



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Emergency Management Department

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Deputy Director

FREDERICA WEEKS
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMAC)

January 7, 2019 2:00 PM Town Hall Meeting Hall

MINUTES

Councilors Present: Patrick Getler, North Central District Health Department (NCDHD); Brian Santa, Sergeant, Resident State Troopers' Office; Joseph Palombizio, Director, Emergency Management; Peter Hany, President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Timothy Webb, Director, Tom Modzelewski, Foreman – Department of Public Works; Erin Graziani – Director, Ellington Senior Center; Julia Connor, Recording Secretary; Jackie Nappo, Journal Inquirer; Lori Spielman, First Selectman; Joy Hollister, Director, Human Services; Rebecca Stack, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker; Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations, Rebecca Gonzalez, Director of Facilities – Ellington Public Schools; Frederica Weeks, Deputy Director, Emergency Management

1. CALL TO ORDER – 2:03 PM
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Meeting of November 5, 2018

Patrick Getler clarified that, under the roundtable section, it is the CT Department of Public Health that is responsible for the statewide syndromic surveillance system.

MOVED (WEBB), SECONDED (HANY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 5, 2018 EMAC MINUTES AS AMENDED.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Update – Baseline for Ellington Computer users established by KNOWB4 testing – Patrick Kenton, The Computer Company

There was no update regarding the computer use testing at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Human Services – Overview of Responsibilities, operations

Joy Hollister, Director of Human Services, introduced Rebecca Stack, the new Elderly Outreach/Social Worker in the Human Services Department. There was a revision to the job description, so clients will be anyone 18 and older, not just the elderly; Ms. Stack will be the initial point of contact for the department. Ms. Hollister gave a brief overview of what the department encompasses. She, Ms. Stack, and a shared Administrative Secretary, Kristen Wasielewski, make up the Human Services Department. Youth Services is underneath the umbrella of Human Services, as well. Youth Services has a director, Diane Lasher-Penti, a Program Coordinator, Tressa Giordano, a Prevention Coordinator, Deborah Stauffer, and a Program Assistant, Kayla Condon. Youth Services offers a wide variety of programming. In addition, they are involved with suicide prevention and opioid awareness programs. Ms. Lasher-Penti is licensed to do counseling with students and parents, and she and sits on the Juvenile Review Board which covers Ellington, Somers and Stafford. Mrs. Giordano is the Town's School Readiness contact; if there are parents of new students or students who may have a learning issue with concern of appropriate class placement, she handles those situations with the schools and acts as a parent advocate. Mr. Palombizio asked who reaches out in the event of a child acting out or exhibiting unusual behavior. Ms. Hollister answered that typically, the school will make a referral to their department, but sometimes parents do contact them directly; it depends on the situation. On the prevention side, they offer many parent-awareness programs; in March, one of the offerings will be a trailer for Hidden in Plain Sight, which focuses on common hiding places that children utilize for things like drugs and alcohol. The Department is also involved in many community events like the Rugged Farmer event last spring.

The Senior Center also falls under the Human Services umbrella, and is run by Director Erin Graziani, Assistant Director Sam Baer, and Administrative Secretary Alisha Goss, along with many other staff members. A Transportation program is run out of the Senior Center. Residents generally must be 55 and older to utilize these programs and services, which include recreational, education, nutritional and social offerings. The Maple Street Café is located at the Senior Center and offers low-cost lunches to residents on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Per the North Central District Health Department, these lunches do need to be consumed on the premises. They are currently averaging 29 people who utilize the café regularly. As of December 2018, the Senior Center had 807 registered members.

Many clients of the Human Services Department are experiencing some type of crisis, be it financial or related to their mental state. They work closely with Elderly Protective Services and with the probate courts, and with Connecticut State Police in certain cases.

