

**Emergency Management Administration Council**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**Electronic Meeting**  
**Via GoToMeeting**  
**July 28, 2020**  
**2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

---

**Welcome** - Lt. Gov. Spencer J. Cox, Co-Chair and Commissioner Jess L. Anderson, Co-Chair

- Welcome and opening remarks by both co-chairs
- Roll call of Council members connected through GoToMeeting

**Agenda Item: Meeting Minutes Approval**, Lt. Gov. Cox asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December 16, 2019 meeting.

- A first and a second motion were made and the minutes were approved unanimously

**Agenda Item: Magna Earthquake Declaration Individual Assistance**

Janna Wilkinson - Individual Assistance Officer - Utah DPS - Emergency Management

- Overview of the FEMA Individual Assistance Programs. These programs are for individuals affected by a disaster. This includes
  - Disaster Unemployment Assistance
  - Disaster Legal Services
  - Crisis Counseling Program (already active through COVID-19)
  - Disaster Housing Assistance
  - Other Needs Assistance
  - Small Business Administration Disaster Loans
- Disaster Housing Assistance includes:
  - Lodging reimbursement for short-term stays in hotels or motels
  - Rental assistance for temporary housing
  - Financial assistance to repair or replace your primary home
- Direct Housing Assistance requires a 25% state cost share
- Other Needs Assistance requires a 25% state cost share and provides:
  - Funeral expenses assistance
  - Medical and dental assistance
  - Child care assistance

## **Agenda Item: Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) and Post Wildfire Team**

Brad Bartholomew - State Hazard Mitigation Officer - Utah DPS - Emergency Management

- FEMA designated 3 major fires as eligible for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) funding
- These FMAGs are funded at 75% federal share for fire suppression costs including evacuations, sheltering and closing off roads
  - Canal Fire - June 28 - July 5
    - Millard/Juab Counties
  - Knolls Fire - June 28 - June 30
    - Utah County
  - Veyo Fire - TBD
    - Washington County
- Utah has created a Post Wildfire Team which brings the federal and state agencies together to meet with the affected communities and communicate what each agency brings as a resource to help in the recovery and mitigation process
- Community meetings are done for the benefit of the affected communities and ensure coordination of federal and state agencies
- Developing a Flood After Fire resource where communities can go to get information on resources and mitigation activities that can be undertaken post wildfire
- For every FMAG designated, the State of Utah receives \$454,000 for mitigation activities under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire

## **Agenda Item: Update on Previous Action Items - Special Needs Registry and Emergency Management Rules, Regulations and Statutes**

Will Lusk - Emergency Manager - Cache County

- When we met last December in 2019 it was approved by the Council to get a working group together to look at the status of the Special Needs Registry. To look at what was working well and what can be improved
  - Provided a survey to the local emergency managers and find out if they know what it is, if they use it, what recommendations they would make on an update and would they support the initiative to rebuild the website and effort
  - The survey showed a need to implement a training component to train newer emergency managers
- The next steps are:
  - Put together a local working group of emergency managers in Region I (Rich, Cache, Box Elder, Weber, Morgan and Davis counties)
  - Work with a website provider to revamp the website and ensure it is more user friendly and update the reporting measures
  - Identify a group of individuals that will meet with the website provider to get input and feedback on how the website needs to be designed for functionality
    - COVID-19 has pushed this effort back

- Once the website is up and running it will be beta tested before it is public facing and then implement training standards for end users
  - Implement a maintenance plan to ensure that the data is kept current on a regular basis
- **Question:** Do we have the data as to how many people have taken advantage of self identification or a family member of the Special Needs Registry?  
**Answer:** We don't have access to that data on the county level for the entire state but the Utah DEM does have access to it. As it is currently set up, counties can only view their own county data and facilities. A statewide look of the data would need to be provided by Utah DEM
- **Comment:** We know that maintenance of this information requires a lot of time and as this moves forward can we recommend that not only do we gather information for facilities but we do it for individuals, businesses and even companies like utility companies because they have some of that information on what places must have power. Those are the individuals that jurisdictions want to know about and is a recommendation to consider  
**Response:** We will take that recommendation into consideration. One of the challenges has been if those businesses are willing to share that information. Many businesses look at their data as theirs and don't want it integrated with other entities which is one of the main reasons why the Special Needs Registry is set up as an opt in system where individuals or their families and facilities can sign themselves up
- **Question:** Many individuals with special needs may not want to sign up for the registry, can a family member do it on their behalf?  
**Answer:** Yes, an individual or someone representing them can sign them up in the registry assuming they have all the pertinent information. Additionally, 211 will call those numbers provided annually to update any information that may have changed and can assist those that need to sign up for the first time.
- **Comment:** There is a special needs counseling center here in Utah that brings people from all of the world to get the care they need. It might be worth considering partnering with them to gain local data and in the event of a disaster to account for and evacuate those that are not from Utah and how we care for them.  
**Response:** Yes, that would be great to be aware of that facility and if they're in the system then the county emergency manager should have access to that data and if not we can have Utah DEM look into it and if they're not in there then we should partner with them and get them into the registry.

