

**Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee
August 10, 2016
Minutes**

The Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) Public Awareness, Education, and Training Committee met at the Jefferson County EOC on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 0830 hours. Those present were Steve Allen, JCHSEM; Clair Brendel, American Red Cross; Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Caregivers; Barbara Miller, JCHSEM; Brandon Vallee, JCHSEM; and Jill Upson, West Virginia House of Delegates.

Ms. Dunbar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0842. Ms. Brendel moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting. All approved.

I. Old Business

1. Quarterly Partnership Luncheon held at Skipper's on July 29
 - a. On Friday, July 29, the JCHSEM Quarterly Partnership Luncheon was held at Skipper's Dips and Deli in Charles Town. Ms. Miller presented at the luncheon and discussed the June Flooding response in Greenbrier County, WV.
2. 2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Exercise Series
 - a. Ms. Miller stated that the 2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Exercise Series "Dark Grid" continued with a functional exercise on June 21 at the Augusta Church in Hampshire County. She mentioned that the exercise focuses on how Jefferson County and the region would respond to an electrical grid failure, extreme heat, chemical release, along with other problems.
 - b. Ms. Miller mentioned that on August 2, participants in the exercise had a meeting with the EPA to finalize the details of the full scale exercise. The full scale exercise will be on Saturday, September 17 with venues at Jefferson Medical Center, the Jefferson County Health Department, and the Emergency Operations Center. Ms. Miller noted that Potomac Peddlers will be having their event on the same day of the full scale exercise.
 - c. Ms. Miller asked Ms. Brendel if there will be an American Red Cross representative in the EOC and noted that the American Red Cross will be receiving injects during the exercise. Ms. Brendel stated that she asked volunteers if they are available. She will get back to us.
3. Bark in the Park
 - a. Mr. Vallee stated that Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society held their annual Bark in the Park event from 1000 to 1400 hours on June 4 at Jefferson Memorial Park in Charles Town. He stated that the event was well attended and was an excellent opportunity to distribute emergency preparedness information to pet owners.
4. WV Emergency Management Council Conference

- a. The WV Emergency Managers Council Conference occurred on June 7 to June 10 in Canaan Valley, WV. Ms. Miller mentioned that she taught the Emergency Management 101 to assist all of the new emergency managers across the state and the “your digital go kit”.
5. WV Floodplain Managers Conference
 - a. The WV Floodplain Managers Conference occurred on June 12 to June 15 in Blackwater Falls, WV. Ms. Miller stated that this conference provided invaluable lessons for the state in planning for the next major flood event.
6. Southern West Virginia Flooding
 - a. Ms. Miller mentioned that she was deployed to Greenbrier County from June 29 to July 12 to assist emergency management with the response. The committee discussed their roles during the response and shared lessons learned from the experience.

II. New Business

1. Social Media Stats
 - a. Mr. Vallee detailed the social media figures for the committee. He stated that:
 1. Facebook has grown by 136 to a total of 2,340.
 2. Twitter has grown by 13 to a total of 167.
 3. Nixle has grown by 39 to a total of 1,478.
 - b. Ms. Miller stated that during National Preparedness Month, JCHSEM will be pushing Nixle registration at all community outreach events.
2. Jefferson County Fair
 - a. Ms. Miller mentioned the 2016 Jefferson County Fair will occur on August 21-27. JCHSEM, with the support of the LEPC, will be participating with a booth again this year. She encouraged interested committee members to visit the booth.
3. Floodplain Letters
 - a. Mr. Allen reported that as a part of the Community Rating System (CRS), JCHSEM sent over 550 letters to property owners who have lots within or near the floodplains in Jefferson County, outside of the municipalities. Ms. Miller stated that every year, JCHSEM staff sends our letters to those in or near the floodplain to notify them of the hazard and information on flood mitigation, how to purchase flood insurance, and mitigation options for their consideration.
4. Continued CRS (Community Rating System) Activities
 - a. Ms. Miller discussed several of the 18 mitigation and preparedness activities that Jefferson County does, such as distribution of floodplain letters, risk assessment mitigation annual meeting, and public information. The end result is that floodplain insurance for individual policy holders is reduced. Currently, Jefferson County is a rated as a class eight community which provides a 10% discount for policy holders in the unincorporated areas of Jefferson County.
5. Mitigated and Repetitive Loss Properties

