

1 **Franklin County Regional Emergency Management Committee**

2 December 14, 2023

3 Virtual Meeting Notes

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5 **Attendance:** Micah Genzlinger (Fairfax FD), Reginald Beliveau Jr. (Swanton Town and Village EMD),
6 Harry Shoppmann (VEM), Sharon Bousquet (Highgate EMD), Eva Gillilan (Fletcher EMC/Red Cross),
7 Shaun Coleman (NRPC), Jacqueline Kelley (VDH), Zachary Borst (Maple Run SU), Mike Olio (Richford
8 EMC).
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10 Shaun began the meeting at 9:00 am followed by roll call. There was no quorum.

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12 **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.

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14 **September Minutes:** Tabled

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16 **Presentation – Harry Schoppmann, VEM**

17 Harry provided a presentation on considerations for people with disabilities and others with access and
18 functional needs for emergency management purposes. In the context of emergencies or disasters, this
19 includes individuals with disabilities, pregnant women, children, elderly persons, prisoners, language
20 barriers, impoverished and those who are chemically dependent. The overall vulnerability for people
21 with disabilities and others with access and functional needs may be categorized by their socio-
22 economic status, household composition & disability, minority status and language, and housing &
23 transportation. Key players in the community who can help identify the various segments of the
24 population include first responders (fire, EMS), municipal staff, faith-based organizations, community
25 based human service organizations, VT211's CARE program, DCF's Building Bright Futures Child Care
26 Information System and the ACCD's mobile home registry.

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28 A community-based organization is a local organization (either affiliated with a national organization or
29 not) with a primary mission to provide services to a specific group of people. This could include services
30 to individuals who are homeless, low-income, elderly or others. A local food shelf is an example. CVOEO
31 in St. Albans is one such organization. These groups should be listed in your local EM plan. Local public
32 safety officials such as EMDs should know who the individuals are in your community that will need
33 assistance or at a minimum a welfare check during a disaster.

34
35 The Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies (CARE), run by VT211, is a key source of information for
36 such groups. Individuals are asked to self-register through the CARE program prior to or during a
37 disaster. First responders can then receive the list of registrants during a disaster so they can conduct
38 welfare visits either in person or by phone. Utility companies such as VELCO and GMP also encourage
39 residents to register for CARE. This is useful for them to prioritize addresses where power restoration is
40 needed. GMP may soon offer emergency battery backup power to residents who need power for their
41 medical equipment.

42
43 Jacquie noted that the use of the term "vulnerable population" is a misnomer. Its use implies that it is
44 the individual's fault when really it is the inaccessible environment around the individual. The correct
45 term should be "people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs". This is
46 terminology now used by state and federal agencies. Harry thanked Jacquie for the correction and will
47 update his presentation.

Harry noted that the CARE registry is currently being updated. Communities can usually reach out to the Duty Officer to request the CARE registry during a disaster. The use of CARE registry is being reviewed as an after-action item from the July flooding. The registry format is also being updated. For now, EMDs can call the watch officer for requesting information from the registry.

VEM Updates – Harry Shoppmann, VEM

Harry reported:

- A variety of hazard mitigation funding is available including:
 - Project Scoping (called advance assistance) Under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) due 1/31/24.
 - Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) due 1/12/24.
 - For more information: <https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation>
- A variety of trainings are coming up of interest:
 - 12/11 - Public Information Officer Basics for Locals, Town of Barre Municipal Building, B 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. REGISTRATION: via State Learning Management System:
 - 1/10 - VT- Alert Manager Training. Virtual: 1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.
 - 1/23-1/24 - L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP); all day.
 - 2/14-15 - Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course
 - To register: State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NWVT Medical Reserve Corps - Jacquie Kelley, VDH

Jacquie reported the NWVT MRC is gearing up for hosting “Stop the Bleed” training program. They will be presenting to the public and there has been an interest by school nurses. The team will be putting together “Stop the Bleed” kits to distribute during the training sessions. More information will be forthcoming.

The NWVT MRC will also be working with areas schools on the Bright Lights at Night campaign. The goal is to increase awareness in K-12 schools regarding night time safety. The team will be handing out reflector kits to school kid and putting on school events. This program is a big hit in Scandinavian countries. Zach from Maple Run commented that the District would be very interested in having the program delivered.

The NWVT MRC members also completed mental health first aid training. One member will be finishing the train-the-trainer program and will be responsible for delivering the training twice in the area.

The Health Department participated in a RACES training at Northwest Medical Center recently. There is a new director of emergency operations at the hospital

There was a brief discussion on Stop the Bleed training and first aid training for youth.

Officers (Chair, Vice Chair) & Committee Reps

No quorum.

Harry reviewed the three committee\working group seats available for REMC representatives: the Statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee, Threat Identification Risk Assessment, and the State-wide Three Year Training and Exercise Planning Workshop. There were no volunteers.

Other Business

96 None. Shaun thanked everyone for attending.
97
98 **Public Comment**
99 No comment.
100
101 The meeting ended at approximately 10:05 a.m.