

All Hazards Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2006
CMPD/CFD Training Academy
Room A-2107

Chairman Dave Shimberg called the meeting to order at 9:00am, welcoming participants, and asking all to review CPAC membership with their respective agencies and organizations, providing a current list of members or participants to Secretary@cpaccarolians.org.

Discussion of Official recognition by City and County

Wayne Broom explained that Local Emergency Planning Advisory Committees are required of all counties. Charlotte-Mecklenburg moved to an all hazards approach, working to involve city, county, chemical industry, public and private sector agencies and organizations in a group to review and oversee the All Hazards Plan. The result was the All Hazards Advisory Committee, AHAC, under which the LEPAC (or LEPC) operates.

A representative of the Clerks office was invited to join us today, but was unable to participate due to schedule conflicts.

Moving to a formal committee structure under the City/County will require scheduled meetings, published minutes, required attendance, and formal reporting. The normal process for membership on recognized committees is appointment of individuals by City Council or County Board of Commissioners, following application for those positions. The AHAC is unique, however, in that we are composed of agencies and organizations, and individuals representing those agencies and organizations change as their regular work activities dictate. CC and CBOC will therefore need to accept and support this different membership model when formally recognizing AHAC.

Recognition will also require review, update, and approval of the AHAC By-Laws including our organization and membership structure.

LEPC would be a functioning, permanent subcommittee of AHAC, with the primary job of completing an annual review of the All Hazards plan

Without a formal LEPC, Charlotte-Mecklenburg is violating the law and missing out on grant availability. Note that this law is not being enforced, and NC has only 11 active LEPCs out of 100 counties.

Mike Agee (Duke Power) asked what is required for us to move forward with recognition.

Wayne explained we must fully understand the Clerk, what requirements must be met (organization, attendance, reporting, etc), and by-laws must be updated to reflect requirements.

Once formally recognized by City/County, AHAC will also get NC State recognition because LEPC would be a subcommittee of AHAC.

In response to James Payne's question about appointments by CC and CBOC, Wayne explained the need was for agencies and organizations to be represented by emergency management and DR areas within those organizations.

Process will be for a committee from AHAC to review current by-laws, assemble facts and figures, and hold a preliminary meeting with Clerk to begin process of obtaining buy-in.

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Dave, as Chairman, called for interested volunteers to see Wayne and him after the meeting.

NC State-wide Pandemic Tabletop exercise

- **Dr. Keener presented information on the Overview & Introduction to scenario**
 - Because cases of bird flue has increased around the globe, although very few,
 - This year the seasonal flu is about half of last year's flu as of this time last year or the year before.
 - Pandemic is unlikely this year, but something we need to prepare for the Office of Emergency Medical Services, OEMS, is holding pandemic exercises.
 - Exercise was an internet based table top exercise, run out of Texas involving EM, public health,
 - Scenario was laid out as increasing cases around the globe and then sweeping across the county, starting here at a hospital in Gaston County. Worst Case scenario would b 1-1.5M deaths in the US with 50k to 100k deaths in NC
- Norm Roland presented Hotwash first reactions to the exercise
 - This exercise was a start (not the end) of this effort. Included CMC's COO, CIO, Char-Meck EMO, and Public Health. Effort was to raise awareness, resulting in appreciation for need of staffing, communications,
 - CMC and other participating hospitals are writing after exercise action reports.
 - James Payne stated exercise was very good for hospitals because incident command was new to most hospitals. Light came on that they would need to ask for resources they may not normally need. Understanding ICS and how to use it to communicate with county, state, and beyond.
 - Plans must be significantly enhanced and processes changed to work under ICS. Use of tents, Triage, communications, etc.
 - Hospitals will be in overflow and alternate care facility situations, and significant staffing shortages.
 - Event could last 2-3 months, requiring closure of schools, public events, businesses, etc. all of which will have significant economic impact.
 - Who can order quarantine – Public Health Department can declare. Dr. Keener does not think it would work because when the feel well, and then will stay home when panic strikes.
 - The Hersey grant is helping to address purchase of M95 masks with grant money, for stockpiles.
 - How do we get business educated Public information component is critical. Money is being allocated for community wide-influenza planning, including a proposal for submission to the feds. This plan will be an annex to the AHP

Regarding our readiness to deal with a bird flu pandemic, Dr. Keener says we have a long way to go, but we are well down the road with plan outlines, lists of phone contacts, and awareness across the region 7 (12 county area). Key will be involving business community and NGO groups. Kristin Wade Norman Roland

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Infrastructure Committee Report

- Patti Lamb had to leave do to a worksite injury. Wayne talked about the importance of the infrastructure including hospitals, utilities, power, etc to ensure to plan for the 8-9 critical infrastructures defined by the FBI. These include utilities, banking, hospitals, and telecom. Goal is to develop a formal sub-committee under AHAC comprised on only critical infrastructure members, recognizing the interdependence of the utilities and to prioritize recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Group needs to ensure involvement. Will identify gaps in the annex that must be addresses

Adjourned at 10:00am