

LEPC Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2022

Time: 9:00 am

Held: ECC and virtually via Zoom

Attendees **(10): In-person, (18): Signed in**

Topic	Discussion
Welcome & Introductions	Welcome new members and/or guests LEPC portion of meeting led by Vice Chair Nathan Ramsey
Vice Chair Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leonard Stewart motion to approve previous minutes. Deputy Chief Kevin Moore seconded this motion. Minutes approved.
LEPC Updates	
Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leonard Stewart received two nominations to serve as Chair, he has accepted. ▪ Chief Nathan Ramsey to continue as Vice Chair ▪ Courtney Freeland to continue as Secretary ▪ Vote to amend By-Laws to update LEPC contact to Leonard Stewart. A draft will be prepared and voted on next meeting. Kim Shaw motioned to amend. Jutta Hopkins seconded the motion. ▪ A note from the new Chair: We are getting it right in this committee, others speak highly of the work we are doing. This doesn't really happen in other regions; it is certainly something to be proud of and he hopes to continue the same vein and spirit as his predecessors.
Vaccine Process Updates	
Carilion Rockbridge Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numbers are leveling off, inpatient COVID cases has come down. ▪ Decreasing significantly- 114 hospitalizations in the 11 hospitals in the region. ▪ ICU numbers have also significantly decreased, now at 142 out of 183 beds occupied, strictly COVID related. Additional beds are available for other ICU purposes. ▪ Staffing is continuing to be a major concern. ▪ Some hospitals are in contingency mode vs. crisis mode. ▪ Some hospitals are lifting visitation restrictions.

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<p>Rockbridge Area Health Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Downward trend in vaccine testing numbers. ▪ Will no longer have Moderna clinics but will provide vaccines during office hours. ▪ first pediatric clinics in November and December, started giving ped vaccines during office hours with a few clinics in between. ▪ Revamped websites and adverts on radio stations. ▪ Donated over 2300 covid self-testing kits. If anyone needs kits or n95s, please let them know.
<p>EM Coordinators</p>	
<p>Local EM Task Force</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing to work on COVID requests and testing ▪ Goshen water crisis has been dealt with. Everyone worked together and successfully supplied water to community during the emergency. ▪ Paula from the Red Cross contacted Task Force and wants to start a smoke detector campaign. We need to get the word out, suggestions of where the need is, is encouraged. Will work with CERT in this. ▪ Emergency Ops plan update will start soon. ▪ Two current operations on March 12th with VDH, a community pod at Richardson Park will take place, as well as an outdoor mobile pod on April 4th, targeting community and apartment housing and development. ▪ Next week is Severe weather awareness week. Weather.gov- Tuesday is a tornado drill at 945, phones will not alert, but some weather radios will alert. If you can set aside a time (whoever is responsible for safety at workplace) to attend some of these, they are very beneficial. Be aware of good places in the building to hide.
<p>Law Enforcement</p>	
<p>Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank you to RAHC for mask and health equipment donations to RBSO. ▪ Natural Bridge State park- April 2nd, kids fishing day, RBSO providing volunteers/fishing mentors. Let Sheriff or Jim Jones with state park know if interested in volunteering.

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Buena Vista	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thanks, agencies, for recent aid in homicides in the month of February. Thanks to RBSO, BV Sheriff, Lex PD, VMI, medics, and firefighters.
Fire/EMS/Public Safety	
Lexington City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the middle of budget season. ▪ Back to normal with call volumes, after tremendous spikes during the fall months. ▪ Ramping up to build out the fire reporting side of the new CAD for the 911 Center.
Rockbridge County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Process of building out new Fire records management system to coincide with SOMA global (new CAD system). Will be a lengthy process. ▪ 4pm Burn law is currently in effect until April 30th, be cognizant this time of year, it is dry outside with the breeze and wind. Warmer temps mean higher probability for brush/wildland fire. ▪ Appreciation to those who assisted with Goshen water emergency, CERT team for handing out water, Public Service Authorities that came together to provide assistance, local group jurisdictions as well as other agencies throughout the entirety of the state.
VDH/VDEM/VDOT/NWRHC/DEQ/USDA	
Virginia Department of Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency Operations Planning is coming up, looking forward to participate in process. ▪ Transitioning from COVID back to regular directives. Continuing to support in a regular capacity. Lot of training continuing, and the basic academy still happening. ▪ Working with Goshen, now that they are back to 100% - seeking reimbursement from the Governor's office. No promises, but has worked in another county with similar issues.
Virginia Department of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thanks to all who helped with past weather events, January was very busy. ▪ Update on 205 project- Currently pulling Jersey barriers and resetting them. ▪ Still in snow operations, prepared for whatever may come up. ▪ Gearing up for scheduled work on County roads, starting March 14.

