

Minutes of the Quad Cities Emergency Planning Committee

April 26, 2024, 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was Called to order by Decker Ploehn at 8:33 A.M.

Attendees: Mackenzie Briggs, Mariah Bryner, Pam Gettert, Thomas Gibbs, Chuck Gipson, Don Hahn, Jim Hawkes, Keith Kimball, Matt Lawson, Marion Lloyd, Al Loeffelholz, Molly McKee, Sara Meguffy, Kate Meyer, Mindy Meyers, Ricky Newcomb, Patrick Newman, Breanna Pairrett, Brian Payne, Tiffany Peterson, Decker Ploehn, Troy Said, Tracey Screechfield, Brian Seals, Margo Sparbel, Todd Whitchelo, and Daniel Sterner.

Call to Order- Introductions

The meeting began with introductions.

Approval of Minutes of the March 29, 2024, QCEPC Meeting

Thomas Gibbs motioned to approve the QCEPC meeting minutes on March 29, 2024; Chuck Gipson seconded the motion—all Ayes.

Homeland Security/EMA/IMT/PIO Workshop

Brian Payne, Scott County Emergency Management, stated that the FEMA evaluators were impressed with the GIS dashboard during the REP exercise and that it's a national best practice. The dashboard has been so highly spoken about that ESRI will be posting an article in their worldwide newspaper. Also, Brian informed partners that Congress would make a 9% cut on grants, including the Fire AFG grant. Brian stated that he met with FEMA Region 7 Administration, and it was a great opportunity. He learned that legally, to get support during an event, there has to be an emergency presidential declaration.

Jim Hawkes, Scott County Emergency Management, stated that EMA's strategic plan and scope audit was presented to the Commission, and they approved it. Some plans include standing up the Incident Management Team and enhancing partner relationships.

Mindy Meyers, Rock Island County Emergency Management, stated she will be the EMA coordinator again. Jerry Shirk and Randy Heisch are still involved and helping in the office.

Marion Lloyd, Rock Island Arsenal Emergency Management, stated that on May 16-19, the public is invited to the Arsenal's Armed Forces Day Celebration.

Communications Center Updates

Margo Sparbel, QCOMM, stated that they currently have 22 telecommunicators and are looking to hire 4 more.

Tracey Screechfield, SECC, stated they are down 6 dispatchers and have 4 in training; 1 will be done in training in June. She stated that she is still the interim director for SECC. They are in the second phase of the hiring process. They received 21 applications and will narrow that down to 12 and then to 6. There is still no timeline for a hire date. Tracey also stated that shift briefings are taking place with staff. They have 6 sessions for an hour each session. Shift briefings in June will be 2 hours long at the backup dispatch center.

Healthcare Coalition Reports

Al Loeffelholz, Genesis Health, stated that on May 7th, there will be a Region 2 chemical surge medical response exercise. On May 8th, there is a CIL-CARP meeting. Also stated that the 2025 grant period begins soon. Lastly, the TEDCON conference will be in Peoria from August 22-23.

Mackenzie Briggs, Genesis Health, stated that the Iowa HHS 5-year budget period will start in July with new priorities and activities. Stop the Bleed is still a priority; they are pushing for more training. They were also approved, including 1300 Stop the Bleed kits. On May 8th, there will be stop-the-bleed training in Rock Island.

Adam Sowell, UnityPoint, stated the hospitals have been meeting planning for upcoming spring /summer projects and drills. The hospital is receiving grant money and will do a Decon exercise over the next few months. The Chemical Annex AAR review is scheduled for next Tuesday. The committee has been working on the response plan. The PHEP NOF has been approved and reviewed at the state. HPP NOF should be soon. We are reviewing and planning on some activities for the next five-year budget.

Other Hospital/Healthcare/Public Health Reports

Al Loeffelholz, Genesis Health, stated that 2 days ago, there was a wet decon exercise in Aledo, and about 20-22 people attended. Also, I met with Ron Burchette from Davenport Fire about having a dry decon exercise and what works well in the winter; still have a lot to learn. The Bix meetings will start May 1st and be held every 2 weeks. The construction of the Arsenal Bridge may impact the location where the medical tent is set up.

Adam Sowell, UnityPoint, stated construction continues at the new clinic at the Muscatine location. This will be ongoing for the next year. The flooring replacement at the Rock Island Campus is going well and should be done May 10th. Moline infusion center work has started. Spring/ Summer projects will start soon. Please check out our website for more information. www.unitypoint.org

Tiffany Petersen, Scott County Health Department, stated that they are monitoring measles and mumps cases and preparing in case a clinic would need to be opened. Accreditation is due June 21st, and they are wrapping up plans and policies. Also, Tiffany stated they are preparing for an active shooter TTX for their staff members in June.

Kate Meyer, Rock Island County Health Department, stated that on April 17th, Illinois Emergency Management will train employees on REP stuff. April is Public Health Month, and they have been celebrating in the Health Department. Also, monitoring the measles and Influenza A cases.

EMS Reports

Chuck Gipson, Medic EMS, stated that they had a meeting for the elections of an officer and that all positions had been filled. Also, Chuck stated that year-end for cardiac arrest survival rates percentages were up.

Fire Service Reports

Troy Said, Bettendorf Fire, stated that during the week of June 10-14, they will have an active shooter exercise at Central High School. The next walk-through will be on May 13th.

Law Enforcement/TSA/Intel Reports

Thomas Gibbs, Scott County Sheriff's Office, the Annual Quad Cities Triathlon is June 15, 2024. Police week is in May, and on May 5th, there will be a memorial ceremony. Sherrif's department is hiring to fill 3-4 vacancies.

Keith Kimball, Bettendorf Police, stated that border issues have affected our area more lately.

Mindy Meyers, Rock Island County Sheriff's Office, stated that 3 officers have graduated from the academy recently, and they have 4 more officers going to the academy next week. Also, she stated that the Community and Emergency Services and Support Act for Mental Health Awareness is going into effect on July 1, 2024. They are trying to prepare EMS to respond to calls to treat mental health as they would a person having a heart attack.

Education Updates

No updates.

Public Works/Secondary Roads/Waste Commission Reports

Brian Seals, Waste Commission of Scott County, stated that the Army Corps of Engineers is dredging sand, and if anyone needs sand for a project or flooding, it is free to take.

Ricky Newcomb, Bi-State, stated they have secured funding with Muscatine. Ricky also said he would like to update the EMA website with the Hazmat Planning.

Civil Air Patrol, Bi-State, and Canadian Pacific Kansas City

Don Hahn, Iowa Civil Air Patrol, stated that data was collected from over 40,000 points and that almost every state was involved in the data collection. The data will be compiled, and cadets can use it for science projects.

Other Items of Interest

Margo Sparbel, QCOMM 911, stated that Siren Activation for tornados in Rock Island County goes off automatically.

Al Loeffelholz, Genesis Health, shared that Scott Draper will present at our CMS Quarter 2 meeting.

The next meeting will be on Friday, May 31, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 A.M.