

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

January 28, 2026 @ 9:00AM

1.) Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Dan Durkee. Dan thanked everyone for joining the and explained the structure of the meeting.

Recording of minutes: Nancy Rosati

Attendees:

Baetschi, Kirstie	National Grid
Combs, Joe	Northern GI
DiLorenzo, Corey	NYS Public Health
Durkee, Dan	Warren County Public Health
Durkin, James	CISA/DHS
Herman, Michael	Ames Goldsmith
James, Donald	American Red Cross
Kaczor, Jeff	DHES
LeBarron, Sandy	Finch
Lewis, Michael	NYSP
Mason, Ann Marie	Director, Emergency Services
Lehman, Don	Warren County
Martin, Connor	HHHN
Modert, Izzy	GFFD
Samiof, Jon	DHES
Stack, Donald	Warren County Public Health
Stebbins, Laura	Glens Falls Hospital
Vaisey, Wendell	SUNY ADK
Watters, Jay	SUNY ADK

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

The meetings focus on emergency preparedness and includes updates from various stakeholders involved in local emergency management. Dan Durkee opened the session by acknowledging the importance of networking and the necessity of the meeting as mandated by the Office of Emergency Services.

3.) Glens Falls Hospital – 4th Quarter Review and Updates – Laura Stebbins




Warren COUNTY
EMERGENCY RESPON

- On an annual basis, the Emergency Management Committee at Glens Falls Hospital does a review of any potential hazards that could occur within the hospital or within the community. Results are compared to the year prior, and review what occurred during the year in regards to new regulatory guidance.
- Weather predictions are reviewed; Public health information regarding emerging infectious illnesses; Facility structure and events that may be at the hospital; Look at the local crime statistics, including, hospital security vulnerability assessment.
- Each of those are rated, probability of each of the items; low risks items would be rated 1 to 20; Moderate risk 21-40 and high-risk items are 41 or greater.
- Refer to document above for results:
 - Weather Natural Disasters; most are low risk, except for Floods, Heat Waves, Winter Storms, Blizzards, Ice Storms and Extreme Cold
 - Critical Supply Shortages – Moderate risk - Supplies needed or available
 - Internal Flooding – possible issues in the labs or pharmacy or any other essential areas
 - HVAC failure – increased rate to high
 - Information Technology Failure – many mitigation strategies in place to prevent cyber terrorism. Hospitals rely on their IT system for everything including HVAC, etc.
 - Medical Surge Events – Ebola remains as high although probability is low it remains in regards to, should it occur, the impact would be significant on a facility.
 - Hazmat Exposures
 - Mass Casualty Incidents – the population triples in our area in the summertime, putting this as a high-risk potential for the summer months
 - Acts of Terrorism
- There are continual communications, education for everyone within the hospital about safety factors or anything you can imagine. Systems are tied to Albany Medical Center.
- Laura mentioned how the helipad at the hospital is temporarily out of service due to the construction in the Emergency Department, and when there was a crash, West Glens Falls Fire Department has provided their helipad for us during this period.
- Based on all the data, annual education is developed;
 - Tabletops – please see document above for Tabletop education throughout the year.
 - The Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition in New York state is divided into four coalitions. The capital district Coalition is the one that will be doing the mercy exercise again, March 25th.
 - Pediatric Emergency Preparedness work group has scheduled the annual seminar for September 24th at UAlbany. Provided virtually as well. All topics are not complete yet, but will be having breakout sessions, virtual tables tops.
 - HEPIC also has a family reunification center work group rescheduled to March.
- Saratoga Hospital received a grant as the designated special pathogen center, which includes being an Ebola receiving site. There is no plan developed yet but as soon as they do they will share with our EMS agencies, law enforcement, etc.

4.) Warren County OES and LEPC – Updates

- **Ann Marie Mason – Director, OES - Updates:**

- Tier 2 – reforms are starting to come in, the full report could be available in April. Currently working with consultant to help us to get our Hazmat certification through our consortium.
 - Updates from the FEMA Flood Mapping - It's been awhile since the last updates (1980s and 1990s). Updating process started in 2020. Field surveys were done on rainfall patterns, how deep, where it went. Over 600 miles of river flooding sources and 60 lake and pond sources were analyzed.
 - Over 178 maps were generated from this process. Ann Marie has hard copies of maps in OES office and the municipalities have their own copies.
 - Findings – 610 structures identified in the floodplain and 855 removed. The changes can come about through rainfall events, updated topography, land use changes, channel structures.
 - Residents in the communities affected by the changes and have mortgages on their property will need to have flood insurance. The residents in the areas that came off do not need flood insurance but can get if wanted.
 - There is also a 90-day appeal process that will begin in Mid-2026 which will go through the community not FEMA. Communities have six months to adopt the study before the data becomes effective; failure to adopt could result in suspension from the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - Community Engagement and Training was held by FEMA to answer questions for some of the residents. If anyone has other questions the link with more information is below:
 - Digital copies can be found at <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload>.
The last 4 files listed are the INDEX.
 - NYSEMA conference Feb 10-12 in Syracuse. OES will be attending.
 - CERT Training – 8 people went through the training and are now certified. OES originally canvassed the community and had about 50 show interest. We went through the list, the applications received and a timeframe for training was provided. Ashley Rivers did a great job with training and setting up the program. There are still openings if interested.
 - Citizen's Preparedness Training Saturday, October 14th 10am-12pm, Sheriff's Office training room
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131924.pdf
- OES will be hosting I-400 class April 7th-April 8th; location TBA but local

