EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



December 2, 2021

Meeting called to order by Jason Biermann, Chairman, 9:00 AM

In Attendance - Introduction of Attendees

A list of virtual primary and alternate member and interested party attendees is at the end of these minutes as the meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams.

Approval of Minutes, passed

Jason Biermann, Chair

Approval of Calendar, passed

Discussion for Vice-Chair nominations

A nominating process was passed in which members may submit a name for vice-chair nomination to Troy Newman at EMD. If a member wishes to nominate another member, the nominated member must concur prior to being added to the ballot. Nominations will be due December 27, 2021, by email to troy.newman@mil.wa.gov to be presented and voted upon at the February 3, 2022, EMC meeting. Nominations from the floor will still be accepted at that meeting.

Opening Comments

Director Robert Ezell and General Daugherty

Public Forum Jason Biermann, Chair

John Holdsworth is the program manager for emergency management with community transit in Snohomish County. He discussed updating the language in RCW 38.52 as the current code excludes many municipal corporations and special purpose districts. The lack of a formal mutual aid system necessitates that these districts execute individual mutual aid agreements with every district operated in or served. He used the example that for community transit it would be over 20 agreements. The proposal is to update the language from political subdivision to public agency as is used in RCW 39.34.20 and 70.136.20 allowing all public agencies to participate in WAMAS.

Open to questions and/or discussion -

Robert Ezelle, Director EMD, offered to explore how EMD could support the initiative.

Meet-a-Member Jason Biermann, Chair

JoAnn Boggs, Emergency Manager Pend Oreille County

Arel Solie, WSP Homeland Security Section Commander

Current and Recurring Emergency Management Issues

Nathan Weed, DOH

In general, with respect to COVID, DOH is seeing sustained high occupancy in many of the hospitals. Especially the large, regional hospitals. But new COVID admissions and hospitalizations are in a steady decline. However, overall capacity is not loosening up and is affecting the health care system overall. The variant Omicron is concerning but DOH is watching and waiting. In Washington, we have one of the top 10 systems for sequencing and detecting variants which helps with

quick detection. Delta seems to be the most circulating variant. Controls are the same as previously recommended. There are still unknowns with this Omicron variant as it is new.

The state is overall, tapering down, in line with neighboring states which is a positive direction. Hospital occupancy is what is truly happening to our health care system as it's been running 97% full. Recently, there has been a slight drop to 95 to 96 percent. A decent break would be at 50 available beds or more. With Harborview as WA Medical Coordinating Center, they are optimizing space and have less requests. The downside is that the larger facilities are still very full even with the day-to-day treatments. Dialysis, birthing centers, and blood banks staffing remain an area of concern.

After Action Review - Pandemic

Robert Ezelle, Director EMD

We are pending the final agreement with the Ruckelshaus Center Foundation which will help facilitate this review of COVID 19. The inaugural meeting is set for mid-to-late January 2022. The full composition of that task force will be announced soon.

Kevin Wickersham, EMD:

Regarding COVID, EMD is still in support of DOH and healthcare partners. Staffing and contingency planning are a focus for right now. Regarding the AAR, EMD has put together a survey approach for internal and other state agencies, ESF leads, supporting general staff, and the SEOC for the AAR. Whereas, gathering feedback from state agencies is daunting; it is anticipated local and tribal partners would offer a broad base of differing perspectives on the issues. It is a challenging endeavor to gather data and the full breadth of feedback desired. This will be the first effort to survey data collection and we will follow with additional discussion. As partners provide that feedback, everyone can delve deeper into issues. Please reach out to Kevin at EMD with any questions or discussion.

Work Session CR22 Planning

Troy Newman, Prep Section Manager EMD

Troy Newman provided an update on CR22, with thanks for recent participation in the CR22 IPR. He briefed the June 2022 exercise as including a day on Critical Transportation and a day on Mass Care Services. Each day would include three break-out sessions for different regions of the state. Thanks to the group for input on the exercise objectives. For any questions or updates please reach out to Troy or Rob Sabarese at EMD.