- a. Ms. Miller stated that JCHSEM staff has to view repetitive loss properties once a year. Repetitive loss properties are defined as properties which reported flood insurance losses of more than \$1,000.00, at least two times in any ten year period. In 1996, there were two significant floods which account for the majority of repetitive loss properties. She stated that the most reported claims was five during a 10 year period. Ms. Miller mentioned that FEMA encourages local communities to do buyouts and mitigation projects on these properties.
6. Disaster Ready Kids Program
 - a. Mr. Vallee detailed the purpose of the program to the committee and stated that it continues until September 30. Ms. Brendel stated that Mr. Vallee should reach out to the Principal of Ranson Elementary. She stated that she was worked with them on the Pillow Case Project and that the DRK program would be perfect for the younger children.
7. National Preparedness Month
 - a. Ms. Miller reminded the committee that National Preparedness Month is in September and inquired if the American Red Cross will be participating. Ms. Brendel stated that the American Red Cross will be continuing its Home Fire Campaign with Independent Fire Company and Charles Town Rotary in addition to Pillow Case Project. Ms. Miller reported that JCHSEM staff will be conducting lunch and learns during the month of September for local Businesses and continuing the DRK program.
8. WV LEPC/SERC Conference
 - a. Ms. Miller stated that the 2016 LEPC Conference will be on August 29 to September 1 in Camp Dawson, WV. Melissa Cross, State SERC Coordinator, said that SERC will pay for the Director, the LEPC President and one additional person. Ms. Miller noted that Sandy Hite, LEPC Chair, Mr. Allen, and she will be attending. Those interested in attending are welcome to, however it will be at their own expense.
9. Program for Public Information (PPI) for CRS
 - a. Ms. Miller stated that in the past, the Public Awareness Committee has worked on the Public Awareness, Education, and Training Strategy to talk about how the committee's goals of having a fully prepared community. This year, that document will be transformed to PPI, which will discuss public information of disaster risk reduction and it must be approved by the committee, the commission, and incorporated into planning before the end of October.
10. Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparedness of Disasters,
 - a. Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparedness of Disasters training will occur on November 3, 2016 at Believer's Victory Center - 160 Victory Lane, Moorefield, WV, from 0800 hours to 1700 hours. Registration can be completed on CourseMill. There will be no travel compensation and NIMS 100 is a prerequisite.
 - b. Ms. Miller stated that this training has been requested on the Jefferson County THIRA and detailed the importance of this class in acquiring volunteers during a disaster.

III. Member Sharing Time

1. Ms. Upson inquired as to what are the needs of those who have been impacted by the flood. Ms. Miller stated that volunteers and financial assistance are what is needed most and encouraged committee members who are able to volunteer to go to volunteerwv.org. Ms. Upson stated that there is a possibility of having a special session to discuss supporting the victims of the flooding.
2. Ms. Brendel stated that the American Red Cross is working with the Jefferson County Health Department to establish a medical needs shelter at the health department during an emergency. The committee discussed the shortage of nurses during a disaster. Ms. Miller recommended that additional resources include, the WV National Guard and Marshall University in the event of an emergency. Ms. Brendel stated she will be contacting the Shepherd University Nursing School for potential volunteers.
3. Ms. Miller inquired if the American Red Cross will be having an After Action Review of the flooding response in southern West Virginia. Ms. Brendel stated that she was not aware if they were having one.

IV. Adjournment

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 1020 hours. The next meeting of the Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee will be on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at the Jefferson County EOC.