



## Minutes – January 25, 2021

The regular meeting of the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC) was held on Monday, January 25, 2021, via *Microsoft Teams* (virtual).

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the Chair, Captain Sweeney. Roll call was taken and the following Council members were present: Ms. Megan Anderson, Dr. Kay Fritz (on behalf of Mr. Brad Deacon), Mr. Jay Eickholt, Ms. Krystal Fields, Mr. Steven Frisbie, Mr. Tutt Gorman, Chief Daryl Green, Mr. Hassan Hammoud, Ms. Ginna Holmes, Chief Kerry Minshall, Ms. Linda Scott, Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier, Col. Sean Southworth, Ms. Sara Stoddard, Capt. Kevin Sweeney, and Ms. Abigail Watkins.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Fields moved to approve the January 25, 2021, agenda. Motion was supported by Mr. Frisbie. Agenda was approved as presented.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Eickholt moved to approve the November 9, 2020, meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Fields. Minutes were approved as presented.

Captain Sweeney welcomed back two returning members to the Council: Mr. Hassan Hammoud, Executive Director of Michigan 2-1-1, and Mr. Tutt Gorman from the City of Portland. Captain Sweeney introduced Ms. Abigail Watkins as a new member to the MCCERCC.

Ms. Watkins stated she is Director of Newaygo County Emergency Services and has been in emergency management since 2003. She has predominantly worked with Region 6 in Osceola and Ionia counties and has held her current position since 2007. She has also served on various state work groups and task forces.

### **Reports of Committees**

#### ***Citizen Corps***

Ms. Holmes reported they continue to provide support for mid-Michigan communities impacted by the flooding and a variety of issues throughout the stated regarding COVID. They have been adding some infrastructure components to offer training in technical assistance and some outreach to their partners. Their new staff members are now trained and ready to support the CERT.

#### ***Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know***

Mr. Eickholt announced the SARA Title III reporting season began on January 1 and runs until March 1. Information is being received from chemical facilities for review by county emergency managers and EGLE staff. They are conducting a series of webinars for facilities and the public to learn more about SARA Title III reporting. They will also do some in-person trainings. Information can be found at [www.Michigan.gov/SARA](http://www.Michigan.gov/SARA).

Ms. Brenna Roos\* reported that Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) planning funds were successfully distributed in December for the 2019-20 grant year. The 2019-20 progress reports were submitted in December to federal DOT. HMEP applications were distributed to local emergency management programs last week and are due back on February 22. This year, the grant program was able to offer reimbursement of \$250 per emergency response plan, \$15 per plan update, and a \$1,500 HMEP support grant. The HMEP continuing application for the federal grant program is due to federal DOT on March 11.

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\* Denotes employee of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

## **Hazard Mitigation**

Captain Sweeney announced the Council is seeking to fill the Hazard Mitigation (HM) Committee chair vacancy. Ms. Phifer expressed interested in the position. Captain Sweeney asked if any other members were interested.

Mr. Eickholt made a motion that Ms. Phifer be appointed as chair of the Hazard Mitigation Committee. Motion was supported by Mr. Frisbie. Motion was approved.

Mr. Matt Schnepf\* reported the HM Committee met on January 22 to review the 2020 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) application rankings and are seeking Council approval of their recommendations, which are due to FEMA on January 29. Based on FEMA's criteria, they determined that projects be separated into tier categories to include Hazard Mitigation plans, building code projects, infrastructure related projects, and acquisition and elevation projects. Mr. Schnepf stated the BRIC Program will be annually funded based on 6 percent of disaster expenditures from around the country the previous year. FEMA opened the application period on September 30, and EMHSD put out a notice of funding opportunity in August, seeking project proposals by October 2. They received 25 proposals, which ultimately yielded 12 grant applications to include four plans, one capacity building project, and seven physical mitigation projects. Under the 2020 BRIC Program, states are limited to submitting \$300,000 (federal share) in planning applications, and those need to come out of the \$600,000 state minimum. The HM Committee reviewed the applications using the ranking process outlined in the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP), as well as FEMA priorities and ranking criteria for the 2020 BRIC. Mr. Schnepf provided detailed information on the priorities and scoring criteria and provided a visual list of the 1-12 ranking order. From highest to lowest score they include 1) Kent County Plan, 2) City of Ann Arbor Plan, 3) Networks Northwest Plan, 4) Osceola County Plan, 5) City of Grand Rapids Building Codes/Accreditation/Standard Improvement Project, and 6) City of Lansing Bio Swale storm water project, 7) Allen Park Acquisition, 8) Traverse City Boardman River Wall/Sanitary Sewer Stabilization, 9) City of Marquette Lake Superior Shoreline Stabilization, 10) Allendale Township Pressure Sewer Improvements, 11) City of Lansing Acquisition Demolition of Tree Structures, and 12) City of Luna Pier Elevation of three structures. It was noted the two jurisdictions included in the Networks Northwest Plan are Charlevoix and Emmet counties.

