

Warren County EPR/LEPC Committee Meeting Minutes
January 24th, 2023

In Attendance

Ann Marie Mason – Warren County OES
Donald James – Red Cross
Pat Williams – Washington County PH
Wendel Vaisey – SUNY ACC
Ashley Rivers – Warren County OES
Deb Darfler – Washington County PH
Laura Stebbins – Glens Falls Hospital
Tom Iwinski – National Grid
Corey Dilorenzo – NYSDOH Glens Falls Office
Colleen Crosby – Northern GI & Endoscopy
Dr. Leach – Infectious disease M.D. (retired)
James Durkin – DHSES CISA
Ginger Cleveland – Queensbury Schools
Sandy LeBarron – Finch Paper
Cindy Zobel - DHSES

The meeting started at 9:03am.

Dan Durkee began the meeting with quick introductions of himself and Ann Marie Mason for the new members in attendance. At the request of Laura Stebbins, the meeting agenda order was flipped.

Ann Marie Mason, warren County OES – Stated that Tier 2 Reports had started to arrive at her office. She also stated that Pat Mellon was the new Warren County EMS Coordinator and Jack Timms was now the Assistant Coordinator. She also stated at this time there are no new preparedness trainings scheduled, but it is likely trainings will be added to the calendar later in the year.

Dan Durkee Warren County Public Health – Stated that the New York state Department of Health would be conducting an interoperable communications drill Wednesday January 25th. The drill would be a mass casualty event in the Lake George area and would focus on Hospitals and EMS agencies, but local health departments and other agencies would be asked to participate on a limited basis. He stated that the exercise was to test multiple methods of communications during an emergency.

Dan provided a quick update on the current impacts that flu/COVID/RSV were having on the region. He stated that flu was active in the region and seems to be holding steady. He stated that COVID-19 levels were fluctuating but that it is still spreading in the community and that it is difficult to get accurate numbers now with home kits and self-reporting. He then stated that RSV spread seemed to be lessening in the region which is a good thing. However, he did also state that schools have been dealing with high levels of illness per conversations with school nurses.

Dan discussed the NaloxBox Emergency Narcan Kit Distribution program that was undertaken in 2022. He stated that Adirondack Health Institute had a grant to distribute the kits to local business and organizations that signed on to be a public access location. Dan stated that the kits are similar to AED

availability and that the kits provided emergency Narcan in publicly accessible locations. Health also stated that the locations that signed on to receive a kit had very little responsibility for the kits other than reporting if kits had been used or if the box the Narcan was stored in was damaged. He also stated that all locations that received a box were offered Narcan administration training but were not obligated to train staff or administer the emergency naloxone. Donald James with the Red Cross asked about providing naloxone administration training for interested committee members. Dan said it was something he could look into for a future meeting but that there are also some community based organizations like Alliance for Positive Health that might be able to provide it if an organization wanted it for staff.

Dan stated that the NYSDOH was expanding its wastewater surveillance program for 2023. He said that the program provides health departments with clues to what is happening in a community regarding disease transmission and that often what is seen in wastewater samples will show up in a community about two weeks later. He said by analyzing wastewater it provides public health the opportunity to anticipate a rise in cases of certain diseases based on what is being sampled for. He did state that the program cannot be used to track any individuals and that samples are taken from the larger collection areas. He also stated that currently Glens Falls wastewater facility participates in the program and it is anticipated that the new Lake George wastewater facility will participate in 2023.

Laura Stebbins, Glens Falls Hospital – Laura presenting the finding of the Glens Falls hospital’s annual Hazard Vulnerability Assessment. She stated that the assessment is due annual as a requirement from NYSDOH. It looks at emergency that would bring patients in to the hospital either directly or indirectly. She also said that since COVID there has been a greater focus on pediatric patients and led to some additional HVA reviews. She discussed each section of the HVA which included weather/natural events, facilities/technical events, medical surge events and security events. She explained the higher the score the more of an impact an event would have on hospital operations.

Dan did ask if the section that included labor shortages was due to the COVID vaccine requirement. Laura said that it was felt nationally, but that locally the hospital had very few staff that were let go because of it. She said she did not have specific numbers.

Laura stated that hospital conducted 2 Ebola exercises and that the hospital would be participating in the NYSDOH IOC exercise. She said she has been in contact with Ann Marie (OES) and EMS Coordinators about collaboration.

She provided a brief update about the World University games. She said things went smoothly and the Hospital remained in constant contact with the games organizers throughout the event.

Dan asked if the association with Albany Med would create any changes at the hospital with its EPR program. Laura said that prior to the association they were already working with Albany Med and she said that things are seamless so far.

Ann Marie (WCOES) – She provided the following updates - CEMP has been put on hold for now because the CEPA plan is going through an update and she wants to coordinate the two plans. She said there were two real world events. No ice jams as of yet. One ice rescue conducted on Glen Lake. Planning for the 50th Anniversary of the Adirondack balloon festival is ongoing with monthly meetings. She stated that the County has released a new emergency preparedness app on the Google Play Store and the App Store. The app is called the readywarrencountynewyork. It is available using a Google or iPhone.

Feedback is appreciated. Trying to get a CERT team certified with NYS. She has many COVID test kits available for anyone who needs them. OES has started a domestic terrorism plan. It is in draft form. The first meeting is January 26th.

Pat Wilialms & Deb Darfler Washington County– no updates

Tom Iwinski, National Grid – No major updates. Staging some external resources in anticipation of a forecast snow storm.

Wendel Vaisey, SUNY ACC – RAD training for students beginning of February and may be offered a second time if there is enough interest. CPR/1st AID training initially for campus staff and if there is enough interest a second program may be offered.

Sandy LeBarron, Finch Paper – No Updates

Donald James, Red Cross – Chapters have gathered some momentum since meetings have come back to in persons. It has been a very busy season with home fires in the Albany and Glens Falls areas. Several national deployments for disasters on the west coast and Florida.

Dan asked Donald if the smoke detector installation program was still available in the region. Donald said the program is still active, but he is not directly involved with it and he would provide the information in an email following the meeting.

James Durkin, CISA – Nothing new to report other than some new staff will be coming on board after some retirements.

Ginger Cleveland – Evacuation drills working with SUNY ACC

Cindy, DHSES – No report

Corey DiLorenzo, NYSDOH Glens Falls Office – No updates

Colleen Crosby, Northern GI Center – No report

Dan ended the meeting with a reminder about the next quarterly meeting dates which were included on the agenda. The meeting dates are April 25th 9:00am, July 25th 9:00am, October 24th 9:00am

Be no further business the meeting ended at 10:00am.

Minutes Submitted by

Dan Durkee, Co-Chair Warren County EPR/LEPC Committee
Public Health EPR Coordinator
1/26/2023