

Tri-County PET Region Working Group

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2021, 0900 CT

Meeting comes to order

1. Introductions

Thomas Warren, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Introduction of new Working Group Chair, Thomas Warren, and overview of background.

First Name	Last Name	Standing Committee	Attendance
Thomas	Warren	Working Group chair	X
Bill	Bowes	Rural Fire alternate	
Lori	Anderson	Communications alternate	
Jason	Casady	Emergency Management chair	X
Stu	DeLaCastro	Sarpy County alternate representative	
Margaret	Perdue	City of Omaha / Working Group Alternative Chair	X
Kevin	Griger	Rural Law Enforcement chair	
Dan	Douglas	Washington County representative	X
Travis	Harlow	Rural Fire chair	X
Paul	Johnson	Douglas County representative	X
Coby	Werner	Urban Fire alternate	X
Mark	Desler	Urban Law Enforcement chair	X
Lynn	Marshall	Sarpy County representative	
Butch	Groves	Washington County alternate representative	
Joe	Salcedo	Urban Fire chair	
Whitney	Shiple	Emergency Management alternate	
Bill	Muldoon	Communications chair	
Dennis	Snook	Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CIKR) chair	X

Dale Tedder (Tri-County Citizen Corps Program), Chelsea Andrews (City of Omaha), Greg Anderson (DotComm), Jesse Eret (Sarpy County Emergency Management), Aaron Alward (Douglas County Emergency Management), Dustin Duran (University of Nebraska Omaha), Tonya Ngotel (UNMC Center for Preparedness Education), Kristopher Peterson (Douglas County Sheriff's Office), Dave Points (UNO Public Safety)

2. Review & approval of May 14th, 2021 meeting minutes

- a. Motion to approve passed by unanimous vote

Updates and Reports

1. Tri-County SHSG Management & Administration Update *Margaret Perdue, Omaha Mayor's Office*

a. 2021 Grant Update

Not received official notice of award. Typically starts September 1st, however have to wait to receive official award notice and have it approved by City council before those projects are authorized to start.

b. PET Calendar

Reached out to Dave Reisen at NEMA regarding timeline to submit PET Calendar and they are revising the process. Said more information will be made available next week.

2. Financial update & report: *Margaret Perdue, Omaha Mayor's Office*

- a. FY 2017 SHSG; performance period ends on June 1, 2021 (closed) – returned \$39,071.70

Tri-County PET Region Working Group

- b. FY 2018 SHSG; performance period ends on August 31st, 2022 (*1 Year no cost extension*)
Reminder that any grant funded conference, training, travel, or exercise must have a PET request submitted at least 30 days prior to the event.
Discussion of Bellevue HazMat MOU dissolution. Discussion regarding option for reallocation locally. Further information and discussion with NEMA required.
 - c. FY 2019 SHSG; performance period ends on August 31st, 2022
 - a. FY 2020 SHSG; Financial Clearance (pending applicable agreements); performance period ends on August 31st, 2023
- 3. Standing committee reports**
- a. **Emergency Management:** *Jason Casady, Douglas County Emergency Management Agency*
 - i. State Homeland Security conference was attended by three team members, a lot was learned.
 - ii. ICS Trainings: Oct. 22 is 300 and 400 is December 10 discussion that contractor needs to be selected.
Reminder: Margee needs a PET request at minimum 30 days prior
Discussion on Supplier: City purchasing policy to follow – if other than lowest quote is selected needs to go before City Council.
\$4,000 is quote from Blue Cell and \$2,000 is quote from Lincoln Fire
Trainers need to be state approved
Lincoln Fire needs to provide a bit more detail in the quote
Motion to use to Lincoln Fire with provision of a more detailed quote --- motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. **Citizen Corps Program:** *Dale Tedder, Tri-County Citizen Corps Coordinator*
 - b. **Communications:** *Bill Muldoon, Sarpy County Emergency Communications* unable to attend and communicated that no update
 - c. **Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources:** *Dennis Snook, OPPD*
 - i. 2019 funding amount of \$10K CIKR active shooter exercise unsure that will be able to utilize with intended businesses due to pandemic. Looking at alternative businesses. NOTE FROM OFD: 2021 OFD put in for a similar, potential for partnering.
 - ii. CIKR committee meeting is next week – talking with NPP doing a lot of this work the CIKR subcommittee may need to take on other work and going to the state for project
 - iii. **Nebraska Preparedness Partnership**
TeeX classes will start back in 2022, have proposed dates looking at locations. Intent would be doing them in Lincoln to bridge more locations statewide, but still want Omaha and other areas participation. May offer stipend for travelers, not full cost but maybe to help with expenses with meals and lodging for the training. Format will change from one (1) day will now be two (2) days with overnight stay and complete two trainings out at once.

