

York Township EMA

MINUTES

September 17, 2009 7:00 PM York Township EOC

Type of Meeting: Regular Monthly

Meeting Called By: Kathleen Dellinger, Emergency Management Coordinator

Note Taker: Ray Shaffer

Attendees:

Kathleen Dellinger, EMC, Ray Shaffer Deputy EMC, Jack Dellinger, Races, Jim Walsh, RACES/York Township Fire Chiefs Association, Jim Shaffer, EMA Public Works Director, Allen Britton, PIO, Dottie Anderson, Mass Care and Shelter, Robert Gage, Resource Support Officer, Jay Lewis, Communications Branch Director, Eric Dorsey, Public Safety and Security

Agenda topics

ITEM #1 Recording Secretary

Ray Shaffer volunteered to take the meeting's minutes.

ITEM #2 New Staff Member

Eric Dorsey was welcomed to the EMA and had an opportunity to tell us a little about himself. Eric's role at EMA is Public Safety and Security Director which fits into his current role as a Security Officer at Towson State University and a student pursuing a degree in Police Science and Security Management. We are pleased to have him as part of the York Township EMA team.

ITEM #3 FIRE CHIEF'S MEETING

Jim Walsh had nothing to report.

ITEM #4 2010 Budget

Kathleen reported after a full accounting of our \$1500 budget that we have exhausted our available 2009 budget. Included in our expenses were payments to the township for rent, utilities and supplies approximating \$500.00. Additionally, we are required to maintain a \$100.00 balance in the account. Kathleen requested \$2000.00 for 2010 but was advised that departments were requested to maintain the same levels as 2009. There are a number of items on the "to buy" list for 2010 including: NOAA Weather Radio; water and non-perishable food items for the EOC; and, a portable GPS locator.

ITEM #5 National Flood Insurance Program

Ray Shaffer attended a meeting at the Township Meeting Room on August 25, 2009 which dealt with Flood Insurance. The discussion was geared for those individuals who are charged with developing ordinances and codes related to land located in flood plains. It also detailed how one determines flood plain areas and what must be done to accommodate the water relative to building codes. Clearly, this was not for EMA. By the time we get involved it is a flood.

ITEM #6 York County Office of Emergency Management County Wide PIO Committee

Kathleen Dellinger, EMC and Ray Shaffer, Deputy EMC, attended a meeting at YCOEM where Brian Morrin, County EMA PIO, discussed the idea of a PIO committee, members of which could be utilized to assist him in an emergency or to assist other county jurisdictions experiencing an emergency but not having a PIO. It was an exploratory meeting with attendees discussing their training or experience with dealing with the media. Brian will work to develop some "basics" for the team members as well as a media list detailing names, numbers and associations of local media representatives. The group decided that quarterly meetings are best and Brian will notify the group of the next meeting. Allen Britton, PIO was unable to attend this meeting but will be part of the team. Kathleen indicated that she will not be available for this group but York Township will still have two members.

ITEM # 7 Computer for digital communications

The donated laptop computer has been programmed for use in RF communications. Jack Dellinger and Jim Walsh demonstrated how this system works for the members of the staff. It has been likened to the old Radio-teletype where written information is converted into an RF signal and transmitted to another receiving unit, allowing communications when all other methods are inoperable.

ITEM # 8 Apple Hill Surgical Center

Apple Hill Surgical Center will be the backup emergency operations center for the York Hospital in the event the hospital experiences an emergency. Kathleen and Jack met with and assisted the Apple Hill emergency ops team who are setting up their operation. Since amateur radio capability is being established for Apple Hill they will be able to communicate with emergency agencies and York Township EMA would be able to assist from our EOC.

ITEM #9 SNS/POD

Kathleen reported that it now appears that the SNS/POD system will NOT be used for H1N1 vaccine distribution. However, we will continue to pursue planning with the Dallastown School District as a POD for use in other emergency situations, i.e. terrorist, chemical or biological attacks, etc. The City of York will be using the POD concept on September 19th to administer the seasonal flu vaccine as a test run of the POD.

The following, from the York Dispatch, describes the steps being taken by YAMMRS to address the H1N1 pandemic

Health-care givers coordinate vaccine efforts

[KATHLEEN STEVENS The York Dispatch](#)

Updated: 09/15/2009 10:49:03 AM EDT

A consortium of health-care organizations for the first time this year put into action a plan for mass immunization in hope of reducing the likelihood of an influenza outbreak.

The York-Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System has coordinated efforts among York, Gettysburg, Hanover and Memorial hospitals as well as city and county health agencies to meet the challenge of delivering an estimated 200,000 vaccines to prevent swine flu.

