



Meeting Minutes

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) District VII
 Bennington County, Vermont
April 25, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:45PM
 Bennington Project Independence
 614 Harwood Hill Rd.
 Bennington, VT 05201

| Attendees | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Name | Affiliation |
| Dee Myrvang | VT Department of Health |
| Craig O'Dell | Pownal EMD |
| Keith Squires | LEPC Chair/Arlington EMD |
| Allison Strohl | BCRC |
| Bill Levine | Stamford EMD |
| Sheila Lawrence | Stamford |
| Tim Stimpson | Stamford |
| Dawn Anderson | Speaker |
| Kate Bryan | Battenkill Valley Health Care |
| Dan Zimmer | Fire Training Instructor |
| Mike Meehan | Red Cross |
| Tom Mozzer | VT State Police |

Introductions: Keith Squires started the meeting with introductions.

Meeting Minutes: Keith asked if there were any edits/comments for the January meeting minutes. No one had any. Dan Zimmer made motion to accept the minutes, Bill Levine seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Keith went over the treasurer's report. The balance last meeting was \$12,869.48. The LEPC paid BCRC for the contracted services at \$3,200. The ending balance at the time of this meeting is \$9,669.48. Kate Bryan made a motion to accept the report, Mike Meehan seconded. All were in favor.

Presentation: Dawn Anderson, with the State of Vermont Enhanced 911 Board, started her presentation on the CARE Program. Some highlights and comments from her presentation:

- Sometimes calls get answered in the surrounding states but will get transferred back to Vermont. Sometimes Vermont dispatch answers calls from the surrounding states and have to transfer calls back also. Vermont has 120 call takers. No one gets put on hold when they call 911 (in other states people can be on hold due to lack of dispatchers/call takers).
- Most calls come from wireless calls so the first question is "what is your location".

- Vermont's 911 system does not go down often, but when it has in the past, it hasn't been down for long. When it gets back up, they call everyone back that tried during the down period.
- Vermont was the first state in the country to have text to 911.
- CARE stands for Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies. It is a tool designed to assist responders to potentially provide special assistance in the event of a wide-scale emergency. Questions on the registration form are about needing assistance for an evacuation or long-term power outage, needing assistance due to a medical issue or needing medical support (e.g. wheelchair, equipment needing electricity, service animal, visual impairment, oxygen use, etc.). Those who register still need to call 911 in an emergency, this will just help the call takers identify what is needed faster.
- Key players: United Ways of Vermont, VT 211, VT 911, and Vermont Emergency Management
- Keith asked where the information from the CARE program goes. Dawn said that the information goes into the 911 system. The CARE symbol shows up on the map of the call takers computer screen. Call takers can click on the symbol and all the information will show up. But that information can't be shared. And they are still working on the issues of not being able to share that information.
- People can sign themselves up by emailing or faxing the form, or by calling to register. There will also be a registration online.
- Recently, they have been increasing outreach to responders and other organizations.
- Dan Zimmer asked if 211 could see this information. Dawn said they don't have access, and that it's only available to 911.
- Tim Stimpson mentioned that it seems things should be more streamlined so local responders could have access to the information. Dawn sympathized with the frustration but right now only 911 call takers have access to the CARE information. But they are still working on making the program more streamlined.
- One option brought up was to create something similar at the town level that could be shared with first responders, so people could be more proactive in a town-wide emergency, instead of reactive.
- Dee Myrvang mentioned that it could possibly be used in VT Alert, which may help streamline the program. Dawn mentioned that that was something they were working on.

Agency Reports:

Dee Myrvang: Department of Health – They're having a Pod exercise on June 10th at 8:30AM at Bennington College. They will be practicing the distribution of prophylactic medications to 100 people.

Dan Zimmer: Fire fighter instructor – Have been teaching Fire Fighter 1 and 2 courses in Bennington. FF 2 is a supervising course. They started in September. It's the first time it has been held in Bennington. It is 180 hours of training.

Mike Meehan: Red Cross – Red Cross can help with food and drink for first responders at a scene, as long as the response period is 3-4 hours or more.

Adjourn: Meeting ended at 7:45PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 25, 2019. Location TBD.

LEPC 7 meeting minutes, agendas, and scheduled meetings can be found at:
<http://www.bcrcvt.org/local-emergency-planning-committee.html>