

DC Health Care Association
Emergency Management Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 13, 2013

I. Welcome and Introductions:

The DCHCA Emergency Management Meeting was called to order by Gail Jernigan, Chair, at 11:05 AM on Wednesday, March 13, 2013. The meeting was being hosted at Unique Residential Care Center. In attendance were:

Gail Jernigan, Chair

Ali Abdubarr, Chris Winston, Garth Grannum, Trevor Correia, Irving Jones (by phone), and Karen Fryer (by phone), Co-Chairs

Larry Kelley, Remedi Senior Care

Thu Huyah, Director of Maintenance/Carolyn Boone Lewis

Carole Pollara, Assistant Administrator/Carroll Manor, by phone

Veronica Damesyn Sharpe, ED/DCHCA, by phone

Janine Finck Boyle, Administrator/The Washington Home, by phone

Harvey Washington, Director of Maintenance/Lisner home, by phone

Remy Johnson, Administrator/Stoddard Baptist, by phone

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. Chris Winston made a motion to accept the minutes as written. His motion was seconded by Garth Grannum.

The attendees were reminded that the April meeting will be held on April 10, 2013 at Washington Nursing Facility; the May Meeting will be hosted by The Methodist Home on May 8, 2013 and the June meeting will be hosted by Brinton Woods on June 12, 2013. All of the meetings begin promptly at 11 AM.

II. For the Committee:

A. +The seminar being sponsored by this committee entitled, "Fire Safety/Life Safety/Emergency Management for DC's Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Centers," is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2013 hosted by Washington Center for Aging Services. The 11:15 am – 12:15 pm spot in the Agenda is set aside for Questions and Answers. The Committee was asked to come up with questions for Ted Fykes, William Harrison and Stephanie McLaughlin. The following questions were developed and will be sent to our seminar speakers prior to the seminar:

Several facilities are being cited for possibility of interlocking door handles preventing doors from closing.

What is the relationship between the Department of Health and the Fire Department/Inspectors? How do they interpret the fire code? Does the DOH surveyor looking at life safety and fire inspectors looking at code see the same and interpret the same?

A big controversy in the facilities occurs when they are cited for penetrations in the fire barriers. We want to meet all life safety codes- but what is the definition

of a penetration? Does the fire code address the size penetration, etc. which are acceptable/unacceptable? What about if there is a hole on one side of the barrier but not the other- stops, smoke cannot go through the barrier, does that constitute a "penetration?"

How does NFPA define the frequency of testing for sprinkler system? Annually or quarterly? Some facilities do 1/4 of the building quarterly so that once a year all parts of the building are done by the end of 12 months.

Are flow switches, alarms. etc all required by NFPA to be inspected quarterly or annually? There is confusion on what needs to be inspected when and at what frequency according to the NFPA standards that we are expected to be compliant to?

We are being asked to show paperwork that PM and corrections are done by contractor/vendor, not an in house repair and replacement. Example, change of a smoke detector. Is this an NFPA standard or an interpretation?

If an alarm system goes down, and cannot repaired right away, you go on fire watch... if a pull switch is broke, why can't we go on "fire watch" for 24 hours until the contractor can repair the device? Why is there an emergency repair required immediately? What is the definition and use of the "fire watch?"

What are some of the most frequently cited deficiencies in our Assisted Living Centers?

Emergency Generators:

Please provide the standard for the timing meter on an Emergency generator? Are digital meters required vs. analog meters? How do you interpret timing on the analog meters that does not show the cool down period. What are the run time, cool down, meter time regulation requirement

What are the NFPA standards for the Emergency Generator Logs.?

Fire drills:

Should be done quarterly on each shift, some do them monthly and if one shift is missed one month, why is that a violation?

Required Military times on logs. Please provide the regulation for the standard method required in the regulations.

B. Citywide Emergency Management Committee report Chris Winston and Veronica Damesyn Sharpe filled the Committee in on what was reported at the conference which is held the second Tuesday at 10 AM.

- Hospitals and SNF will be getting money for equipment.
- Grant update: no budget for NIMS training or incident officer training. Craig will be asked if the training can be done if the SNF's paid for the training.
- simulation, incident training will involve 8 hospitals and 10 nursing facilities

involving the scenario where a tornado and multiple disasters will be simulated. Participating facilities will make their own evaluations and complete them. Need to attend the orientation to get the evaluation form from the group.

Requirement for funding is to attend orientation April 11 2-4pm at WHC, participate in the exercise, one day or both days, must submit objectives, must complete evaluation and attend the after action meeting/ reporting...

Emergency Management Coalition will be having a meeting on April 2 at Providence Hospital 8-4pm. March 27th 8am-4pm at WCAS is their Behavioral Management Seminar at WCAS.

April 2-3-4 there will be evacuation sled training. They are looking for homes to volunteer- contact Craig DeAtley.

Next meeting April 9th and the Coalition looking for a place to host the meeting- normally at hospitals may be good for a DCHCA SNF to volunteer again as The Methodist Home hosted. A room is needed for 15-20 people along with a good speaker phone for people who call in.

C. Signing of mutual aid agreements.

Gail reported that only 4-5 have signed as of today. All facilities are asked to sign. Goal is to get all 19 facilities.

D. DHS radios recently re-banded. All but one facility has had their radio rebanded. Ingleside is only one left to have this done. Testing of roll calls will begin again HMARS and DOH radios monthly. Will begin off hours roll call testing.

This Committee will prepare a train the trainer package for facilities on proper use of these radios.

On March 15th, there will be a test during regular business hours. Dept of Health radios will be tested between 10am-12noon window.

The agenda item "Annual Review of Each SNFs Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)" will be moved to the April agenda. Each facility is asked to bring an outline of what is included in their EOP.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm. For those interested, Garth Grannum gave a tour of his plant operations which proved to not only be interesting but educational. Thanks to Garth and Trevor for hosting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Larry D. Kelley