## **Agenda Item: COVID-19 Roundtable**

Lt. Gov. Spencer J. Cox, Co-Chair and Commissioner Jess L. Anderson, Co-Chair

- Since we last met we're in the middle of a global pandemic. It's been an incredible journey to those that have suffered both with their health, economically. We're grateful for the response from many of you
- From a response perspective we started with the Utah Coronavirus Task Force which has included many in this room, public health, emergency response, community organizers and economic leaders
- The goal was to build out the infrastructure to be able to respond to this pandemic and to advise the governor in that response. Over time that organization of the task force has been replaced with the Unified Command with Jess Anderson at the helm and an complex organizational structure
- This group of a about 150 people are responsible for testing, supplies, the economic side and is just an enormous undertaking
- The legislature has also met in a few special sessions to address the financial needs of responding to COVID-19 including the formation of a commission that has replaced the task force and the governor has relied heavily on them for advice
- It takes a lot of coordination, communication to be able to come together for something we've never experienced and that training and guidance has been greatly felt
- This is not what we wanted but is an opportunity to continue to shine as we continue to professionally respond
- As we move from the summer and into the fall we need to be aware that with holiday weekends we can see case numbers decrease and testing numbers decrease as well but its anticipated that case numbers will continue to go up. We're averaging around the 500 cases per day average and we want to be cautious as those numbers go up to watch the hospitals' capacity to treat patients as more become hospitalized
- As of right now we're hearing that we'll be receiving vaccinations in the fall. There are several companies who are contracted to provide millions of vaccines in the coming months
- It's unprecedented to have a vaccine this quick from Operation Warp Speed not even knowing if the vaccine works. One thing to be mindful of is a vaccine is only as good as we can get it, distribute it and vaccinate the residents here in Utah
- We need the help of the Council and your channels of communication to encourage people to get flu vaccines
- We can't overwhelm our healthcare system by not getting immunized for the flu knowing that the beds needed for COVID-19 patients will continue to go up and so we encourage getting as many vaccinated for the flu as possible and to get it done early
- School districts' plans are due to the Board of Education on August 1 so they can be reviewed to get approval for the start of the new school year

- Comment: All who work in government on any level have a part in public health and COVID-19 has shown that as we all play a part in this response. Utah has taken a balanced approach to taking into account the physical health by reducing the spread, but also looking at the emotional and mental health that is impacted by other challenges including economic and just being isolated from one's daily routine
- Comment: Our goal was to initially get up to 4,000 tests a day and we were able to meet that and even exceed that. This has helped us to keep ahead of contact tracing and meeting those marks has helped and DOH has been doing a tremendous job
- Comment: Another question that keeps coming up is the voluntary use of masks. We are seeing a difference and around the first of July and observational studies showed about 25% of mask wear use and now we're already seeing in a few weeks about a 65% of mask wear which then correlates to the reduction of infections
- **Question:** Has there been any discussion about how vaccinations will be distributed and prioritized. We've seen certain ethnicities with a higher rate of infection than others?  
**Answer:** Yes, those initial conversations are happening and then local health departments have had plans in place since H1N1 on how to distribute vaccinations among the communities. It is true that several of our multicultural groups have been hit harder by the virus than others. There was a New York Times piece that showed that a lot of testing sites were in mostly white neighborhoods around the country and we've done a good job here in Utah to provide mobile testing sites in the communities that need the access to these resources
- **Question:** Thank you for talking about the importance of getting a flu shot. Do we know when the flu shot will be available here in Utah?  
**Answer:** It is usually available in early September and sometimes even earlier. There are times when there are delays as much as late October but in most cases someone could get it in September
- **Question:** Is the population percentage for flu immunization around 40%?  
**Answer:** The percentage is different depending on the age groups as its higher in older age groups but it is recommended that anyone 6 months or older get a flu shot and we're lucky here in Utah if we can get more than 50% of the population to get their flu shot
- Just a reminder that more than 60% of COVID-19 spread is from family members

**Informational Item:** The Council adjourned

**Next Meeting:** TBD