

Sierra County Health Coordinating Committee (SCHCC)

Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order by LeTina Vanetti, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Sierra County Public Health, at 10:10 at the Downieville Masonic Hall. Minutes from the last meeting were approved and introductions were made.

Those present were: Lee Brown (OES), DeeDee Clark (EPHC), John Evans (Loyalton Fire/EPHC EMT), Kayla Russell (Sierra County Public Health), Dan Spiess (Nor-Cal EMS), Celia Sutton-Pado (Sierra County Public Health), LeTina Vanetti (Sierra County Public Health), Kathy Whitlow (OES/Planning), Michael Galan (DFPD), Frank Lang (DFPD), Megan Andaluz (Loyalton Fire), Derrick Koch (Sierra County Behavioral Health), Andrew Harris (Western Sierra Medical Clinic), Rachel Defibaujh (DFPD)

John Evans and Megan Andaluz presented to everyone their experiences in the northern California fires in 2017. They had an excellent PowerPoint presentation of photos and maps of their experiences. They also shared the benefits of going to these fires for themselves and the department. They had the opportunity for training and building relationships with other firefighters. As well as these trips provide a significant financial benefit. The local department is paid admin fees and fees for the use of their equipment. Individuals are also paid for their time. The only drawback is it can take 6 months to a year to be paid.

Celia also shared her personal experiences during the fires as her son was directly affected. Through this experience she would like everyone to have a deeper conversation about how communication will get around to Sierra County residents during situations such as these.

Presentation Take-away Highlights:

- There is a common pattern of fires evolving very quickly due to extremely high winds. There was little opportunity for advance mass notification in many cases.
- Important to be aware of your situation and surroundings. Be prepared to leave with no advanced notice.
- Be responsible for clearing a fire safe area around your home. It could be the difference between firefighters attempting to save your home, or moving on to another home which is better prepared to be defended.
- Incident Command System (ICS) training and practice is invaluable as a tool for managing incidents and resources; small to massive.

**Clinics**

**EPHC** - DeeDee reported to date success keeping the Flu out of the SNFs in Loyalton and Portola. She attributes this to applying tenacious cleaning protocols. They have had up to 49 flu cases at the clinics. Portola received a new ambulance which means Loyalton will get an ambulance passed down to stage in Sierra Valley. They have had only three staff members with the flu.

**WSMC** - Andy reminded everyone of the hours of the Western Sierra Medical Clinic. They are open 8:00am-5:00pm Monday through Friday. The clinic is supporting tele-psychiatry for the drug court. He reported they adjusted the local clinic hours to accommodate the medical needs related to the bike races on the weekend. Mike thanked Andy for having the clinic open during the bike races where many stitches were given along with 3 urgent care patients. The WSMC facilities in Nevada City were impacted by the Oroville Dam Spillway incident as well as the local wildfires. These events have heightened interest in more emergency planning. Andy would like to see more emergency preparedness tabletop

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**Tri County Health Care Coalition**

LeTina gave an update on the TriHCC. The coalition involves Plumas as the lead entity, Lassen and Sierra Counties. FEMA required participants in the coalition are; Hospitals, OES, and Public Health. They have worked through the preliminary paperwork and agreements, held their first couple meetings and are continuing to develop an official TriHCC Emergency Plan along with other Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Grant deliverables. Although this formalized process is creating more paperwork and creates additional exercise and planning requirements, the overall benefit it is an official way to formalize relationships already built in Sierra, Lassen and Plumas counties on a more casual basis. Several trainings are being planned to address gaps identified during the statewide exercises.

**EMS/LEMSA**

**Nor-Cal EMS** -Dan announced LeTina was nominated as the at large director on their board of Nor-Cal EMS. Frank Lang was also recognized at the state level with a community service award. Dan announced May 19<sup>th</sup> will be the 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Redding. This conference is good for 7 educational credits. Online registration will be open in March.

**SFMR** - Frank said he is currently focusing on emergency medicine in hopes to be able to maintain and further develop EMS response in Sierra County. He is not activity practicing in association with a clinic. Over the last couple years through the formation and fund raising of the [Sierra Frontier Medical Resources](#) Inc implemented and funded trainings for 11 EMRs, 12 EMTs and 11 Advanced EMTs in Sierra County. Students from every community in the County have participated. Bike shops are now giving \$1 a bike ride to the Sierra Frontier Medical Resources (SFMR) Inc. SFMR raised 56K in order to fund the fulltime resident paramedic in Downieville. Recently they raised another 20K. His next big effort is focused on convincing residents of Western Sierra County of the need to support the efforts of the SFMR by voting yes to a \$100 per household fee on the next ballot. Fortunately the \$117 Fire Protection Fee is going way, which might help the cause as it's actually a \$17 year savings Frank remarked.

**Loyalton Fire** - John Evans announced there were 2 Loyalton Fire Department Advanced EMT students graduating from the program implemented by Frank Lang, Nor-Cal EMS and Sierra-Nevada College.

**Downieville Fire** - Rachel announced she will be leaving Downieville and moving to Sacramento. This decision is only partly due to the uncertain future of funding for her fulltime position through SFMR Inc and mostly for personal reasons. Her last day will be January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Health**

**Environmental Health** - Celia reported on a few changes in environmental health. Elizabeth has recently hired an environmental health trainee. She will be starting February 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is a new mandate coming down the pipe for food facilitators. It is environmental and public health's responsibility to provide information for food facilitators on dispensing food regulations.

**Health Officer** - Celia also spoke about medical marijuana ID cards regulations as those have changed as well. Home cooking laws have changed making it easier for people to provide food from their homes.

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**Public Health Nursing-** Kayla reported for Shanna Anseth, Public Health Nurse. Public Health has done a total of 655 total flu shots which is way higher than years before.

**Behavioral Health**

**Prevention** -Derrick reported he is focusing on youth prevention to resist pressures from the outside. Loyalton FNL is in the process of lining up a guest speaker for Loyalton and Downieville schools. They are still deciding on who they want.

**Mental Health Service Act Funds-** LeTina informed there will be two Mental Health First Aid classes in March; one in Loyalton and one in Downieville. This is a funding collaboration between Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Mental Health Service Act Plan objectives. Flyers were provided. She also shared Laurie Marsh is working on SafeTalk and Assist training in Sierra County. The group acknowledged information and education regarding suicide prevention is welcomed and needed. The topic of suicide blends well with many targeted audiences; youth, veterans, first responders, seniors, drug dependent, victims of violence etc.

**Office of Emergency Services**

Lee Brown shared Kim Neilson is the new state OES Representative for our Region. The state is up-dating the Regional Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP). There will be separate plans for 3 Regional Areas; Coast, Valley and Mountain AT&T has the contract for implementing FirstNet. [FirstNet](#) is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Authorized by Congress in 2012, its mission is to develop, build and operate the nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities by giving their service connection priority handling. Sierra County OES is currently working on Request for Proposals (RFP) for updating Sierra County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). For Search and Rescue Lee shared they recently received a new rhino.

Kathy Whitlow, in her Planning Dept. role, is working on getting the Graphic Information System (GIS) up to date for the County as well. LeTina mentioned it would be very helpful to add a GIS layer related to people medically at risk and those with access and functional needs. If it was included in the up-dates, some of the grant funding she administers could assist with costs.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20. The next meeting will be in Sierraville on April 24, 2018.