



WARREN COUNTY EPR/LEPC COMMITTEE

1340 State Route 9, Lake George, NY 12845: www.WarrenCountyNY.gov

Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness Committee/LEPC MEETING MINUTES

April 30, 2025 @ 9:00AM

1.) Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Dan Durkee. Dan thanked everyone for joining the ZOOM meeting. He gave a brief overview of the agenda items.

Recording of minutes: Nancy Rosati

Attendees:

Albert, Dan	DHSES
Combs, Joe	Northern GI
DeLorenzo, Tammie	Warren County Admin
DiLorenza, Corey	Glens Falls HD
DiRienzo, Steve	NWS Service, NOAA
Herman, Michael	NYS Office of Emergency Management
Higgins, Robert, LT	NYS DEC Police
James, Donald	RedX, AUX Communications
Leach, Richard, Dr.	ARIC, Physician
LeBarron, Sandy	Finch Paper
Lewis, Mike	State Police
Lloyd, Mallory	Wash. County Public Health
Martin, Connor	HHHN
Mason, Ann Marie	Director, Emergency Services
Mastrianni, Nina	Warren County DSS
Modert, Izzy	Glens Falls Fire Department
Rivers, Ashley	Deputy Director, Emergency Services
Schrammal, Jamie	Hazmat Coordinator - WC Emergency Services
Stebbins, Laura	Glens Falls Hospital
Waszak, John	CISA Region 2
Watters, Jay	SUNY Adirondack
York, Rob	Director, Office of Community Services/Mental Health
Stack, Donald	Public Health

2.) Purpose of EPR/LEPC Meetings – Dan Durkee

An opportunity to bring community partners together to discuss preparedness ideas, risks and to share solutions and ideas on how others have handled or is handling emergencies.

3.) Chemical Security Inspector and Security Advisor for DHS – John Waszak

- John discussed the potential lapse of the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which has been providing security measures and guidance to facilities since its authorization in 2018.
- Highlights from the program's impact since inception include:
 - 60% increase in security measures at facilities and the
 - Identification of 12 potential terrorist threats among facility workers.
 - Voluntary initiatives, such as Safe Assessments and ChemLock, which have been providing assistance to facilities.
 - He expressed concern about the loss of access to the Terror Screening Database and the potential for increased risks without the program.
- Security Measures Sunset and Team Experience
 - John discussed the upcoming sunset of their current security measures, which he believes will create a significant gap in security. He mentioned that no entity has stepped up to handle this issue, and the team's average experience is 17 years.

4.) Glens Falls Hospital – 1st Quarter Review and Updates – Laura Stebbins



Warren County
4-30-25 report (final)

- Changes in the code designations from colors to plain language were implemented on April 1st.
 - The changes were tested throughout the month of April, and were utilized in the medical response surge exercise and the missing child drill.
 - Plain language codes established April 1 included System hospitals-AMC, Saratoga, Columbia Memorial
 - Code drills scheduled through April included medical, facility and security codes
 - 3/26 "Incident Command Activation" Medical Response Surge Exercise
 - 4/10 "Missing Child" drill
 - 3/19 and 4/16 tabletops included several new code designations
 - 4/23 "Person with a weapon" exercise
- Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE) conducted on March 26th
 - *Scenario of violent protests leading to surges of patients to area hospitals*
 - The exercise aimed to assess the ability to manage a surge of 30 patient profiles and reduce patient morbidity and mortality through appropriate patient placement. The exercise was successful in assessing and meeting critical resource needs, and the hospital was able to identify the importance of participating in such exercises. It highlighted the importance of considering the availability of staff in addition to the availability of beds in emergency situations.
 - *Positive Observations (violent protests):*
 - Effective communication using cell and text messaging to state and county agencies and internal messaging process
 - Full HICS team response to the Hospital Command Center