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DEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DEQ Disaster Preparedness page recently updated, with resources on severe weather, cleaning debris, etc. ▪ Link: https://www.deq.virginia.gov/get-involved/disaster-preparedness
Local Government	
Rockbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County budget process is in full swing. ▪ Steve Bolster is no longer the fiscal services department, has since moved on to VDH. Interviews in process for this position. ▪ Appreciation to the group for everything that has been done over the past two years.
University/College & K-12	
Virginia Military Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COVID numbers are zero across the board. ▪ Cadets will leave Friday April 11th for Spring Furlough until the 20th. ▪ VMI has held steady with mask rules and cadet quarantine process.
Washington & Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeing significant decrease in cases, currently have 2 quarantined students and 7 employees. Significant fall from high January number. ▪ Students just returned from break, have not seen a spike in cases. ▪ Wrapping up compliance with booster requirement. Looking at updated CDC guidance with masking, considering changes to make requirements, but are aware we are still considered a high transmission area. ▪ Students not on break again until middle of April.
Southern Virginia University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recently had a little uptick in cases, 3 getting out of quarantine, 1 out of isolation, but are now back down to zero cases.
Dabney Lancaster Community College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 1st- Name change to Mountain Gateway Community College ▪ Doing really well with COVID cases coming down.
Rockbridge County Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Navigating through new CDC guidelines. ▪ Thanks to all for what you do in the community.
Buena Vista City Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ February 1- masks will be optional for students, February 28th- optional for all on bus and transportation department, March 2nd staff optional to wear mask. ▪ Handful of children under quarantine at this

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	<p>time, but no actual cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ March 28-April 3 will be spring break. ▪ Good Friday and Easter Monday will be considered holidays
<p>Other Organizations</p>	
<p>US Forest Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some burns planned around Rockbridge; one is Mount Pleasant area in Amherst that Rockbridge residents will see. ▪ Tri-County- burning today, coming back later for about 1000 acres, smoke will be seen in Rockbridge County area. ▪ Large burn further down in Botetourt, may push smoke this way as well. ▪ 4pm Burn law, currently in high fire danger for next 2-4 days until raining event. This has resulted in some fires in Alleghany yesterday, Amherst had large fire 2 days ago. ▪ Today and tomorrow highest fire danger days, with wildfire potential for next three months, ▪ Predictive services show us in normal setup; however, this can change depending on the weather. ▪ Available to assist VA Dept of Forestry as needed.
<p>Community Emergency Response Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Functions to help emergency management as needed. Have been able to maintain volunteer roster, just added two new volunteers. Currently have 37 on roster, 12 of them are informational only and just met FEMA requirements for the past coming year. ▪ Opportunity to help on several events in the past year has been great. Jonathan Simmons taught a class to 8 volunteers on use of WebEOC. ▪ Stop the Bleed training for volunteers or anyone interested in attending, April 11th held at 911 center. ▪ CERT meetings every Tuesday of every month, meeting at 530. ▪ Specialize in Education and Prevention, 72-hour kits, etc. in case of emergency. ▪ Received a grant from W&L and Walmart for First Responder Relief.
<p>Red Cross</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smoke detector program- As of today, 300+ smoke detectors in the county have been

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	<p>distributed, have plenty left and we are currently looking for vulnerable areas to continue to install.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working towards getting back to in person response for fire calls, and trying to get volunteers back out into the community. ▪ Looking for volunteers, as we only have 3 in Rockbridge. There is currently 1 in Alleghany area that can come into Lexington and beyond, but we are desperate for more volunteers at the moment.
<p>Rockbridge Area Health Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many have met in the winter about the Emergency Ops update. Talked about updated contact information. ▪ April 2nd - 14th annual Bull and Oyster festival at the Horse Center
<p>Rockbridge Area Community Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COVID numbers are down, had spike in the beginning of the year between staff and group homes, but we were able to contain the outbreaks to the specific homes, and do not have anyone at the moment out on quarantine. ▪ Looking at revamping masking policies for staff. ▪ Drug take back happening at April 30th at Lex and BV CVS from 10-2. ▪ Currently need adult volunteers for youth summit on April 8 from 9-3. Please contact for information.
<p>Valley Program for Aging Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With pandemic restrictions easing, our Case Managers will be resuming in-home visits with the 100 Rockbridge area residents who receive Meals on Wheels, and we could restart this project. ▪ Gearing up to resume Dementia Friends at Work presentations, eager to know if First Responder agencies would like to participate. This includes EMTs, Fire, Law Enforcement (including campus and hospital police) and Crisis Response organizations. Looking to schedule presentations, as previous presentations were sidelined by COVID. ▪ Jeri Schaff would like to meet and/or have a phone call with anyone who would like more information. They can email at jeri@vpas.info or call 540-471-9242 at any time.

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Meeting Adjourned	▪ 10:00 am
Next LEPC Meeting	Thursday, June 2, 2022 9:00 am ▪ Virtual, Carilion Rockbridge Hospital Conference Room
Recorded by:	Courtney Freeland