Peter Hany reported that they often come across individuals who he believes aren't capable of safely remaining alone in their home; the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC) are regularly called to lift assist situations. Ms. Hollister responded that Human Services doesn't have the authority to take someone out of their home or

mandate anything; that comes from the State. In the event that the Department does have a concern, they can get the individual's children involved or petition the probate court, and/or go to Elderly Protective Services, but if the individual is of sound mind, rarely is anything done. Mrs. Graziani asked about mandated reporting, and Ms. Hollister confirmed that everyone in her department aside from the Administrative Secretaries are mandated reporters. Mr. Palombizio asked for clarification of what a lift assist refers to. Mr. Hany stated that Lifeline alerts and direct calls to 911 are routed to EVAC for lift assists. Many times the door will be unlocked or they will have received a key code for entry; the responders will ask what the call is for, and many times the individual has fallen out of bed or something similar and is unable to get up by themselves. The responders will perform a quick examination, lift them up from where they fell, and then leave. Ms. Hollister shared that in a town she previously worked in, there was a woman who continually called 911 and when the responders arrived, she would tell them that she had dropped her remote and would ask them to retrieve it for her. This is an abuse of the 911 system, and they were able to get her conserved. However, if there is an individual who is consistently experiencing falls, it isn't appropriate for them to remain alone in their home; in this situation, the Human Services Department would be able to help go through the proper channels. Lori Spielman asked if emergency departments were able to bill individuals in these sorts of calls, and Mr. Hany confirmed that that was correct; however, there is legislature in progress to try to change that. There was some discussion whether Medicaid and Medicare cases are handled differently if an individual hasn't met their deductible. Frederica Weeks stated that some problems arise due to the fact that rehab centers and other facilities don't have the capacity to take people in affordably, and hospitals release individuals who don't have proper support in place. Ms. Hollister stated that by law, if there aren't supports in place, individuals can't be legally discharged; it's important the people are educated about these rights. It was agreed that there are many factors that contribute to this problem. Mr. Getler asked about fall prevention programs. Ms. Hollister and Mrs. Graziani stated that they had offered a program at the Senior Center and it wasn't attended. Mr. Getler recommended looking into offering a home healthcare program, instead. Mr. Hany asked if the State Troopers Office could be contacted if there is a suspected abuse of the 911 system, and Sergeant Santa said that that was an option.

Sergeant Santa related this abuse to problems they have had with repeated alarm responses; some businesses know that they have an issue with a door in the building that is causing the alarm to go off, and they aren't making any attempts at fixing it, and there is nothing in place currently to allow the Town to fine businesses or individuals in this situation.

B. School Security/Safety

Brian Greenleaf reported that there was a presentation to the Board of Education in late November going over the details of what had been accomplished thus far and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year; the big initiative they've been focusing on has been the adoption of the new philosophy and training when it comes to active shooter

events. They are working with the State Police to further develop this presentation to bring it before school staff. They will be sending communication out to staff as well as parents, and eventually to students as well. They are working on Stop the Bleed training with EVAC; equipment is being ordered and training dates will be set up for teachers. He stated that Rebecca Gonzalez has been looking into incremental changes that can be done every year, such as changes to the cameras and panic buttons in the school facilities. Mr. Palombizio asked Mr. Greenleaf if the new active shooter philosophy would be tested by the end of 2019, and Mr. Greenleaf responded that that was the goal and that he would like to see it rolled out to the students by that time. The philosophy being developed stems from the federally adopted "Run, Hide, Fight" program.

C. North Central District Health Department Updates

Patrick Getler reported that in December, the North Central District Health Department held flu clinics in Vernon and Windham as part of an initiative with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CT Department of Health for National Vaccination Week, to provide vaccinations for people who are under- or uninsured. There was also a clinic held at the NCDHD office in Enfield. Mr. Getler stated that the Department does vaccinations throughout the entire flu season; flu activity is increasing, which is normal for this time of year. He reported that more people have been coming out to get vaccinated than in previous years.

D. Emergency Management / CERT Updates – Generator at Crystal Lake School

The Crystal Lake School shelter had experienced a prior issue with the power level coming from the generator; this has been rectified. Mr. Palombizio commended Mr. Greenleaf and Ms. Gonzalez for their work in getting this completed.

5. ROUNDTABLE – INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tim Webb introduced Tom Modzelewski, the new Foreman of the Department of Public Works. He reminded the councilors to be cognizant of slippery areas to prevent slips and falls, and to reach out if they need any additional assistance. Ms. Hollister confirmed that departments can put down their own salt as they deem necessary.

