

**Joint Meeting of the  
Sierra County Operational Area Emergency Council (OAEC)  
& Health Care Coalition (HCC)**

**Thursday, January 23, 2020  
1:00 P.M.**

**Masonic Hall  
Downieville, CA**

**MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance: LeTina Vanetti, SC Public Health; Tim Beals and Lee Brown, SC OES; Jeff Schultz and Mike Beckstrand, Cal OES; Adam DeBerg, Sierra City Fire Dist.; Mike Fisher, SC Sheriff; Robert Hall and Marty Creel, Downieville Fire Dept.; Rick Maddalena, Bill Copren, SCFPD# 1; Frank Lang, DFPD; Dee Dee Clark, EPHC; Chris Dorn, Pliocene Ridge CSD; Dr. Celia Sutton-Pado: SC Health Officer; Wendy Jackson, SC Schools for Adults; Andy Harris, WSMC; Brandon Pangman, SC and WSMC

1. Call to Order by Lee Brown at 1:06 p.m.
2. Introductions were made around the room.
3. Review/Approval of minutes from last 2 meetings 7-24-19 and 10-24-19 Moved by Chris Dorn, seconded by Frank Lang. Both minutes approved as up-dated.
4. Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) Up-dates – OES & Public Health

Tim Beals reported:

- PGE Listening Session will be February 13 at 10am at the Courthouse. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. There will be key decision makers present from PGE.
- BOS appointed Ad-Hoc Committee for OES Grant of 150K related to PSPS Events; they have 2 meetings. The grant cannot be used for maintenance costs or reimbursement allowed. Discussion is happening around using a portion for improving the back-up power supply for the courthouse/local 911 dispatch. Other topics which have been brought up are the fortification of “safe haven” locations throughout the County. The next meeting of the committee will be March 24<sup>th</sup>. Letters will be sent out to invite stakeholders to the meeting.  
Question- What is the current and future planned capacity of the courthouse generator and is the current one portable? Current 60KW future 200KW. It is fixed at this time, potentially it could be mounted on a trailer.

Lee Brown – Cal OES PGE Communications bumps seemed to start smoothing out as the PSPS Events progressed. The Community Resource Center location was adjusted, however was still delayed in arriving in a timely fashion.

Private generator safety is a concern. There were close calls with lineman restoring power and being impacted by back feeding from improperly operated private generators. Public education is needed in this area.

Group discussion about the various communications challenges related to lack of sufficient back-up power for ATT facilities; Cal Ida Link, Pliocene Ridge and Alleghany phone services, radio repeaters. Sheriff Fisher is currently working with ATT to hopefully address some of these reoccurring issues when the power is out.

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Fueling sources were an issue, are currently a gap and will likely continue to be a problem for Western Sierra County. Bassett Station has fuel and a generator during regular Spring to Fall season. Sierra City and Downieville do not have fuel. A thought has been tossed around about the fire department managing a fueling station as a fundraiser.

Discussion of communications and check-ups on medically at-risk individuals during prolonged outages:

Tim Beals – Highlighted the challenges with trying to keep lists of people in each community who have medical issues and may need extra attention during emergencies; protected medical information, constantly changing, who maintains it, is there a perceived obligation to address their needs, etc. He expressed his preference to utilize local fire department personnel and their knowledge of those in their communities as the connecting point for at-risk populations monitoring and contacts during emergencies and PSPS events.

LeTina Vanetti – Shared Public Health had attempted to maintain lists for many years, with only marginal success, and have since cancelled the medically at-risk self-registry program. The reasons stated by Tim being exactly why. Utilizing key stakeholder contacts such as; Seniors Centers, Family Resource Center, Social Services, Fire Departments and Churches as a connection to the current population is now the strategy Public Health is utilizing to reach the dynamic medically at risk populations.

Chris Dorn – Agreed using the Fire Departments as a connection to community members makes sense for them on the Ridge, Alleghany and Pike. They know who those people are, where they are located, and are for the most part a trusted source of information and help.

Adam DeBerg- Indicated he has about 5 people he regularly checks up on in Sierra City.

Preparedness Trainings conducted –

Adam DeBerg held a training in Sierra City

DeeDee Clark reported EPHC hosted a Community Nights

5. Request For Proposal (RFP) Sierra County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Up-date

Tim Beals reported the RFP has not gone before the Board of Supervisors yet. He elaborated the end result of the contract for the EOP would be everybody who needs one would have access to a 3 ring binder with a framework for emergency events in Sierra County such as; EOC Functions, Ambulance Dispatch Protocols, Civil Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation, Pandemic Flu, Bioterrorism, Care & Shelter, Evacuation strategies with possibly identified safe havens, a process for testing/exercising the plan, etc.

6. Hazard Mitigation Plan Up-date –

Tim Beals it is time to up-date this plan. Multiple entities input is requested and needed. Question – Will a hazard assessment be requested of WSMC? Lee Brown answered no.