Work Session E-911

Adam Wasserman, 911 Coordinator EMD

The bill for RCW rewrites to clean up the language and status to align with Next Generation 911 was submitted. Secondly, the text to 911 statewide operational goal for 26 counties was not met as there are four counties currently in testing and nine counties in progress. The goal now is set to be reached by early spring. The third item is regarding the 988 suicide-hotline and the crisis prevention, or mental health crisis, bill. The bill utilizes the 911 community and Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee members to verify that the 988 system is interoperable with 911 for a seamless response. As a final note, 3G networks will soon become inoperable: ATT plans to discontinue in February; T-Mobile and Sprint expect March and July; Verizon is shortly after that. The older phones will not be able to contact 911. This is prompting a push-out of this information to the 911 community. The FCC will update as to any changes and Adam can be reached for questions regarding 911.

Adjourn EMC meeting to convene as

The Senior Advisory Committee

Jason Biermann, Chair

The EMC adjourned and reconvened as the Senior Advisory Committee.

Senior Advisory Committee - Overview

Robert Ezelle, Director EMD

This committee is mandated by grant guidance from Homeland Security Grant Program, SHSP, and UASI. The Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) is a multidisciplinary committee that comes together to review the state of emergency management as represented by the state's preparedness, a review of grant investments, and verify the synchronization and effective use of the funds to build on capabilities and close capability gaps. FEMA has instituted the SAC since 2005 to establish coordination of efforts in emergency management preparedness. The EMC charter on the EMC web site does include information regarding the SAC.

THIRA/SPA Review - Results

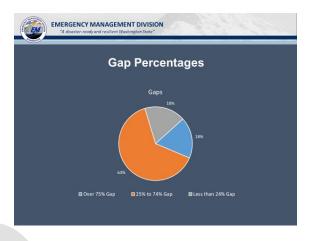
Jason Zimmerman, EMD

Threats and Hazards Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)

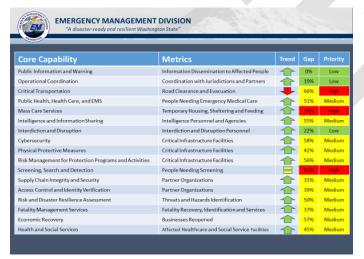
Jason presented and expressed thanks to communities that provided excellent feedback, but noted overall participation was very low. There was slightly greater participation in the THIRA portion.

Insert:

The Gap Percentages for all core capabilities



The 17 core capabilities measured this year:



The up arrow shows the capabilities which increased over the year and the down arrow shows the decrease while the equal sign shows no change over the year. It was pointed out that in Critical Transportation there was more loss than build. To a degree, part of what is likely driving transportation, would be that funding is low compared to the need to maintain equipment and aging ferries, as well as staff turnover. Public Health, Health Care, and EMS are partially low consequently due to low participation. This is also affected by staffing and vaccine mandates and burnout of staffing as reported on the survey. In mass care, more participation is needed, yet there is a definite decline in staffing in shelters and shelters available.

In Screening, Search and Detection, again, not a lot of participation. Still pending is the UASI information to provide additional data which should be available in later December.



This insert represents the Gaps and Recommendations.

One of the functions of Mass Care is pet sheltering which is a huge gap.

A question by Jason Biermann regarding ideas for improving the process, recommended that a letter be drafted to encourage participation. Jason inquired on the status of a letter EMD was generating for the EMC to send. Troy Newman advised that EMD will provide the letter.

Nate Weed asked whether Jason's report on the vaccine affecting staffing in public health and EMS is quantitative or qualitative data based on the collected information from the organization. Jason Zimmerman clarified that the information shared was

qualitative as it was based on the respondents.

Statement made by Kirk Holmes advising Jason Zimmerman to reach out to him for assistance with the data to increase participation for transportation.

Chandra Fox advised the SAC that pet sheltering, although challenging, is mandated. Chandra would be happy to share local lessons learned to help others improve their process. Curry Mayer reinforced the need, stating that despite the Red Cross not participating in pet sheltering, local government still has that responsibility.

FEMA Grants Overview Sierra Wardell, EMD

FEMA requires all recipients to coordinate activities across preparedness disciplines and levels of government. The responsibilities of the SAC include:

- Integrating preparedness activities across disciplines
- Creating a cohesive planning network that builds and implements preparedness initiatives
- Management of all available preparedness funding sources to ensure their effective use and to minimize duplication of effort
- Ensuring investments support closing capability gaps or sustaining capabilities identified in the THIRA/SPR
- Assist in preparation and revision of the state, regional, or local homeland security plan or the threat and hazard identification and risk assessment
- Assist in determining effective funding priorities for SHSP grants

Not all FEMA preparedness grant funding is received by the Military Department. Currently three funding streams are received by WMD with most of each award being passed through to subrecipients.

