

County of Santa Cruz



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Tel: (831) 454-2188 Fax: (831) 454-2350

Meeting: May 07, 2020

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Bridge (831) 454-2222 participant code: 454791

MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order/Instructions for participation
 - 1.1 Note: Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Shelter-In-Place Order this meeting was conducted via conference call
 - 1.2 Call to order 2:02 by Chair Robert Ritchey
- 2.0 Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members*)
 - 2.1 Attendees: 15 voting members; undetermined number of non-voting members
 - 2.2 Absent:
 - 2.2.1 Bob Wiser
 - 2.2.2 Ian Larkin
 - 2.2.4 Vance Wagner
 - 2.2.5 Mitch Medina
 - 2.2.6 Eric Conrad
 - 2.2.7 Donna Odryna
 - 2.2.8 Lisa Ehret
 - 2.3 Absent with Notice:
 - 2.4 Quorum achieved: Yes, with 15 of 24 voting members present
- 2.0 Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
 - None
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes:
 - 4.1 Minutes of March meeting were sent for review via email 5.01.20
 - 4.2 Draft minutes were posted on the website
 - 4.3 Grammatical correction noted by Rosemary Anderson
 - 4.4 Motion to approve made by John Wilson; motion seconded by Joe Christy
 - 4.6 Motion passed unanimously
- 5.0 Correspondence (*All*)
 - 5.1 Notice of appointment of Jennifer Buesing of County Office of Education to the Emergency Management Council at Board of Supervisors meeting 4.14.20
- 6.0 Oral Communications: *Regarding items not on the Agenda*

None

7.0 Presentations:

7.1 Presentation– Health Services Agency Operations Section: Preparedness Branch - COVID-19 Response - Kathleen Conley
Presentation is being disseminated and posted with minutes

- Health Services Agency Department (HSA) Operations Center (DOC) on weekly operational period
- Emily Cheung is Operations Section Chief
- Six branches currently in HSA DOC Operations Section
 - Public Safety
 - Disease Control
 - Community Recovery
 - Preparedness
 - Surge
 - Health and Human Services
- Preparedness Branch
 - Assessing and monitoring Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
 - High priority locally and nationally because of congregate living, frequently older, high risk, vulnerable
 - Working on collaborative assessment of facilities with Human Services Department (HSD)
 - HSD has done a great job opening additional shelters for homeless
 - Experiencing disruption to normal operations and lives
 - Seven SNFs are part of the Health Care Coalition (HCC); advantageous because HCC has been working together for several years on preparedness and issues
 - Preparedness: remember to care for self as you are caring for others
 - Providing assessment and monitoring of senior/elder housing facilities
 - Assessing and monitoring additional congregate living
 - No outbreaks in congregates so far
 - Some are required to participate in HCC and preparedness activities; many not required, have not had training and perspective; Planning to do outreach with those people
 - Working with HSD staff that have opened shelters—training for those not previously trained
- Santa Cruz is currently in a bubble; remarkable; working to maintain successes
- Very little known about this virus and this pandemic
- Looking to integrate traditional response with Emergency Management team to bring in new practices
- Goals: build resilience
- Steps: Planning; response; recover; mitigation
- Contact: Kathleen.Conley@santacruzcounty.us
- HSA Website maintaining updates and information: www.santacruzhealth.org

Additional discussion:

- Time to talk about wildfire preparedness, reminder regarding likely upcoming Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS); be ready to evacuate
- Testing site standing up in Watsonville at Ramsay Park—OptumServe.

- Press release forthcoming
- By appointment only
- Processing 132 kits per day; 24 – 48 hours to process
- Other sites on HSA website
 - Most sites need to be through referral
 - PAMF is set-up to determine on-site
- First responders/front-line get priority

8.0 New Business:
None

9.0 Informational Reports

9.1 County Office of Emergency Services/Update

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated in support of Public Health Operations since beginning of March; tracking since Jan 19; in for the long haul
- Had to postpone multiple scheduled trainings, including EOC Management Essentials Class, ICS 400, and several others through CERT
 - Will look to be restart in late July and the fall
- People from the Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP) are helping fill important roles
- In addition to Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) and volunteers, County employees have been filling in vital roles
- Different from usual operation of EOC—few people actually working in the EOC; those who are here are wearing face coverings, practicing distancing; working to ensure that things are operating smoothly
- Preparing for PSPS and fire season
 - PGE looking to set up four hardscape centers in addition to the pop-ups they deployed previously
 - Refamiliarizing with process for announcement of PSPS

9.2 City Reports

9.2.1 Capitola_____ *Captain Andy Dally*

9.2.2 Santa Cruz_____ *Paul Horvat*

- Similar to county—EOC is activated as a virtual EOC
- Paul Horvat is Plans Chief, and Deputy EOC Director
- Usually hard to get people to work in the EOC, but no field work with this incident so EOC is easier to keep staffed

9.2.3 Scotts Valley_____ *Captain John Wilson/Captain Mike Dean*

9.2.4 Watsonville_____ *Tom Avila*

- Paralleling County at Level 2; going well; learning and adapting
- Will have Ramsay Park open soon for testing site; great cooperative effort