- Logistic Center (bed management board) & STATREP forms provided complete bed capacity, staffing, resource information within 15-minutes
 - Excellent support and participation from County emergency response agencies (OES, EMS, Warren County Sheriff's Office, County Dispatch, PH), SUNY Adirondack and area nursing homes
- *Opportunities (violent protests)*
 - Hospital Command Center-landline phone # change
 - Logistic fax # omitted from STATREP form
 - Chempack 1) Directions to loading dock 2) controlled substance signature form
- *Response (violent protests):*
 - Phone number immediately posted
 - Logistic number immediately added to form & posted
 - Pharmacy highlighted Pharmacy checklist regarding directions. DOH contacted to review form. Currently Pharmacy to circle signature on form.
- *Scenario of a person with weapon exercise logistics*
 - Emphasized the importance of safety and comprehensive planning. The exercise tested the hospital's incident command system and communication systems, including Everbridge. The Warren County sheriff's office, Glens Falls police department, and New York State police provided significant support. The exercise also served as an opportunity for staff to ask questions and demonstrate their understanding of the run, hide, fight protocol.
- *Positive Observations (weapons exercise):*
 - Comprehensive exercise planning with emphasis on Safety effective.
 - Local Law Enforcement agencies provided overwhelming participation and support.
 - Everbridge emergency communication operationalized.
 - All HICS team members participated
 - All hospital departments (Leader checklist/guide) and off campus sites participated.
 - Staff demonstrated knowledge of RUN HIDE FIGHT
 - -LOOK LISTEN (Required prompt. Follow up included survey questions covering this)
- *Opportunities (weapons exercise):*
 - TEAMS platform operational. Identified opportunity to schedule a second drill focused on TEAMS communication.
 - Department specific requests or questions regarding security devices, access control, locks.
- *Emergency Communication and Safety Drills*
 - Communication and safety during emergency situations are of utmost important. The drills highlighted the need for a second drill focused on team communication, as the incident command team would not be in the command center during an actual event.
- GFH also participated in a *Nursing Facility Drill*, which focused on evacuation procedures and resource needs, like and earthquake. (4/14/25)
 - Dan Durkee mentioned something to consider in planning is although there is space for beds, there needs to be staff to actually take care of the people in the beds.
 - Laura indicates that off campus sites, like health centers, lab, draw stations, radiology and rehab sites are included in the scenarios
- *Opportunities (nursing facility drill):*
 - Hospital Command Center - Landline number updated immediately
 - Fax number was omitted from the stat rep forms

- Forms that staff leaders need to complete in 15 min to let leaders know how many impacted, etc.
 1. Is there a controlled substance, signature, form, so the sheriff's office does the transport to the scene?
 2. Logistic number immediately added
 3. Checklist needs to provide clear directions when ChemPak is requested; Pharmacy checklist regarding directions. DOH contacted to review form. Currently Pharmacy to circle the signature on the form.
- Upcoming activities:
 - Annual Meeting with Law Enforcement – May 6th
 - Forensic Annex – for those from forensic agencies will be at the hospital
 - Infection control updates
 - Annual Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Seminar – May 15th
 - annual 96-hour resource review, the annual pediatric emergency preparedness seminar.
 - Held at UAlbany, also available via Webinar
 - If interested, let Laura Stebbins know and she will send you the registration component.
 - Continual Weapon drills at all off campus sites
 - Warren County HazMat – Jamie Schrammal, Ashley Rivers and GFH are developing a ChemPak training program
 - RACES amateur radio representatives to upgrade GFH Radio
 - Donald Stack was requested to assist with the rate races amateur radio issue.
 - Monthly Tabletops – 3rd Wednesday – Community Center at the Hospital
 - May 21st – Water Born contamination, illness, outbreak at one of the children's camps.
- Summer Hazard Vulnerability Analysis:
 - Mass Gatherings=potential for Mass Casualty Incidents
 - Graduations
 - End of school activities/field trips
 - Tourist season/Summer surge
 - Increased traffic/transportation incidents
 - Recreational/tourist sites open
 - Water activities
 - Reopening of children's camps
 - Saratoga Racetrack (Belmont Stakes June 7th)
 - SPAC-opens May 18th

5.) Warren County OES – Updates

- Ann Marie Mason – Director, OES – Local Emergency Planning Committee – Tier Two Reports
 - LEPC Tier 2 Updates
 - 2024 – 2 New facilities reporting chemicals:
 - Cersosimo, Lake Luzerne, Lumber Yard
 - Checon, Pruyn's Island in GF, Electrical Contact Materials Division
 - Heidelberg (Lehigh Cement) is currently only reporting Masonry and Portland cement for 2024
 - No longer reporting Anglo Dynamics
 - 22 Companies file tier 2 reports within Warren County,

- Commodity Flow Study previously done in 2016 was updated. The update is complete and review of the results will be done with consultant in Adirondack HazMat Consortium. (Meeting with this group is May 1)

The meeting also covered updates on the LEPC Tier 2 report, the commodity flow study, and the upcoming tabletops.

- New chemicals reported in 2024:
 - Dielectric Insulating Oil Types #10c (transformer oil)
 - Baytac Way Lubricant
 - Chain Lube Moly
 - Copper
 - Hydraulic Oil ISO-32
 - Hydrogen
 - Liquid Oxygen
 - NeXgen
 - Off Road Diesel
 - Zinc
- **Jamie Schrammel, HazMat Coordinator:**
 - After the Commodity Flow Study meeting, Jamie and Ashley Rivers are developing a presentation for the next meeting to share the full study and show the capabilities and modeling.
 - *LEPC Committee:* Goal is to get the committee more involved in the Study meetings to show what we can do with the information from the study, like the modeling software that's used by the EPA
 - *Development of a ChemPak Training:* Ashley, Jamie and the Hospital at training dealing with the ChemPak and what the ChemPak is. The exercises will address the back end where previously only focused on the front end. They would like to develop a tabletop to get more people involved, understanding of ChemPak, how it will be run on the back end to get those medications administered in the field.