"This is different than seasonal flu (vaccine) because it is coming from one source and is allocated to agencies based on requested amounts," said consortium chairman Charles Marley, D.O. "There is a limited supply, so we have to estimate how much we'll need based on an estimated best guess of the population in (at-risk) groups."

The most difficult aspect of the effort has been identifying the portion of at-risk population, such as pregnant women and school-age children, who are likely to obtain the vaccine independently of the consortium.

Because supply is limited, Marley says he wants to ensure vaccine is not wasted or efforts doubled. Agencies that typically hold vaccine clinics include school districts, senior centers and private physicians' offices.

Two different populations: This year, health care providers are dealing with two flu vaccines -- seasonal and swine flu -- and two groups of at-risk populations.

Those considered high risk for seasonal flu are pregnant women, children aged 6 months to 19 years, with chronic or underlying medical conditions, people who live in nursing homes, people age 50 and older, and people who live with or care for those at high risk, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Those considered high risk for swine flu are pregnant women, all people age 6 months to 24 years, health care and emergency medical services workers, household contacts and caretakers for children younger than 6 months of age, and people age 25 through 64 who have chronic health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications.

Diana Scheide is a consortium member and the manager of infection prevention and control at Memorial Hospital. She said the volunteer group has reached out for the past several years to businesses, school districts and to public service agencies such as Rabbit Transit.

"In this pandemic, we are centering efforts on younger people most likely to have adverse affects from this flu," Scheide said. "You don't know how strong or widespread pandemic could be so we've really put all of our business interests aside to work as one community."

Marley said if a school district or other agency registers with the Pennsylvania Department of Health independently, then it reduces the burden for the consortium, but it also could cause some degree of confusion.

The most effective means of delivering mass vaccination is via a concerted effort in which each knows what the other is doing, he said.

"We just feel we could get a better handle on the need and numbers if we do this as a unified effort," he said. "We could overestimate our (vaccine) need."

The swine flu vaccine is still being manufactured and is expected to be available in mid-October. Although there are theories about vaccine dosage, researchers have not determined with certainty whether effective immunization will require one or two doses.

Genesis of effort: The consortium formed in 2002 to prepare for pandemic response specifically related to avian flu and other emergency health situations that could affect large portions of the population.

The idea, he said, is herd immunity, which basically means creating resistance to the spread of an infection by immunizing a high percentage of the population. The more people with immunity -- whether by vaccine or exposure to the infection -- the fewer become ill and the faster the infection dies within the population, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Both Marley and Scheide remind people to cover their mouths when they cough, wash hands frequently and stay home when sick to avoid spreading flu. Most healthy people who contract swine flu will find bed rest, liquids and rest the best remedy.

The consortium hopes ultimately to immunize 70 percent of the high-risk population within the two counties.

"We'll know how effective we've been based on the number of immunizations," Marley said. "If it goes well, we'll be ecstatic."

YAMMRS will be the coordinating group for H1N1 as well as provide the public with information. They will be looking to YCOEM to set up an ICS command while YAMMRS will administer the drugs. Serum is expected in mid-October.

ITEM #10 ECRIN UPDATE

Anne Zarlenga has submitted all ECRIN documentation to the county and all records are up to date. Anne will also be taught how to access this information from our EOC in the event of an emergency. We will need, however, a new computer to handle the task. Gary Milbrand will be asked to acquire the new equipment since he is on the county committee and understands the need.

ITEM #11 Dallastown EMA Emergency Preparedness Day – Saturday, September 19, 2009

Kathleen suggested that anyone interested in participating in this event is to get in touch with Brian Brenneman, Dallastown EMC.

ITEM #12 UPCOMING TRAINING

Meeting for CERT trained responders who may wish to participate in a POD for H1N1 mass immunizations – Tuesday, September 29th, 700pm

911 Open House – Saturday, October 3, 2009 1200-1800 hours, 120 Davies Drive, York PA

Pandemic Summit will be held on October 22, 2009 (Ray and Bob to attend)

ITEM #13 NEXT MEETING

The October meeting will be called on an "as needed" basis only. Both Kathleen and Ray plan to be out of town on the regular meeting night so **a meeting will occur only in the event the H1N1 SNS/POD situation develops**. If it becomes necessary, a meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8th at 7:00pm

ITEM #14 OTHER BUSINESS

On September 26, 2009, The Northern EMA (Dillsburg) will conduct a POD drill. Call Kathleen if you are interested in observing as an EMA representative.

Jack Dellinger, Jay Lewis and Anne Zarlenga have completed the requirements for PEMA Municipal EMA Staff Basic Certification.

Ray Shaffer has completed both the Basic and Advanced PEMA Deputy EMC requirements for certification. Congratulations to those members for their hard work and dedication.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.