



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND TRAUMA CARE AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, June 25th, 2008

TIME: 12 noon

LOCATION: West Covina City Hall

1.0 Preliminary Business

1.1 Call to Order at 12:10 pm

1.2 Introductions

Present

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Glendora | John Schmidt |
| La Puente | Dan Holloway |
| | Rene Salas |
| La Canada Flintridge | Peter Castro |
| Pomona | Carrie Cruz |
| | George Hunter |
| West Covina | Jim Rudroff |
| | Denis Mitchell |
| | Mike Browne |
| LA County | Keith Harrison |

SGVCOG Staff

N. Conway, Executive Director

M. Creter, Staff

D. Kalovsky, Staff

Guests

Rob Charles, representative from the office of Assemblymember Ed Hernandez

2.0 Public Communications

There were no public communications.

3.0 Consent Items

3.1 Minutes from May 28th Meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes from May 28th (M/S/C: D. Holloway/ G. Hunter/ Unanimous).

3.2 Correspondence

The Chair commented on the "Triangle of Life" article by Doug Copp, mentioning that it has been determined as false, but is still in circulation. This may cause those that are not aware of its discredited nature to follow the steps in the case of an earthquake, causing harm.

The correspondence was then received and filed (M/S/C: D. Holloway/ G. Hunter/ Unanimous)

4.0 Discussion Items

4.1 Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) Points of Dispensing (POD) Study Update

The Executive Director gave a brief review of the updated information from the POD study. He mentioned that DPH is still working on the study and will continue to provide the committee with updated information. In addition, DPH is interested in having more SGV cities sign up for the program.

4.2 Emergency Room Capacity in the San Gabriel Valley

The Executive Director distributed an updated map of the Valley indicating the location of the Hospitals that provide emergency room services, with the approximate number of emergency room beds in each. He pointed out that about seventy-five percent of the Valley's population resides east of the 605 freeway, but there are significantly less emergency rooms and emergency room beds than there are west of the 605 freeway. Issues discussed included the impact of emergency room closures and the proximity of available service to residents.

It was requested that the map include the emergency room capacity in San Bernardino County as well.

4.3 Southern California Earthquake Center's (SCEC) Great California Shakeout

A brief description of a recent workshop that was attended by some of the members was provided. The workshop presented a damage assessment of the what the cities would incur after a large scale earthquake. The committee reviewed the vast number of resources that are available for this event and general emergency preparedness. A 21-page breakdown of the Golden Guardian event is available online.

There will be an in-depth recovery conference on July 29th, 2008 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Information for this conference may be found on the Skakeout website. The agenda is unknown, but the conference will discuss recovery efforts beyond the traditional workshops.

The issue of FEMA recovery funds was brought up. What many cities do not know is that FEMA will only provide recovery compensation if prior conditions have already been established. Most cities perform this to a minor degree, such as the required submittal of annual reports from building and safety, but it is not substantial enough. In addition, FEMA will hold a portion of funding as a fee if not in compliance for hazard mitigation. The key issues are that staff needs to know how to document properly, they should attend the proper trainings, separate purchase orders should be used for purchasing emergency preparedness items, and renting equipment is often times better than buying equipment.

4.4 Potential Formation of a new Health District in the San Gabriel Valley

A representative from Assemblymember Ed Hernandez's office gave a brief discussion on the possibility of forming a new Health District for the San Gabriel Valley. A new Health District would increase the availability of Level 1 trauma care centers and would augment the emergency services to have a greater impact. This is important for the Valley, especially since there is no public hospital within the Valley; thus, the poor have no real place to go. Where the poor currently should be examined, along with the kind of services that would be needed for a Health District.

The Health District would be run like a special district and would have a board similar to school boards.

The Assemblymember would like to work quickly, but needs the support from a non-profit hospital to be the primary center. The expected time-frame is two years, with the completion of the establishment to be fall of 2009 or spring of 2010. This brought up the question as to whether the center would be an existing hospital or the creation of a new one. The use of an existing hospital would be ideal, but there needs to be a large incentive to get the support of one.

5.0 Items for Future Meeting

- 5.1 Approach for getting additional cities for the Golden Guardian event
- 5.2 Potential Formation of a new Health District in the San Gabriel Valley Update
- 5.3 Emergency Room Capacity in the San Gabriel Valley Update
- 5.4 Air Transport Services for the East San Gabriel Valley Trauma Patients Update

6.0 Set Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of August, August 20th.

7.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.