



Notes from September 19, 2008 General Meeting

Attendees:

1. Jim Spang
2. Jim Guzzaldo
3. Susan Ganey
4. John Guglielmo
5. Belinda Guglielmo

The meeting started with a discussion on MRC scope of practice. I had met with Chris Hoff, Emergency Response Coordinator and Claire Dobbins, Director of Health Protection on September 17. This issue along with a few MRC forms is now going through the legal department at Kane County Government. Claire suggested finding information from the American Red Cross. The ARC also limits volunteers to first aid care. Fortunately, I was with the Fox Valley ARC director on Friday morning. ARC has standard operating procedures for medical maladies. I will be looking into the specifics of their SOPs. MRC practice will remain within the first aid response at this time. Though first aid can be done by any trained volunteer, medical personal will be utilized to make medical assessments as will mental health professionals. Triage skills will decide on the best intervention for the victims including the need for rapid transportation.

Also discussed in this meeting with Chris and Claire was the direction of the MRC with the recent budget cuts at the Health Department. I will be laid off starting November 30, 2008. The decrease in housing transactions, restaurant closings, fuel prices etc., etc. has prompted this unprecedented predicament in Kane Health Department. Those attending this meeting were concerned and voiced as such. Claire and Chris will be working on a plan to continue the momentum of the MRC. Training sessions and the October 25 exercise will continue as planned along with the purchase of jump packs for volunteers. At the General Meeting scheduled on November 14, Chris and Claire will present future MRC plans and answer questions.

The discussion of public education came up. In our discussion, Chris had requested the MRC volunteers become public health community contacts. MRC members would reach out to the community on public health matters including preparedness. Susan G. brought up "the public just isn't getting it," voicing frustration with influencing a change in behavior through education. I too came face to face with the lack of enthusiasm (or boredom?) of a group that I spoke to on Friday morning. My response to Chris was more planning would be needed before this mission could be worked on with a projection of 2009.

With the recent floods, I have updated MRC Code Red. Code Red is a system that will make phone calls to large amounts of people. County residents can sign up through the Kane Office of Emergency Management. In the case of area evacuation, those that are on the calling list will receive a message with information. I have listed the MRC volunteers on Code Red that have been in contact with me and have made attempts to attend training. I will also be creating a response activation plan in the next few weeks.

Though Kane MRC hasn't come up with a background policy, I have been confirming professional licenses with the state. The state of Illinois has a sexual offender website. After speaking with hospital human resources, this offense appears to be the largest red flag. So I will utilize this website for a rapid screen of volunteers. Another change involves the online application service DisasterNet. I will be switching to paper application along with a form that can be downloaded from the KaneHealth.com website. I would like to make changes to the application adding information but keeping it

Lastly, a suggestion was made by Jim S to add Point of Dispensing Assistance to the MRC Mission list and create a MRC job position for that role. Since MRC volunteers will have some concept of a POD over a spontaneous volunteer, MRC volunteers would be able to fill positions in a POD quickly. Carol Marnell is working a the volunteer positions. I will add the POD assistant job and add the mission to the MRC plan.

FYI – I will be out of the area Oct 1 through Oct 10. Chris Hoff will contact MRC volunteers if needed.

**** Please RSVP for October 25 exercise. It will be held at
Public Health Building
Saturday October 25
9 am to 1 pm
Lunch included
Meet on second floor suite 27
1240 Highland
Aurora, 60506

Please bring family members to act as victims.