



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

July 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:

Aliotta, Mike	GFH Project Management Director
Baertschi, Kirstie	National Grid Regional Manager
Belden, Chris	Town of Bolton
Collado, Nesmari	CIS
Combs, Joe	Northern GI
Durkin, James	DHS
Durkee, Dan	Warren County Public Health
Herman, Michael	NYS Office of Emergency Management
Higgins, Robert, LT	NYS DEC Police
James, Donald	Red Cross, AUX Communications
Kaczor, Jeff	NYS OEM
Leach, Richard, Dr.	ARIC, Physician
Lehman, Don	Warren County Director of Public Affairs
Martin, Connor	HHHN
Mastrianni, Nina	Warren County DSS
Rivers, Ashley	Deputy Director, Emergency Services
Samiof, Jon	NYS OEM
Schrammal, Jamie	Hazmat Coordinator - WC Emergency Services
Stack, Donald	Warren County Public Health
Stella, Anthony	NYS OEM
Spencer, Michael	DHS/CISA
Sposito, Richard	GFH ED Nurse Manager
Stebbins, Laura	Glens Falls Hospital
Vaisey, Wendell	SUNY ADK

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.) Glens Falls Hospital – 2nd Quarter Review and Updates – Laura Stebbins



GFH warren County
7-30-25 report.pptx

- Laura Stebbins provided an update on the shared **emergency department construction project**, which is expected to span 18 months and consist of 12 phases. The new facility will include 41 patient rooms and five trauma rooms, aimed at improving patient care. Richard Sposito emphasized that the GI entrance will serve as a safe secondary entry point for emergencies, facilitating efficient patient drop-off. The construction team is focused on maintaining safety protocols, with designated areas for emergency medical services and law enforcement, while prioritizing communication with emergency response agencies to address any challenges that may arise.
- The **monthly tabletop exercises** at Glens Falls Hospital, which have been ongoing for 25 years, except during COVID interruptions. These exercises aim to enhance local emergency response capabilities by covering various scenarios, including mass casualty incidents and cyber terrorism. A recent tabletop focused on a vehicle ramming incident, reflecting national concerns.
 - Tim Hardy provided insights into planning for a tractor parade in Washington County, highlighting the need for barriers to manage large gatherings, while Dan Durkee clarified the process for requesting state-provided barriers through emergency services.
 - Jon Samiof indicate - Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Barrier are available for request. It is first come, first serve. We suggest the earlier you request them, the better. And his suggestion would be to go through your county OEM. They'll contact us or put the request in straight forward. And then if they're available, they'll book them for you for your mass gathering event.
 - A tabletop was done with just the Rehab Center. An assessment was completed on the whole rehab center which resulted in changing the door hardware in the facility, additional alarms and panic alarms were installed.
 - Laura held a specialty pharmacy drill with a flooding scenario that resulted in making additions to the pharmacy annex plan which includes both the specialty and community pharmacies.
 - An Airport tabletop
- Laura also shared updates on **emergency preparedness initiatives**, including insights from tabletop exercises that addressed construction safety and behavioral health evacuations. She noted the importance of terminology in transitioning from family reunification centers to family assistance centers. Upcoming exercises will focus on school shootings and cybersecurity events, demonstrating a proactive approach to various potential emergencies. Additionally, she outlined several upcoming events in Warren County, addressing communication challenges in rural areas and emphasizing the need for collaboration in emergency response efforts.
 - October will be held at the Jail. Particularly having lessons learned with the closing of Great Meadow in September and cybersecurity events.
 - November – Northeast power outages
- **Updates on Emergency Preparedness and Response Initiatives**
Laura highlighted the outcomes of recent tabletop exercises, including lessons learned from a children's camp preparedness session and the importance of establishing family assistance centers during large-scale incidents. Dan Durkee clarified that decisions regarding camp operations are made at the state

level, underscoring the need for coordination with New York State DHS. The discussion also included the role of drones and ATVs in search and rescue operations.

