



Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)



Mass Care, Evacuation, Sheltering, Medical Surge Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Conducted via Zoom Platform

March 22, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present

Richard Ferreira, TEMA
Joan Cooper-Zack, South Shore Hospital
Stacey Lane, Norwood Health Dept.
David Faunce, SE Mass EMS Council
Ed Caron, Acushnet EMA

Guests Present

Mia Nardini, METRO East MRC
Chief John Lynch, FR FD
Richard Aguiar, FR FD/EMA

Support Staff Present

Todd Castro, SRPEDD
Kevin Ham, SRPEDD

Members Absent: Edward Blanchard, American Red Cross; Michael Walker, Barnstable County REPC; Rachel Fleck, MEMA Region II

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Ferreira called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. Attendance was recorded by roll call.
2. **Public Comment:** No public comment was provided.
3. **Approval of 02-22-21 Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the February 22, 2021 meeting minutes by roll call.
4. **Fiduciary Report (FY-18/19/20):** None.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Portable Washing Stations:** Chairman Ferreira mentioned that 12 portable washing stations were originally going to be purchased but the subcommittee changed that to a total of 15 at the last meeting. He mentioned it was approved at the last Council meeting for the additional \$5,000 to cover all 15 stations. Mr. Ham mentioned that the purchase orders were issued on March 18th and it can take a few days for the vendors to get back to MAPC. He stated it is a 4-5-week shipping time and it is a work in progress. Chairman Ferreira asked about the shipping logistics and Mr. Ham indicated that most of the stations are being shipped to their final locations. He noted that Mr. Walker in Barnstable is accepting the Vineyard wash station and will coordinate delivery.
 - b. **Inflatable Air Shelter:** Chairman Ferreira mentioned that in past has met with New Bedford to see their inflatable air tent and wanted to see Fall River's tent, but it had been taken down already. Chairman Ferreira stated that he would reach out to Mr. Faunce for photos of the Fall River tent and Mr. Faunce offered to send them to Mr. Ham for forwarding to the remainder of the subcommittee.
 - c. **Portable Variable Message Board:** Chairman Ferreira mentioned that the message board was discussed at the last meeting and he stated there was a change in representation for the company. He indicated



Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)



that a project funding request needs to be completed for this project. Mr. Ham mentioned he would need the request before the next meeting for discussion and approval and well before the next full Council meeting. Chairman Ferreira mentioned that while at Lowes recently, he saw retractable stanchion type barricades that could be used for directing foot traffic. He noted it may be a good project for the subcommittee to consider in the future.

- d. **FAC Trailer Request:** Chairman Ferreira mentioned that the subcommittee, at the last meeting, requested that Mr. Blanchard rework the original FAC Trailer request and resubmit for consideration. Chairman Ferreira then asked for a status update. Mr. Ham mentioned that Fall River signed the request, but another signature is still needed. Mr. Ham then summarized the reasoning for originally including the variable message boards in the request and indicated that they could be removed from the project to decrease the total cost. Chairman Ferreira stated that he felt that the variable message boards would be better suited for the regional cache sites due to their cost and for future availability. Mr. Faunce agreed that the message boards should be more accessible. Chairman Ferreira noted that when considering the message boards moving forward, the subcommittee should look at purchasing hitches to allow for more portability and accessibility. Chairman Ferreira requested that the variable message boards be taken out of the FAC trailer request before coming back to the subcommittee for consideration. Chief Lynch asked about the timing for the FAC project and Mr. Ham mentioned it is some ways out and still in the process. Chairman Ferreira indicated that the request still needs to be updated and signed. Mr. Ham stated that the project would be approximately 6 months out and everyone will work together to make sure there is room in Fall River when the project is ready.
6. **Coronavirus:** Chairman Ferreira asked if members had any updates on Coronavirus. Ms. Cooper-Zack mentioned that South Shore Hospital (SSH) has flatten out their numbers with approximately 30 patients still in the hospital. She mentioned that there is still focus on potential variants, potential surges, coordination efforts, PPE, and non-COVID care. Chairman Ferreira asked why PPE is an issue because MEMA is distributing them. Ms. Cooper-Zack mentioned that SSH can still get them, but they are limited to the quantities ordered before the pandemic. She stated that the hospital staff are still using masks for the whole shift and still reusing N95 and surgical masks. Mr. Faunce reported that the Health & Medical Coordinating Coalition – Region 5 is currently putting together a revolving PPE cache for EMS use; however, after the pandemic is over, the cache would be open to other stakeholders provided that equipment is returned or replaced after use.
7. **New Business:** None.
8. **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:** Mr. Ham mentioned that the Council is still looking for projects for the FFY 2021 Plan. He asked that members reach out to him with any project ideas. Chairman Ferreira mentioned that there was a Southeastern Massachusetts EMA meeting last Thursday and they are in search for projects as well.

Ms. Nardini notified the subcommittee that she will be leaving the MRC in a few weeks. She thanked the members and indicated that she would notify the membership of her replacement. Chairman Ferreira thanked Ms. Nardini for her participation and wished her well.



Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)



9. **Next Meeting/Adjournment:** The next meeting was scheduled for Monday – April 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM via Zoom. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 AM by roll call.

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