For the awards managed by the Military Department

- NSGP is a competitive grant award for nonprofits at risk of terrorist attack to apply target hardening to their facilities and security. It was a record year in part due to the additional \$30 million available for nonprofits outside the Urban Area (King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties).
- Two rounds of EMPG: Regular award: related to work across all mission areas and additional funding allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act. EMD worked with the EMAG to push additional funding to the smallest populated counties and tribes by taking less funding. As expected, work plans included a focus on lessons learned from the COVID-19 response.
- HSGP is made up of three distinct awards: OPSG, UASI, and SHSP.
 - OPSG is a competitive award available to county and tribes along international borders and waterways
 to support joint efforts between law enforcement and US Customs and Border Patrol to secure the US
 borders. Award was lower than past years, and requirements are getting a bit tighter
 - UASI funding supports high threat, high density Urban Areas in efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the
 capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of
 terrorism.
 - SHSP supports all capabilities related to terrorism preparedness

DHS/FEMA Preparedness Grants

FY21 Funding received by WMD

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

Seattle Urban Area (3 nonprofits) - \$383,295
 Outside the Seattle Urban Area (12 nonprofits) - \$1,499,483

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

- 39 Counties \$3,036,5 26 Cities \$1,404,613 4 Tribes \$144,076 WSP \$38,500 EMD \$2,997,719

EMPG American Rescue Plan Act (EMPG-ARPA)

- 37 Counties \$1,118,529 25 Cities \$484,564 1 Tribe \$121,754 EMD \$411,187

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

- Operation Stonegarden (10 counties, 6 tribes, EMD) \$ Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) \$6,250,000 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) \$6,428,138

For both SHSP and UASI, National Priority Areas (NPA) introduced in Fiscal Year 2020 were continued in FY 2021 with an increase in percentage of funds required for Enhancing Cybersecurity (from 5% to 7.5%). Each continued to be an area that FEMA felt needed to be prioritized to address identified risk across the nation. In addition, there was a new NPA added of Combating domestic violent extremism with a 7.5% funding minimum. On this next slide -shows funding minimums set by FEMA.



- 1. Enhancing cybersecurity 7.5% (+2.5%)
- 2. Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places - 5%
- 3. Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies including DHS - 5%
- 4. Addressing emergent threats (e.g., UASs, etc.) 5%
- 5. Combating domestic violent extremism 7.5% (new)

The Urban Area followed their set process to submit, review, rank, and allocate project funding to both meet the NPA percentages and close gaps as identified in the UASI Stakeholder Preparedness Review.

- The National Priority Area changes continued to complicate the overall process, but the established framework allowed them to easily adjust
- An additional state partner was added through the Washington State Ferries for Cybersecurity activities.

Viewing the UASI award slide, similar to last year:

- \$632 thousand was retained for associated indirect and management and administration of the grant
- A little over \$5.6 million was targeted towards sustainment and/or enhancement of 9 of the 32 core capabilities
- The right column shows the ranking from last year
- Planning continued to be #1
- There was some adjustment of funding priorities, however, probably due to the increased emphasis on NPAs

Grouping the funding into general categories, projects were allocated to:

- Cybersecurity
- Intelligence and Information Sharing Fusion Center related
- Operational Readiness EOC related, training and exercise
 - Strong investment of Sustainment/enduring needs funding
- Planning amount is indicative of Planning being the top targeted Core Capability

• Response Equipment – also shows the impact of the national priority areas



For State Homeland Security Program Funding

- Regions received an allocation of the non-national priority area portion per their regular methodology of base, population, and population density.
- Serve Washington, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and Washington State Patrol received awards commensurate with their FY20 allocation.
- For National Priority Area funding, each Region submitted projects and the funding was allocated during a convening of Regional Coordinators.