9.3 County Office of Education____ John Armstrong/Jennifer Buesing

- Schools dismissed until August.
- Focused on providing food and other resources for students and families.
- Working on scenarios for re-opening.
- Graduation: received input from families and worked with Public Health
 - Developed 3 options
 - Each school is working on their plan

9.4 Grant Updates

9.4.1 FY2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year

grant through 5.31.2020 award of \$351,387)

Completed projects: Sheriff's Office-Airplane Engine; Sheriff's Office-Bomb Suits; Sheriff's Office/EOC-Generator Enclosure; Scott's Valley PD-911 Tower; CERT PPE; Scotts Valley PD-Computer Systems; Fire Service Gurneys; Fire Service ATV; Repeater for Auxiliary Communications-Bonny Doon; Medical Reserve Corp Coordination; EMS PIO Coordination

Several projects were modified to enable purchases for HSA/EMS that became higher priority due to COVID-19. Current conditions caused supply/delivery constraints that made the 5.31.20 grant deadline unfeasible; Santa Cruz County and other jurisdictions were granted an extension through 7.31.20; all efforts are being made to complete by that time.

Projects in progress: EMS Mobile Medical Shelter; Emergency Medical Personnel PPE.

- 9.4.2 FY2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.21; award of \$349,660)

Projects in progress: Medical Reserve Corp Coordination; EMS PIO; Coordination; EMS Hearnnet Radio System; Sheriff's Office armored van; radiological detection devices for County first responders; CERT training. Completed projects: Watsonville Slough Stream Gage/Warning System.

- 9.4.3 FY 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.2022 award of \$359,856. Required updated BOS authorized agent resolution was submitted and final approval received from CalOES. Sub-grantees have been notified and projects may now proceed with the exception of the Capitola Portable Bollards/Security Barriers project, which requires completion of an Environmental Planning and Historical Preservation (EHP) approval process.

Projects include: County Medical Surge Preparedness, Mass Casualty Incident Preparedness, and Active Shooter Bag for Health Services Agency/EMS; Personal Body Armor for Santa Cruz PD; Portable Bollards for Capitola; Ballistic Shields for Scotts Valley PD; Personal Body Armor for Watsonville PD; Mobile Bomb Containment Vessel and Mobile X-Ray Machine (ID Hazardous/Explosive Devices) for the Sheriff's Office; Mobile radios for multiple fire agencies; Equipment for CERT training graduates; and Mobile Medical Shelter Coordination for County EMS.

- 9.4.4 FY 2020 State Homeland Security Grant projects were vetted and identified by the Authorized Body of Five; Advance Application submitted 1/31/2020. We are currently awaiting next steps from CalOES.

- 9.4.5 FY2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) award (2-year grant through 6/30/2021) was approved by Cal OES on January 13, 2020 for \$180,870. Grant requires 50% match (dollar-for-dollar).

Projects in progress include OES staffing; EOC/OES supplies; EOC Radio Charges; ISD/GIS Staffing to Support EOC Operations; EOC facility co-location costs; Mountain Community Resources citizen preparedness activities; Resource Conservation District (RCD)/Firesafe Council planning and community activities; and OES Community Outreach and Education materials.

10.0 Non-Governmental Organizations

10.1 CERT Council.....*Robert Gray*

- 10.2 CERT Auxiliary..... *Mary Edmund*
 - Set up Auxiliary in ICS structure—working to be responsive if needed
 - Most members are sheltering in place
 - To continue training, planning to use Zoom for lecture and practice physical distancing for the hands-on part
- 10.3 Medical Reserve Corp*Kathleen Conley*
 - MRC has been able to go through a lot of training; expanded through the Governor’s California Health Corps
 - Working with specific volunteers for specific tasks
 - Expect to keep MRCs in loop if need to stand up Alternate Care Sites
 - More training at this point than actual deployment.
- 10.4 Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS).....*Cap Pennell*
 - Meeting virtually, meeting on high-frequency bands with the State
 - Voice and text are preferable to video
 - Practicing voice transfer of 215 message forms
 - Conducting Zoom and email meetings
 - No band-width issues
- 10.5 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).....*Robert Ritchey*
 - Conducting monthly meetings with each area of the county remotely, by calls or Zoom
 - Planning exercise on May 17 to get new radio operators out to places in county by identifying mailbox colors
 - Preparing for activations for PSPS
- 10.6 Equine Evacuation.....*Cally Haber*
 - Revising response approaches in light of COVID-19 and increasing severity of fires
 - Rosemary Anderson and Kenneth Coale working on plans to respond bearing in mind the CV-19 issues
- 11.0 Announcements (*All*)
 - 11.1 Joe Christy:

May 2 was National Wildfire Preparedness Day—activities postponed due to social distancing.
National Wildfire Week from May 3 – 9, 2020.
In California we are entering a period of dryness and possible drought.
Encouraging everyone to practice wildfire awareness throughout the year!
 - 11.2 Patsy Gasca—American Red Cross

Thank you to community partners for blood drive support; there was a good response.
Volunteers are sheltering in place.
- 12.0 Items for future meetings

None
- 13.0 Adjourn
 - 13.1 Motion to adjourn made by Patsy Gasca; seconded by Robert Ritchey; motion passed unanimously
 - 13.2 Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm
- 14.0 Next Meeting: September 3, 2020 2-4 PM

The Emergency Management Council generally meets the first Thursday of every odd month, excluding July.