

LEPC Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016
12:00 pm Walters State Community College

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chief Sarah Rose of Walters State Campus Police. Invocation was given by Perry Davis of Lakeway Regional Hospital. The pledge of allegiance was led by Gary Ryan of the Morristown Fire Department.

Chief Rose announced that the meal today was provided by KFC.

Old business – Chief Rose introduced Chris Bell, Director of Morristown-Hamblen EMA, Mattea McCann of Team Technologies, and Michelle Matson of TEMA to speak about the upcoming Preparedness Expo. Director Bell spoke of the vision of the expo and that the public needs to be informed of what to do in varying emergencies as well as meet the individuals who provide those services. Another goal is to build relationships between the community and emergency response agencies.

Director Bell then introduced Michelle Matson of TEMA, who previously worked with the Jefferson County Fire Dept. as their Community Outreach Coordinator. Michelle spoke of the fair held in Jefferson County and the success that followed. The plan is to have vendors, interactive areas that will show correct procedures, and more.

Director Bell then introduced Mattea McCann who encouraged everyone to participate and join committees to make the expo a success. The expo is tentatively scheduled for September 17, 2016 from 9-12 at Walters State Community College. If you desire to be a part of this expo, please reply to Mattea McCann or the EMA office.

New Business – There was no new business. Chief Rose introduced the first speaker, Garnet Southerland from East Tennessee Regional Health Office. Ms. Southerland explained that the Safe Haven Law was put into place to protect mothers from being charged or prosecuted for turning over their child to a Secret Safe Place within seventy-two hours of a child's birth. Locations include hospitals, birthing centers, health department, walk-in clinic, or a fire department, police department or EMS facility that has 24 hour staff. Ms. Southerland explained that the mother must be present at time of drop off and that the mother has thirty days to reclaim the infant, but must do so through DCS. The child is immediately placed into the care of DCS when initially dropped off. The mother will lose all parental rights to the child after ninety days.

Ms. Southerland then introduced Sherrene Manuel who passed out Mother Packets that each agency is to fill out upon receiving an infant under the Safe Haven Law. Ms. Manuel informed the group that since the law was passed, eighty babies have been surrendered to an agency. The law was brought about by the death of an abandoned infant from Blount County.

Chief Rose opened the floor for announcements and began by announcing her resignation as Chair of the LEPC, effective immediately. She cited personal reasons for needing to step down. Director Bell and Vice Chair Mattea McCann will assign an interim Chair for the remainder of the year.

Sherri Montgomery of the Health Department and Chrissy Hicks, Nursing Supervisor for the Hamblen County Health Department spoke briefly on the Zika virus and provided handouts for more information. Chrissy explained that the virus is caused by mosquitos who bite during the day. The health department's goal is to spread awareness and prevention information about the virus as it can have grave effects on pregnant women, including microcephaly. 80% of people who have the virus do not experience symptoms. The Regional Health Office will hold a meeting on April 27, 2016 about the Zika virus and mosquito control.

Chief Rose then introduced Danny Houseright, Director of Morristown Hamblen EMS. Director Houseright spoke about changes in insurance regarding ambulance transportation to hospitals or other medical facilities. He discussed three different types of insurances: Medicare, TennCare, and private insurance which covers a multitude of providers. He gave a brief history of the EMS, which began in 1984 and was formed out of the Rescue Squad, which began in 1955. He explained that there are different levels of certifications in the EMS field, and that obtaining those certifications takes time and money. He explained that many times, depending on the insurance, the EMS does not receive payment for services rendered. MediCare will not cover trips to medical facility, nor, in a non-emergency, will it cover if the patient can walk, be transported by wheelchair, sit up, or be transported by other means. TennCare is the only insurance that can pay less than MediCare. If TennCare does not cover all of bill, EMS cannot bill patient for the remainder as they can with other insurance providers. Director Houseright encouraged those who have private insurance to check their policy to ensure they have emergency transportation coverage.

Director Houseright relayed that they have won the Region Two Star of Life Awards, and have won six out of nine years.

Chief Rose thanked everyone for attending and thanked KFC for providing lunch.

There were no additional announcements and Chairperson Sarah Rose adjourned the meeting.

The Morristown LEPC would like to thank **KFC** for supplying the meal for this meeting.
Our next scheduled meeting to be held on July 12, 2016.