Ms. Fields made a motion to accept the BRIC application rankings as presented, which will be submitted to federal partners for potential awards. Motion was supported by Ms. Anderson. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Sobocinski\* reported that in response to items detailed under the planning requirement of EMHSD's current Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) reaccreditation process, he is working on clarifying facts that would be presented as an attachment to the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Plan, which FEMA approved in 2019. Details would more thoroughly describe the connection between hazard analysis and the actual list of hazard mitigation activities.

## **Old Business**

Ms. Jennifer Lixey-Terrill provided a Coronavirus update. There are currently 548,069 confirmed cases and an additional 1,601 since yesterday. Deaths in Michigan are at 14,291, including 221 deaths from yesterday. Of those 221, 205 have been identified from vital records review. There are two new variants of the virus called B.1.1.7 (from South Africa and the United Kingdom). A press release was issued after the first Michigan case was reported in Washtenaw County. Those cases have risen to 13, and there are four suspected cases in Wayne County. It is believed the variants are more contagious, but the current vaccines appear to be effective. Ms. Lixey-Terrill indicated they continue to work with state, local, federal, and private sector partners on mass vaccination strategies consistent with national guidelines. Vaccination phases will overlap and do not need to be completed before moving to the next phase. Current vaccines include Pfizer and Moderna, and the second inoculations for both need to coincide with the original dose given. They will discuss availability of future vaccines, to include recommendations for AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson, at a January 27 meeting. Chain pharmacies have signed a federal contract to provide vaccinations. MDHHS continues to emphasize the importance of social distancing, face coverings, and hand washing. They have recently developed a document to assist elderly individuals find vaccination locations through online resources, and information will be posted on their website once approved. They are also developing vaccination guidance for employers to assist their employees. Michigan is at approximately 203 cases per million, which is a 6.2 mortality rate and a 9.2 percent hospitalization rate among COVID cases.

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Ms. Scott added they encourage registration of medical practices to administer vaccinations, and those services will be implemented as vaccines are received. Ms. Lixey-Terrill clarified there is a system in place to track adverse reactions of all vaccines administered across the country to include tracking COVID-19 reactions. The data is collected nationally, trends are identified, and information is provided to the states. Nothing concerning has been identified thus far.

Mr. Weber reported on stakeholder feedback for the 2020–2022 Strategic Plan, which was presented at the last meeting. They are seeking additional feedback and have developed a nine-question survey that will be disseminated via email. Council members should receive it by the end of the week. Some of the responses will be tied to the current EMAP accreditation, and the survey is a simple, documented way to secure feedback.

Captain Sweeney added they also want to identify stakeholder needs at a state level to ensure they are on the right path and goals set by EMHSD align with the needs of emergency management at the local level; therefore, the survey will also be sent to local emergency managers from each district.

### **New Business**

Mr. Hammoud presented on Michigan 2-1-1 services. They have been supporting COVID-19 response efforts since the beginning of the pandemic. A large population of Michigan residents were unable to apply for benefits due to the shutdown, so they partnered with the state and calls were directed to 2-1-1 for assistance. The vulnerable population was also directed to them for assistance with scheduling COVID-19 tests. Since June 2020, they have handled about 30,000 calls for benefits navigation and appointment scheduling. Mr. Hammoud stated that 2-1-1 is a toll-free service throughout the U.S. and parts of Canada. Community Resource Specialists are available 24/7 via phone, text, web, and chat and provide information and referrals for needs, such as education, childcare, employment, healthcare, mental health, household needs, housing and shelter, utility payment, and disaster and crisis-related issues. Michigan 2-1-1 supports statewide 2-1-1 collaboration and service delivery through shared infrastructure, community engagement, best practice guidance, and funding assistance. There are 7,000 agencies at over 14,250 sites with almost 37,000 programs and services, which are accessible through the 2-1-1 Resource Database. Michigan 2-1-1 regional centers handle over 400,000 contacts and provide over one million referrals each year. People contact them for numerous reasons and their job is to not only identify the presenting issue, but the underlying ones as well. Agencies are AIRS (Alliance of Information and Referral Systems) accredited, staff are AIRS certified, and records are verified at least yearly. Michigan 2-1-1 has supported disasters across Michigan by providing support with public messaging, resource referrals, surge capacity, damage report collection, volunteer agency deployment assistance, and analytics/data collection. Michigan 2-1-1 can support state and local communities better by developing formal plans for 2-1-1 to support response efforts and leverage 2-1-1 technology infrastructure, knowledge of information and referral, and surge capacity. Mr. Hammoud shared a visual list of the various disasters and emergencies 2-1-1 has supported across the state, and concluded by emphasizing the importance of proactive planning, which will help reduce public frustration and confusion and remove obstacles to quickly accessing disaster funding. Council members can contact Mr. Hammoud directly or via Captain Sweeney or Ms. Roos.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Eickholt moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was supported by Chief Green. Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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Mr. Brad Deacon, Secretary

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