- Laura provided updates on various community events where there are mass gatherings, including the Wilcox Wild 50K Trail Runs, the Hot Air Balloon Festival, Fright Night/Fright Fest at the Great Escape and the Warrensburg Garage Sale, noting the need for improved communication in rural areas. Dan Durkee pointed out the increased vulnerabilities at school sporting events, particularly with evening games under lights.
- She also mentioned new hazmat PPE purchases and ongoing training for emergency response teams. Dr. McHugh is spearheading the response plan for the ED while it is under construction.

4.) Warren County OES and LEPC – Updates

- **Ashley Rivers – Deputy Director, OES - Updates:**
 - Ashley Rivers reported on the county's emergency preparedness efforts, including the completion of the CEPA update, which identified flooding as a key vulnerability. She highlighted recent training exercises and announced upcoming events, such as a Citizen's Preparedness Training and an Airport Emergency tabletop.
 - The Aviation Mall held their annual tabletop in May
 - Developing a Community Emergency Response Team – working on its usefulness for the community and training.
 - Joint LEPC Meeting with Washington County – Ashley will reach out
 - Table Top or Utility Tabletop with our LEPC Partners – separate from the LEPC meeting – Ashley will be working on a topic in the future, such as a multi-day utility failure.
 - Real Events that have occurred or occurring
 - Highway Safety Days – A highly attended event where local highway departments learn new skills.
 - Belmont Stakes held at Saratoga Racecourse and will be back in 2026
 - Attended biannual meeting with National Grid
 - Cooling Centers – updated lists, updated the State and shared them with the group
 - The RACES held a field day on the 4th weekend of June. They set up in the county campus, spending the weekend working with each other, sharing various tasks. Our RACES team do a phenomenal job.
 - Independent Music Festival held on Aug 29-31
 - Lake George Triathlon – Aug 30-31
 - Lake George Car Show
 - Jazz Fest – Sept 12-14
 - Balloon Festival – Sept 18-21
 - Warrensburg Garage Sale – Oct 3-4
 - Upcoming trainings/Exercises
 - Citizen's Preparedness Training – Tuesday, October 21 at 6pm at the Warren County Sheriff's Training Department.
 - Training – Plane Crash or emergency situation – October 14 at 9am at the Airport

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

- Disaster Mental Health First Aid Training Availability
 - A course designed to equip individuals with the skills to respond to mental health crises during disasters. Unlike certification courses offered by Robert York's office, this training is accessible to anyone and is intended for immediate response rather than long-term care. The course lasts approximately five hours and is available at no cost through public health.

- **Heat Risk and Illness Dashboard Discussion**
 - Dan noted the state's proactive measures in forecasting dangers associated with extreme heat. He shared data showing a trend where higher temperatures lead to increased emergency department visits and EMS calls, stressing the strain on healthcare systems. Durkee emphasized the importance of planning and education to mitigate these impacts on first responders and hospitals.
 - He acknowledged Nina Mastrianni's contribution regarding a cooling program for individuals lacking air conditioning, which is accepting applications until the end of August or until funding is exhausted. Dan stressed the urgency for those in need to apply for assistance due to potential future cuts in funding.
- **Measles Outbreak**
 - He addressed the current status of the measles outbreak, indicating that it has slowed but is still a concern.
 - There has been one confirmed and two probable cases that raised concerns for unvaccinated individuals in local emergency departments. He noted that the outbreak is significant, with over 1,300 cases reported nationwide, primarily affecting younger, unvaccinated populations. He stressed the need for vigilance in public health measures as the federal stance on vaccinations has shifted.
- Dan discussed the unavailability of the Board of Supervisors room for non-board meetings and confirmed that the next meeting will take place on October 29th at the Human Services building – third floor conference room.
- We will be scheduling 2026 meetings soon and will include locations of the meetings for the future.
- He encouraged partners to share updates and announcements, which he can disseminate through social media and the group LEPC Emails.

6.) Committee Member Updates

- No new updates to report from committee

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

October 29th

Closed the meeting at 10:24 am

Minutes submitted by:
Nancy Rosati
September 25, 2025