Mr. Modzelewski reminded everyone that work requests for any facilities and buildings should be submitted to the Department via the pubworkhelp@ellington-ct.gov email address.

Mr. Hany reported that cameras were being added and refitted around the ambulance building, with some pointing towards the high school. Glass protection has also been added to the more vulnerable areas of the building. The new ambulance was delivered and is currently being inspected.

Mr. Getler stated that the NCDHD is in the process of annually reviewing their plans.

Ms. Stack stated that she is looking forward to working with everyone and is glad to be a part of the council.

Ms. Hollister thanked everyone who participated with their holiday programs this year; she had found the community to be incredibly generous and she was very appreciative of the outpouring of support. She also relayed a question from one of her staff members regarding whether the Town had any plans for emergency management-related mock-scenario events in the future. Sergeant Santa said that there is nothing planned at the moment; Mr. Getler mentioned the Governor's EPPI exercise that is held annually in June, which is a tabletop exercise. Ms. Hollister stated that she was asking about more hands-on training and exercises; she shared that there had been a visitor to the shared Recreation/Human Services building the previous week who was very upset, using obscene language and exhibiting aggressive behavior, which is likely what the request for training stemmed from. Ms. Spielman shared that there will be a class for Town employees to cover the appropriate response in this type of situation. Mr. Webb asked if anyone had dialed 911 for assistance with the offending individual; Ms. Hollister responded that it hadn't quite risen to that level, but it was close. Sergeant Santa stated that the panic buttons were installed for situations like this; the individual left the building just before one of the panic buttons was pressed. Mr. Palombizio reminded the councilors that in this day and age, one can't be too careful in these situations and to act appropriately when witnessing this behavior. Mr. Webb stated that there is no need for anyone to be subjected to any sort of verbal abuse. Sergeant Santa added that Town Troopers and Officers have no problem responding to a resident or client who is escalating to aggressive or abusive language and/or behavior and would be happy to escort them out of the building as needed. Mr. Hany asked where the panic buttons were wired to; Sergeant Santa stated that alerts go to Troop C and to his cell phone.

Mrs. Graziani asked about what the progress was for installing cameras and panic buttons at the Senior Center, and Mr. Webb stated that the individuals responsible for these installations would be in touch with her. They will be hosting a Health and Wellness Fair on Thursday, May 9, 2019 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Those interested in having a booth at the fair should contact Ms. Baer to reserve their spot. Mrs. Graziani also reminded the Council that the Senior Center follows the schools in terms of scheduling and delays during winter weather events.

Sergeant Santa stated that the Town is a dead zone in terms of radio communication, and upgraded radios have been purchased prior to the State-wide radio upgrade taking place in March of 2019. These new devices should fix some of the dead zones in Town without needing to install a radio repeater. He stated that there has been a lot of discussion about Stop the Bleed programs, but he clarified that that most of that type of training is usually limited to medical first responders, and that police personnel need to clear hot zones before medical personnel can attend to any potential victims.

Mr. Hany built on that, sharing that EVAC did receive two tactical vests that will be used for training, and that there were Kevlar helmets and vests with bulletproof plates available for EVAC personnel. Sergeant Santa shared that the fire departments in Town were also putting in Capital Improvements Requests for such equipment. Ms. Weeks shared that there are some Stop the Bleed training programs available for the general

public, including students. It is important that as many individuals as possible have some level of training in order to administer basic first aid to victims while waiting for medical personnel to arrive on scene.

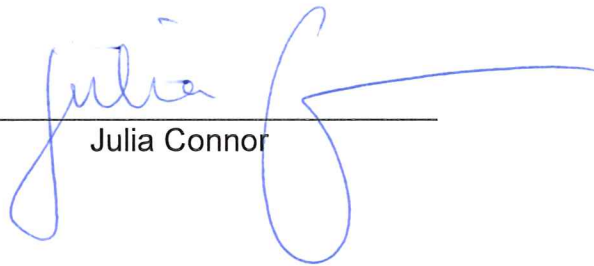
Ms. Spielman shared that Ellington is the host Town for the 2019 Four Town Fair.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (WEBB), SECONDED (MODZELEWSKI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:51 PM.

The next EMAC meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, April 8, 2019.

Submitted by: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia Connor", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Julia Connor