- **Ashley Rivers – Deputy Director, OES - Updates:**

- Hosted a *Citizen's Preparedness* on March 15th – Very well attended
 - Another one will be hosted on October 21st – PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD
- *1st Responder Safety Aircraft Training* at the Warren County Airport – May 10th – hosted by the FAA
- DHSES will host an *MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) Tabletop* for all regions in NYS – May 9th – our agency will be a part of it, discussing a specific topic and going through what we have for capabilities in the region.
- OES is hosting an *HCP (Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program)* May 6th – May 7th which has to do with training on exercises and capabilities and how to put those together. This is part of the Basic Training that OES office has been taking for the last couple of months.
- *Skywarn Spotter Training:* no in-person or virtual talks will be scheduled this season. However, an updated video recording focusing on summertime weather will become available on our YouTube page in early May. After watching each video, spotters are encouraged to return to this page and take an online 10-question quiz (the link will be provided once the videos have all been posted). Spotters that score an 80% or greater on the quiz will pass and receive an updated certificate and spotter handout sheet. **Thank you for your interest in the Spotter Program!**
- *Conferences attended:*
 - NYSEMA (New York State Emergency Management Conference) in February: Allows OES to network with other Emergency Managers to share ideas, find ways to improve, and voice concerns. Face to Face with NYS DHSES as well as Commissioner Bray
 - Ann Marie attended the *ILO Conference* in March: Intelligence and Terrorism
 - Ann Marie also attended the *Adirondack Climate Change Conference*

- OES attended ESSA in support of our Safety Groups.

6.) Public Health Updates – Measles Outbreak – Dan Durkee

- Discussed the ongoing measles outbreak and its implications for Public Health
- Dan highlighted the long duration of the infection, contagious period and symptoms
 - Rash, Fever, Spots on the Throat, watery eyes
 - Contagious usually about 4 days prior to any symptoms, 4 days after the symptoms have left
 - One out of 20 children will get pneumonia
- Emphasized the importance of immunizations, noting that 97% of the cases were among unvaccinated individuals.
 - 87% of Warren County is vaccinated; goal is 95%; It doesn't mean you'll get there, but the closer you are to that, the more likely it is you're going to reduce an outbreak, or even prevent an outbreak.
- Summer camps a concern for Public Health
 - Camps don't have the same requirements for immunizations as schools.
 - **Corey DiLorenzo – GFHD added:** In early April, permit renewals were distributed to the children's camps and the notice did include guidance on measles. Public Health cannot mandate vaccinations, can only encourage it. There are approximately 30+ summer camps in both Warren and Washington counties

7.) Committee Member Updates

- **Connor Martin – HHHN**
 - Implemented a Safety Advisor Monthly Meeting
 - Working on de-escalation
 - Working on getting it “up to par” and out of the COVID which used to do a lot of fit testing, which has gone back to the health centers at this time.
- **Mike Lewis – State Police**
 - **Dan Durkee asked:** Has there been any talk about increased security / barriers set up with all the car ramming in large events happening. Thinking of Americade for example in our area
 - Mike indicates that it is up to the organizers to request security. We should reach out to the organization for the details on this.
- **Nina Mastrianni – Warren DSS**
 - The cooling assistance programs are going to be available. The NYS Cooling Assistance program opened on April 15.
- **Robert Higgins – NYS DEC Police**
 - Turkey Season opened May 1
 - Keep watch for ticks as there are out already!
 - Still collecting any suspicious bird deaths, sending them to the lab. No new numbers or specific cases to report.
 - Boat/Safety course License must be done to operate a motorboat this year. Check on line as there is one free course but the rest there is usually a charge.
- **Sandy LeBarron – Finch Paper**
 - Bringing the Fire Department through the facility to familiarize them with their fire systems
 - EPA in for a follow-up to Risk Management Plan Inspection (Ann Marie, Jamie and Izzy participated)
- **Steve DiRienzo – NWS Albany, NOAA**
 - Severe storms on 4/29 in Western Adirondacks
 - Heading toward prime time Memorial Day to Labor Day.
 - Official NOAA Hurricane forecast will come out for the Atlantic on May 22nd. The early season outlook that comes from Colorado State University is predicating slightly above average season, resulting in a bigger chance for the storms to make their way up here.
 - Spotter Training – working to get some virtual training set up again, self-paced training.

- Good amount of staff retiring resulting in many changes unfolding in the next few weeks.
- **Dr. Leach – Physician**
 - Health Care Coalition of the North Country
 - Focusing on Medicaid funding; federal budget cuts include \$880 billion to be taken from the Department of Energy and Commerce which oversee Medicaid. Concerned with where those cuts will take place.

Dan Durkee asked, if there are any other agenda items than the ones he lists, please either bring it with you to the next meeting or send Dan the topic to add to the agenda.

Next 2025 Tentative Meeting Dates

July 30th, October 29th

Closed the meeting at 10:24 am

Minutes submitted by:
Nancy Rosati
May 5, 2025