Rolled out new website for NPP, much more simple design. Added donation component.

Added four new paid organizations, now paid members consist of about 50%. Operate on about \$62,000 a year, are at about \$32K of memberships a year. State says they want it to be fully private funded. Working on diversifying funding applied for economic development funds

Got national recognition for NPP and Nebraska in FEMA's Building Public Private Partnership Guide. NPP was listed as case study on responding to incidents.

Tri-County PET Region Working Group

iv. Public Health *email update provided by Justin Watson, Nebraska Medicine*

Current EEI data for OMHCC hospitals as of 9/12:

253 Med/Surg Beds were available out of 1,389 staffed beds (82% occupancy rate).

40 Adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds were available out of 295 staffed beds (86% occupancy rate).

39 Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) beds were available out of 86 staffed beds (55% occupancy rate).

190 total inpatients diagnosed with COVID-19 (183 adult and 7 pediatric); 52 are Adult ICU level care.

5 suspected COVID-19 patients (all adults)

132 of the 447 ventilators in hospitals are in use. 28 ventilators are being used for hospitalized patients either suspected or confirmed.

*If anyone wants to receive this daily summary email (aggregate/no-facility level data), please let me know at juwatson@nebraskamed.com.

Hospital Unified Command (HUC) still meeting once per week on Mondays. Currently in its 42nd operational period.

The COVID-19 Infection Prevention workgroup is the only one meeting regularly on a monthly basis. Our PIOs are active and communicate frequently with the HUC and the OMHCC.

Justin Watson still attending monthly Douglas County Unified Command calls and providing an update for them. I still report out on the weekly NE Medical Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) calls.

Governor Ricketts implemented two measures recently; one executive order and one directed health measure. The Executive Order authorizes the credentialing of retired/inactive healthcare professionals, defers some continuing education requirements, and suspends various licensing statutes. It is currently in effect through the end of 2021. These apply to LTC as well as to hospitals. The Directed Health Measure suspends some inpatient elective surgeries for all Acute Care, Critical Care, and Children's Hospitals. DHM is a requirement for all hospitals in Nebraska, which went into effect on 8/30/21 and will remain through 9/30/21 unless renewed.

The Nebraska State Transfer Center is currently open. The number is 866-977-2636. It provides 24/7 nurse coverage. The NSTC will take patient details from the sending hospital and then call the larger hospitals to find a bed. The NSTC will conduct 30 minute follow-up calls with sending hospitals to update on progress. If all options are exhausted, they will call the sending hospital back to discuss. They are only taking in-state calls. Out-of-state calls will be directed to call the hospital directly. The NSTC will call out-of-state hospitals for placement if that is the normal referral hospital.

The MEOC is aware of and has discussed a critical shortage of laboratory reagents for COVID testing. Our federal partners have been made aware and are following up.

Tri-County PET Region Working Group

The Region 7 Disaster Health Response Ecosystem has a pediatric group meeting regionally, which is pulling together pediatric SMEs to start discussions on daily bed counts, look at data, look at resources and maybe placing them in a central location. They are also developing resources for adult hospitals that may need to step up to help with pediatric surge.