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7. Up-date on Tri-County Health Care Coalition and Public Health Grants

LeTina referred to the printed summary of Tri-County Health Care coalition activities for the last year and the explanation of why the coalition exists. Explaining this Sierra County Health Care Coalition is a sub-committee of the larger committee. There is a focus on increasing pediatric emergency care abilities across the entire state. Some ways we can continue to address this locally are through pediatric sized equipment and supplies, and trainings for EMS such as the PEARS classes.

Health Officer, Dr. Celia Sutton-Pado reported on the current Coronavirus outbreak situation in Wuhan China, and rapidly spreading to other countries. This is an evolving situation as there is very little definitively known about this exact version of the virus. Current guidance is being based on what is known about similar viruses. It seems clear there is person to person transmission. It is still unknown how long it lives on a surface, what the incubation period is, if the person is contagious prior to becoming symptomatic.

Flu season started early and remains active. Lots of cases of B and some A. Testing indicates a good match to this year's vaccine. Many more people die from the flu every year than have or are likely to from Coronavirus. Just a reminder your best defense is to get your seasonal flu shot, discourage going to school or work when you're sick, and wash your hands thoroughly and frequently.

8. Up-dates by Agency or Community Organization including Trainings and Exercises

a. Countywide EMS Funding via an increase in the TOT Tax.

Frank Lang gave an overview of past efforts to fund ALS services on the West Side of Sierra County via a tax measure. The tax measure did not pass. An alternative approach is to now being pursued. It incorporates a blended funding approach. Private donations, fundraising, and an increase in Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) collected by lodging facilities and internet based private rentals county wide. A TOT increase of 3.5% is being proposed. This would raise funds for all local EMS entities (Fire based EMS and EPHC Ambulance) based on the TOT collected in their service areas going to those local departments. Frank estimates the total annual amount of TOT to be approximately \$110,000.00

Chris Dorn expressed his support of this idea. He feels strongly what helps one department, helps all as a whole, as they do support each other in response.

b. Initiation of Downieville Ambulance Urgent Care in western Sierra County when the Medical Clinic is not available.

Frank Lang has implemented "Downieville Ambulance Urgent Care". Currently this is unfunded and being done through Frank's donation of his time as a NP. He has seen 6 + patients. Donations are welcome, but not required. The visits are handled through

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dispatch at 289-3300 Frank has applied for Funding through the [Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport \(ET3\) Model](#) and should know the results by March or April.

c. All

Bill Copren – Reported Cal FIRE has prioritized managing property to reduce fuel hazards. There is a disconnect between Cal Fire Projects and the USFS.

Chris Dorn – Reported the communities of Pike, The Ridge and Alleghany are becoming Firewise Communities through a partnership with their neighbors in Nevada County.

Wendy Jackson – Reported she is very close to finalizing the Sierra County Fire Academy modeled after a highly successful program in Colusa County. The Course is 236 hours 13-week course. She needs letters of support and other resources from the local fire departments.

9. Review expenditures request and progress of the Homeland Security Grants

Lee Brown handed out 2017, 2018 and 2019 budgets for all to review. There was discussion around what all fire departments really need are new turn-outs. To date this has not been something allowable in the funding, unless it is only back-up or spare sets of turn-outs, not for daily use. However, Lee is willing to rework all the budgets to include them if it turns out to be allowable. All departments present provided their desired number of turn-outs.

Reviewed each department first, second, and third priorities as related to their past three years of equipment requests. Generators at Firehouses and handheld King radios being the most popular items after turn-outs. Cal-OES staff indicated they have been seeing a high failure rate on the new King radios – 45% They encouraged looking at other options such as Motorola's, which are much more expensive, but when you apply the OES discount of 35% are still manageable. Kenwood and ICOM are also options, however the ease of the King programming right on the radio, without a laptop, was a key feature fire staff enjoy.

- Discussion around requested items fixed to structures i.e. the Downieville Bell Tower Siren – extra effort involved in getting approvals through environmental and historical clearances as well as the cost of paying prevailing wage.
- Three quotes need to be obtained by the department for each item, unless the item is so unique there are not 3 separate sources available.
- Departments would like Lee to provide them a simplified list of what can be covered by the grant.
- Deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup> for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Performance (EMP) Grants.

a. Volunteer Fire Match Forms

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Lee handed out an example of a completed form. He explained this is a requirement of the grant funding. There was some clarification on who actually needed to sign the Run Report Forms - only the chef's signature is needed. The hourly rate is based on the USFS Rate, the form needs to include start, stop times and who responded.

There was discussion about past successes with applying for the Assistance for Firefighter FEMA Grant involving all fire departments in the County. The match is only 5% and PPE such as Turn-outs is allowable. Somebody to take on the grant writing is needed. Fees for that service can be written into the application.

10. Next Meeting – Scheduled quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Next date will be April 23, 2020 on the east side.
11. Adjourn at 3:35 pm

Recorded by:

LeTina Vanetti  
Sierra County Public Health  
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

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