMS. Looking to change their process of hiring.

Todd Whitchelo, Davenport Fire, pushed out a questionire for their strategic plan that is due.

Steve Knorrek, Bettendorf Fire, advised that there was a Fire Marshall meeting. Discussed that they are starting to do inspections again. Will be doing hospitals and other healthcare locations.

Law Enforcement/TSA/Intel Reports

Mindy Meyer, has been having discussions with Rock Island County Sheriff about the upcoming elections. Will have their EOC open that week. Getting prepared for civil unrests and will be ready for those if those occur. Looking to work with Dave, from SECC, on getting similar plans together.

Dave Donovan, advised that they are meeting weekly with local law enforcement officals for the upcoming election and other protests that are upcoming. No specific plans but working towards those before anything happens. National Guard has been contacted but looking to work locally first and prepare that they won't be around due to other counties requesting them.

I-74 Bridge Project

Jeff Koenig gave an update on traffic changes coming up on the Iowa side. Looking to complete projects on Illinois side before traffic changes start. Looking to start traffic on new bridge in November for both directions. Gave an update on what the head to head traffic will look like once traffic starts on the new portion of the bridge until EB is complete. Has some electriacal work to be completed in the new arch before traffic can start on the new portion. Looking to be completed with the EB portion by the end of 2021.

Education Update

Nothing to report at this time.

Other Public/Private Sector/COAD Reports

Nothing to report at this time.

Other Items of Interest

None at this time.

Next meeting Friday, October 30, 2020 at 8:30 AM