OMMHC is working with the State of Nebraska and the Douglas County Board of Health to procure PPE for a pandemic stockpile. We are hoping to receive 56 pallets of nitrile gloves, isolation gowns, and surgical masks for our non-hospital healthcare partners from the state cache. We also hope to supplement this with future OMHCC funding to purchase N95s. On the hospital side, we are working with the Douglas County Board of Health and the Douglas County Public Health Department to request approximately \$1.6 million of Fiscal Recovery Funding for N95s, surgical masks, nitrile gloves, and isolation gowns (about 25 pallets each). We have worked with the hospitals to identify how many pallets each hospital can store. Regarding the hospital PPE, this is for Douglas County only as the funding would be coming through Douglas County. Justin will be meeting with Public Health officials and Emergency Managers from the other counties to see about requesting funding for PPE stockpiles for those hospitals not in Douglas County.

Regarding 2019 SHSP funding, the Diamond in the Rough exercises (originally planned for Spring 2020) have been delayed into 2022. Concerns regarding the feasibility of conducting these exercises should the pandemic continue. Planning will start in the next few months for the TTX (tentatively planned for February) and the FSE (tentatively planned for May). FY 2020 funds have been used to purchase resource inventory equipment and that process is underway. We hope to receive the equipment soon and start tagging OMHCC assets in the various locations within the region.

d. Urban Law Enforcement: *Captain Mark Desler, OPD*

Working on completing open grant projects. Looking at potential projects for next cycle.

i. Omaha Terrorism Early Warning Group: *Lee Tomlinson, OPD*

Still in the process of converting OMAPS to a dashboard. Hope to demo in future.

Beginning of the school year is a major update time for a lot of OMAPS info. Time intensive and will be completed as soon as possible.

e. Rural Law Enforcement: *Keving Griger, Sarpy County Sheriff's Office*

unable to attend and communicated that no update

Urban Fire: *B/C Coby Werner, Omaha Fire Department*

2018 & 2019 projects completed.

Discussion around Bellevue's dissolution as an MOU HazMat City. Curious what becomes of those hazmat funds

2020 projects nearing completion. Mastering fireground command has yet to be held – 5 day course with a lot of people so that has not been scheduled due to COVID. Will send out to everyone, would be for anyone in unified command

Through the PET our guidance was to if there was a class or training from a different region to hold off on doing that here. Question is are there any travel funds through the grant to fund individuals to attend?

a. Margee – Not a broad fund for those, there are for specific trainings.

May try for the next grant application cycle.

Tri-County PET Region Working Group

Question on equipment disposition – contact Margee regarding equipment and grant year to guide process.

Rural Fire: *Travis Harlow, Waterloo Volunteer Fire Department*

Nothing to report.

NEMA Report: *email update provided by Logan Lueking, NEMA*

Erv Portis, former city administrator for Plattsmouth, has been named the next NEMA assistant director. He has already begun working at NEMA, alongside Bryan, until Bryan's retirement at the end of the month.

Emergency management disability training has been conducted in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Omaha and Norfolk this past two weeks. NEMA encourages any emergency manager who hasn't already done so to attend the training in Lincoln and Grand Island in November. Two-day sessions or half-day sessions are available. You can sign up on the training schedule page of NEMA's website. If November doesn't work, next year (tentatively set for March) there will be two additional training sessions.

Speaking of the website, NEMA has begun to revamp our website to make it more relevant and informative for the general public, especially during disasters. Stay tuned for updates on this process.

As you are probably aware, President Biden has issued a disaster declaration for the July 9-10 high wind/thunderstorm event.

Public Comment

1. Any public comments

Paul Johnson discussed importance of receiving M & A funding to support Margee's position. Allowable by grant rules, but not supported by the State.

Thomas Warren updated group that the City received notice that within three months 536 Afghan refugees will resettle in Omaha, of 775 to resettle statewide. NEMA and Lieutenant Governor's office is taking the lead.

67,000 people will resettle nationwide, but unknown details as far as infrastructure and sponsorship. Discussion over potential FEMA involvement and if there will be sponsoring social service agencies. Discussion over experience when people resettled following Katrina, and importance of connecting with sponsors.

4. Future Meetings

5. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 19th, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

Let Margee know if PET Subcommittee meeting plans to meet following working group meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 AM by unanimous vote.