Similar to last year:

- \$709 thousand was retained for associated indirect and management and administration of the grant
- A little over \$5.7 million was targeted towards sustainment and/or enhancement of 14 of the 32 core capabilities; 18 were targeted last year
- The right column shows the ranking from last year
- Operational Coordination moved from #3 to #1 which makes sense after the length of the COVID-19 response
- Planning shifted to #2
- Intelligence and Information Sharing shifted down but is still within the top 3.
- Additionally, the Core Capabilities in blue font align with the top priority capabilities per the FY20 State SPR
- Like UASI, some of the more response focused core capabilities shifted up the ranking.

Allocation of project funding was expanded from UASI with funding be allocated to the general areas of:

- Alert & Warning
- Communications
- Community Response Teams
- Cybersecurity
- Intelligence and Information Sharing Fusion Center related
- Operational Readiness
- Outreach
- Public Information

And the TOP targeted projects:

- Regional Coordination
- Response Equipment also shows the impact of the national priority areas



SHSP Future Kathryn Zetzer, EMD

A listening session was held on 11/3/2021 with good participation by county emergency managers and SHSP subrecipients and indicated the need for future dialogue regarding the changing landscape of grants. The National Priority Areas changed the funding landscape creating new obstacles but also opportunities as grants that were unrestricted now have restrictions.



SHSP Funding Analysis

							1		Percentage of
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021		Change	Change
Nationally	\$ 402,000,000	\$ 402,000,000	\$ 402,000,000	\$ 415,000,000	\$ 415,000,000	\$ 415,000,000	\$	-	0.0%
WA State	\$ 6,493,000	\$ 6,476,000	\$ 6,208,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 6,731,000	\$ 6,428,138	\$	(302,862)	-4.7%
Region 1	\$ 596,762	\$ 595,199	\$ 570,568	\$ 643,359	\$ 646,646	\$ 419,770	\$	(226,876)	-54.0%
Region 2	\$ 297,682	\$ 296,903	\$ 284,616	\$ 320,927	\$ 321,926	\$ 478,061	\$	156,135	32.7%
Region 3	\$ 380,027	\$ 379,032	\$ 363,346	\$ 409,701	\$ 405,384	\$ 456,100	\$	50,716	11.1%
Region 4	\$ 441,729	\$ 440,572	\$ 422,340	\$ 476,221	\$ 474,853	\$ 584,255	\$	109,402	18.7%
Region 5	\$ 761,378	\$ 759,385	\$ 727,959	\$ 820,830	\$ 819,702	\$ 660,522	\$	(159,180)	-24.1%
Region 6	\$ 1,463,546	\$ 1,459,714	\$ 1,399,306	\$ 1,577,826	\$ 1,571,734	\$ 1,428,802	\$	(142,932)	-10.0%
Region 7	\$ 290,362	\$ 289,602	\$ 277,617	\$ 313,035	\$ 297,009	\$ 186,850	\$	(110,159)	-59.0%
Region 8	\$ 372,276	\$ 371,301	\$ 355,936	\$ 401,345	\$ 434,032	\$ 464,517	\$	30,485	6.6%
Region 9	\$ 590,638	\$ 589,092	\$ 564,713	\$ 636,757	\$ 622,797	\$ 463,634	\$	(159,163)	-34.3%
Total Local - 80%	\$ 5,194,400	\$ 5,180,800	\$ 4,966,401	\$ 5,600,001	\$ 5,594,083	\$ 5,142,511	\$	(451,572)	-8.8%
Serve WA	\$ 92,400	\$ 92,158	\$ 88,344	\$ 143,758	\$ 143,758	\$ 137,290	\$	(6,468)	-4.7%
WSDA	\$ 75,000	\$ 74,804	\$ 71,708	\$ 80,856	\$ 80,856	\$ 77,218	\$	(3,638)	-4.7%
WSP	\$ 529,902	\$ 528,515	\$ 506,643	\$ 533,356	\$ 575,753	\$ 492,547	s	(83,206)	-16.9%
WA EMD	\$ 601,298	\$ 599,723	\$ 574,904	\$ 642,029	\$ 336,550	\$ 578,572	\$	242,022	41.8%
Total State - 20%	\$ 1,298,600	\$ 1,295,200	\$ 1,241,599	\$ 1,399,999	\$ 1,136,917	\$ 1,285,627	\$	148,710	11.6%

6

More discussion is needed regarding many of the topics raised at the listening session to include how to adapt to restrictions, who are the key players, what allocation methodology to use, and how do we document and connect the investment elements (e.g., SPR gaps, funding allocation, and core capability improvement). The plan is to have smaller, most likely regional, conversations to gather feedback and ultimately come up with consensus on a plan for FY 2023.