5.) Public Health Updates – Dan Durkee

- Recommendations for Immunizations at the Federal Level
 - New York State has not adopted them. NYS has their own immunization advisory group. As of right now, nothing has changed with requirement for school admissions, etc.
 - It sounds like two coasts are on one end and then the middle and somewhere in between for other states. CDC can recommend but cannot require
 - Possible concern is if insurance companies will continue to cover the cost of those vaccines.
- Flu, COVID and RSV is present in our community but have seen a steady precipitous drop recently. We often see a resurgence in February and March. Higher numbers of flu in pediatric group vs. elderly but found that the pediatric group recovered quickly while the elderly when they did get sick, required hospitalization.
- FIFA World Cup (48 teams) is coming to the US in 2026.

- Could see an increase in emerging infections due to the mass gatherings, such as, Dengue Fever, Lassa fever and Ebola.
- Janelle retiring April 3rd with Pat Belden becoming the director at this time.

6.) Committee Member Updates

- CISA/DHS

- I-400 training was already mentioned.
- Two I-300 training classes will be held in the Capital District –
 - Held in Albany the first week of March
 - Held in Schenectady County the third week in March.
- Discussing a possible training for Family Assistant Center. We know it's needed and although it's designed for a different audience/customer base, there is a lot of crossover.
- External Hazmat Tabletop series targeted for the 3rd Quarter
- Upcoming large-scale events
 - 250th, 4th of July planning efforts.
 - June and July with FIFA. Although there's no FIFA events upstate, as far as the matches themselves, we may experience things like watch parties, traffic and people tagging their trips, their international travel.
 - Saratoga track will be starting
 - SPAC will be open.

- Jay Watters – SUNY Adk

- Although hasn't been to one of the meetings since he's been on public safety, Jay is very interested in the Family Reunification. SUNY has high schools who use them as an evacuation points or reunification point or are interested in using SUNY
- Working on updating plans to be more in depth – will be reaching out to some in the group to iron out some of the plans, like resource needs, etc.
- Currently no building has a generator that will support 200 plus residents. Facilities director working on capital projects and hopefully by June will have a generator to power cafeteria and a large space.

- Connor Martin - HHHN

- In the last quarter, a new health center was opened in Warren County. This quarter, a center in Malone. Working on everything that goes with it.

- Don Lehman – Warren County Public Affairs

- Was able to sit in on some of the CERT Training. CERT will be a great asset to the first responder community. Ashley and Jack are doing a great job getting them ready to go.

- Michael Herman – State OEM Planning

- Working on updating their comprehensive emergency management plans. Plans will be posted on the DHES website by April 1st for the public to view.

- Donald James – RACES, Red Cross

- To briefly address a recent communications issue that caused confusion. There was a significant Verizon cellular outage recently. And during that outage, many users saw their phones display SOS or SOS only, instead of a normal signal bar.

This subject comes up frequently in search and rescue, especially when operating out of coverage areas. The indicator doesn't mean that the phone is unusable. It means the device can't connect to its primary carrier, inevitably with all the things that are happening, natural or manmade casualties. The phone may still place emergency calls. It uses any available cellular network.

If you see that signal or that indication it means that you're still going to be able to get out, routine call standard texting data service through your carrier are unavailable. Emergency calls and texts transmit at full power, the phone is making an extra effort to send that call out. If you're going to send a text, it is highly, strongly suggested that you include your own timestamp, because it includes some very important information about where you are, or where things are at in the casualty. Your text could wind up being read 30 minutes later or sometime later on, and someone's going to react to it as if it is current.

- Red Cross activity –
 - Weather kept the Red Cross busy. January 27th Red Cross deployed about 1500 disaster workers opening and supporting over 230 overnight shelters in response to extreme cold and storm impacts. More than 4000 stated shelters on that night alone.
 - January 23rd Red Cross launched a multi-state winter storm response due to a heavy snow, ice and cold, from Texas to the Northeast.
- **Cory DiLorenzo – NYS Public Health**
 - Recent overdose on cannabis, flavored nicotine vapes and nitrous resulted in Mother of the teen complaining about shops selling flavored nicotine laced vape products. NYS Department Health and Office of Cannabis management met at Warren County Sheriffs. Went to three of those places where they had sales. Hundreds and hundreds of nicotine flavored vapes. Can't legally take the products as they can be sold online.
 - County is looking into banning the vapes in the county.

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 2026 Tentative Meeting Dates

April 29th, July 29th, October 28th

Closed the meeting at approximately 10:14 am

Minutes submitted by:

Nancy Rosati

February 12, 2026