

**Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management  
Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee  
February 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, February 10, 2016 at 0830 hours. Those present were Katherine Dunbar, Chair, Good Shepherd Interfaith Caregivers; Michael Godwin, WVU Healthcare – Jefferson Medical Center; Barbara Miller, JCHSEM; and Brandon Vallee, JCHSEM.

Ms. Dunbar, Chair, call the meeting to order at 0842 hours. Ms. Dunbar moved to approve the January 13, 2016 meeting minutes. All approved.

I. Old Business

1. Deputy Director Position
  - a. Mr. Vallee reported that the Deputy Director position has been posted on the Jefferson County website. Ms. Miller stated that the post will be placed elsewhere in the near future.
2. Media Day
  - a. Mr. Vallee said that media day occurred on Wednesday, January 13 and that 14 people, including public information officers and media representatives, attended the event. He stated that it was the perfect opportunity to discuss the role of JCHSEM and for networking. Mr. Vallee mentioned that the connections made during this event came into action during the earthquake and snowstorm one week later.
3. Bolivar Earthquake
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that on January 17, there was an earthquake at 1412 hours, 4 KM SSE of Bolivar, WV. Ms. Miller stated that the earthquake occurred in Virginia, however Bolivar got the credit for it. Ms. Dunbar inquired if residents called 9-1-1 to report it. Ms. Miller said that the majority of the calls thought it was blasting at the quarry.
4. Snowstorm Jonas
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that Snowstorm Jonas occurred on January 22-23 and that the Jefferson County EOC was activated at 1700 on Friday January 22 to respond to the storm. He stated that a record of 40.5 inches of snow fell in Shepherdstown, however the total has not been officially recognized.
  - b. Mr. Vallee reported that the Jefferson County EOC received over 550 EOC calls while the Emergency Communications Center took 142 Fire/EMS calls, 552 Law Enforcement calls, and 81 informational calls.
  - c. Ms. Miller detailed the actions of the WV National Guard which included transporting dialysis patients, delivering food to senior citizens and to the homeless shelter, transporting key personnel in the county, and assisting stranded motorists. She stated that the majority of the phone calls taken by the EOC were about when snow removal crews would going to clear their streets.
  - d. Mr. Vallee requested that committee members share stories of exceptional volunteerism during the snow storm with him so that they can be recognized.
5. Opequon Creek, Potomac River, and Shenandoah River Flooding

- a. Mr. Vallee stated that on February 3-5, the Opequon Creek, Potomac River, and Shenandoah River were forecasted to reach minor flood stage due to rising temperatures, melting snow, and heavy rains. He reported that the rivers did not crest as high as they were predicted to reach.
6. 2015 Exercise Series After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP)
  - a. Mr. Vallee said that the AAR/IP meeting was held on January 19 at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department meeting room. He mentioned that the counties who participated in the exercise series detailed their own strengths and weaknesses and provided recommendations on how they would be able to improve. Each county provided capabilities which they would like tested during the 2016 exercise series.
  - b. Ms. Miller stated that the EPA chooses the exercise scenario based upon the submitted capabilities. She stated that several agencies wanted to test recovery capabilities. Ms. Miller stated that the flood warning plan needs to be tested and the permitting process following a flood. Shpeherdstown Fire Department would like to test their extrication equipment. Bakerton Fire Department would like to test river rescue capabilities. The Jefferson County Health department wants to test distributing medication 30-60 days after the initial event. The 167<sup>th</sup> airlift wing would like to expand on the active shooter exercise and focus on coordinating with fire, EMS, local hospitals, law enforcement, and recovery. Ms. Miller reported that the WV Hospital Association would like to combine their exercise into this one.
7. Pancake Day
  - a. Mr. Vallee reported that on February 9, Citizens Fire Company held their annual Pancake Day from 0700 hours to 1800 hours.

## II. New Business

1. Social Media Figures
  - a. Mr. Vallee detailed the social media figures for the committee. He stated that:
    - i. Facebook has grown by 545 to a total of 2167.
    - ii. Twitter has grown by 18 to a total of 146.
    - iii. Nixle has grown by 155 to a total of 1423.
2. February's Independent Study Course
  - a. Mr. Vallee recommended committee members to take the Independent Study Course: IS-317: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) as it provides a background for CERT activities without the hands on training.
  - b. IS-317 link: <http://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-317>
3. Annual Partnership Meeting is being rescheduled
  - a. The rescheduled Quarterly Partnership Meeting will be held on Friday, March 4 at 1200 hours at the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races. Mr. Vallee requested that committee members who are interested in attending the event, RSVP through him.
4. Jefferson County Council on Aging
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that he will be teaching a springtime preparedness class at the Jefferson County Council on Aging on March 7.
5. G-290 Basic Public Information Officers Course
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that there will be a G-290 Basic Public Information Officers Course at Cacapon State Park on March 22 and 23, 2016. Registration for the course can be done through CourseMill.
6. Jefferson County LEPC Mass Casualty Workshop

- a. Ms. Miller stated that the Jefferson County LEPC Mass Fatalities Conference on March 22 and 23 has been cancelled. She stated that the Jefferson County LEPC has re-envisioned the conference as a one day workshop which will focus on responding to an active shooter scenario. It will be held on March 30 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown.
7. Convection Skywarn Class
  - a. On Thursday, March 10 at 1900 hours, the National Weather Service will be teaching Convection Storm Spotter Course at Independent Fire Company, sponsored by JCHSEM. Registration can be done on Eventbrite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-storm-spotter-convection-class-tickets-21488630071>
8. G-108 Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance Course
  - a. Mr. Vallee reported that there will be a G-108 Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance Course at Days Inn in Flatwoods, WV on April 26-28. Registration for the course can be done through CourseMill.
9. Community Outreach Ideas – America’s PrepareAthon in April
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that JCHSEM has partnered with the Ranson Petco during PrepareAthon to talk about animal preparedness during an emergency and inquired if the committee had any additional ideas on how to encourage preparedness in their respective fields.
  - b. The committee discussed community outreach ideas for PrepareAthon. Ms. Miller stated that Jefferson Medical Center has had health fairs in the past using registered nurses to distribute materials. Ms. Dunbar suggested that the Red Cross has partnered with Walmart to court volunteers. Ms. Miller stated that Walmart has changed their policies, but it might be worth looking into. She stated that Mr. Vallee should reach out to the Jefferson County Health department to see if they would be willing to hold a community outreach event. Mr. Godwin stated that he will provide contact information for the person who handles community outreach events for the hospital.
10. 2016 Training and Exercise Calendar
  - a. Mr. Vallee requested committee members to provide additional training and exercise options for the calendar.
11. 2016 West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3 Exercise Series
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that the 2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Exercise Series will commence with a table top exercise on April 19 at the Berkeley County EOC. Ms. Miller mentioned that this exercise will be an all-day event starting at 0800 hours and that the dates of the functional and full scale exercises have not been announced.

Ms. Dunbar adjourned the meeting at 0927 hours. The next meeting of the Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee will be on Wednesday, March 9 at 0830 hours.