The remaining annual preparedness funding streams are competitive and directly awarded to the listed awardees. Outreach efforts to garner more participation from other non-Military Department managed funding sources has once again been ineffective. Over the last three years, outreach to recipients from the other preparedness grants (Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program, Transit Security Grant Program, and Port Security Grant Program) and the Department of Health have included sentiments that adding other funding into the conversation is a good idea but there haven't been many volunteers willing to discuss their investments. Part of the issue is that the other funding sources do not have the requirement to participate in the SAC. Irrespective of this being a grant requirement, coordination and reduction of duplication of effort across core capabilities is a good statewide idea and it cannot fully happen without

their participation. Last year we discussed direct invitations to awardees to participate by the Chair and/or TAG. For various reasons, this did not happen this year. However, to make the SAC work as intended, there must be a change.

Nate Weed of DOH volunteered to be a source of support regarding the sharing of investment funding.

Jason Biermann would also like the SAC/EMC to compose a letter in cooperation with EMD and TAG on grant guidance, rules and allocation, as it's a core charge of the SAC to evaluate this information. With the goal to incorporate greater capabilities and assessment through the SPR and THIRA for next year by broadening this conversation to contacts beyond emergency managers. Jason is available for questions or discussion on the draft of this letter or any other matters pertaining to the presentation.

Regional Issues Impacting WA

Vince Maykovich, Acting Director, FEMA Regional Administrator

In relation to Washington specifics, support is still being provided for COVID, along with a mobile vaccine unit with the state DOH and EMD. FEMA is also supporting the recent flooding events to get the IDA finished and the assessments through. Feel free to reach for any questions or concerns.

Closing Robert Ezelle, EMD Director

No additional comments other than happy and safe holidays.

Adjournment Jason Biermann, Chair

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM

Attendees

EMC Members and Alternates

1	Х	Fred Brink	ALT	х	Philip Lemley			
2		Stephanie Wright	ALT		Gene Strong			
3	Х	Chief Scott Engle	ALT		Chief Peter Fisher			
4		Chief John Batiste	ALT	X	Ariel Solie			
5	Х	Robert Ezelle	ALT	X	Adam Wasserman			
6	Х	Jim Pendowski	ALT		Vacant			
7	Х	Chad Cross	ALT	Х	Melissa Gannie			
8	Х	Chief Michael Harris	ALT	Х	Chief Brian Schaeffer			
9		Hilary Franz	ALT		Casey Hanell			
10	Х	Chandra Fox	ALT	Х	Kyle Bustad			
11	Х	JoAnn Boggs	ALT	Х	Jason Biermann			
12	Х	Bill Gillespie	ALT		John O'Rourke			
13	Х	Nate Weed	ALT	Х	Ron Weaver			

14	Doug Powell		ALT	Х	Quyen Thai		
15	Greg Welch		ALT		Gary Chandler		
16	Х	John Himmel	ALT		Vacant		
17	Х	Kirk Holmes	ALT		Jennifer Bailey		
18	Х	Martin Mueller	ALT		Mike Donlin		
19	Х	Nick Henderson	ALT	Х	Dr. Nichole Yarid		

EMC Non-Member Attendance

Other Departments	EMD
General Bret Daugherty , MIL	Kathryn Zetzer
Erin Coyle, Dept. of Agriculture	Stephanie Haertling
Sandi Duffey, Grant County	Troy Newman
Sandy Eccker, Thurston County	Robert Sabarese
Elizabeth (Eli) King, State Energy Office	Kevin Wickersham
Angie Lane, DNR	Sierra Wardell
Curry Mayer, City of Seattle EM Tammy Lee	
Vincent Maykovich, FEMA Region X	Jason Zimmerman
Travis Nichols, DOH guest	
Jody Ferguson, Pierce Co EM	
Jessica Czajowski, DNR	
Kimberly Conner, DSHS	
Justice Fordice, FEMA	
Brendan McCluskey, King County EM	
Celso Rangel	
Alysha Kaplan, King County EM	
Nancy Bickford, MIL	
Nicholas Gibbons	
John Holdsworth	
Jacob Rain, ECY	