

**City of Sonoma Disaster Council
REGULAR MEETING
Emergency Operations Center
175 First Street West
November 12, 2009**

Minutes

Present: Mayor Brown, City of Sonoma
Linda Kelly, City Manager
Chief Sackett, City of Sonoma
Milenka Bates, City of Sonoma
Debra Rogers, City of Sonoma
Rodger Doncaster, American Red Cross, Director
Herb Golenpaul, Pueblo Serena Mobile Home Park
Jennifer Hainstock, Staff Assistant to Supervisor Valarie Brown
Ted Hassler, SVFRA
Barbara Johnsen, Pets Lifeline
Diana Lawrence, Sonoma Valley Unified School District
Joe Morrison, SVFRA, Captain
Mark Netherda, Deputy Public Health Official
Charlene Rundstrom, Creekside Village Disaster Preparedness
John Saguto, ARC Volunteer
Bob Smylie, County Department of Emergency Services, OES
Rhonda Stallings, DVM, Arroyo Veterinary Hospital
Mark Stephens, Search & Rescue
Hans Steuck, Chantarelle HOA
Joan Tillman, SVD OG, Sonoma Valley Dog Owner & Guardians
Sarah Tracy, Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. Introductions were held.

2. Comments from the Public

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of September 10, 2009, were approved as presented by consensus.

4. Swine Flu Up-Date, County Health Department,

Dr. Mark Netherda, Deputy Public Health Official, provided an update on the Swine flu epidemic and availability of vaccinations in Sonoma County. He also provided comparisons to the regular seasonal flu statistics.

In 2007, the peak of flu season was the 10th week (February) with 4% of the population visiting clinics. In 2008 during February (a bad year for flu), 7% went to clinics. Today, November 12, 2009 we have surpassed epidemic threshold at 9% visiting clinics (or 900% higher than it should be this time of year).

The H1N1 virus can be tracked in part by the number of people hospitalized each week in emergency rooms due to influenza like symptoms. Since October 1, 2009, 303 patients had influenza symptoms in Sonoma County's local hospitals. Of those, only three patients were over 65 years old, while over 200 were under the age of 24 years old; the preponderance of the disease is attacking younger people.

So far, the five vaccine target groups have not changed and include:

- 1) Anyone in a household that provides care to and an infant under 6 months of age;
- 2) Children older than 6 months up to age 24;
- 3) All pregnant women;
- 4) Adults ages 25-64 with an underlying medical condition that puts them at risk;

5) Emergency medical personnel and health care providers.

Dr. Netherda said they wanted to lighten the requirements and open to individuals not in the primary target groups, but the vaccine has not been flowing as hoped. Last week there were no shipments to Sonoma County (week of 11/2/09); this week vaccines came to some of hospitals and larger health suppliers. Kaiser, who received 20K doses in Sonoma County when the vaccine was first available, did not receive more.

Rhonda Stallings asked how many types of vaccines are available. Dr. Netherda said there are four different base types of vaccines: inter nasal, preservative with multi-use vial for any age group, single dose syringes, and preservative type in single dose syringes for pregnant women. Also have anti-viral medications coming into the County.

Regarding the production of the H1N1 vaccine, the U.S. government bought vaccine from the five different manufacturers that make the seasonal influenza vaccine. The vaccine is then allocated across the states based on population of the states and demographics of the five target groups.

The states then divide up the vaccine to give to the counties. On a flu website, Sonoma County health providers (200 in Sonoma County) order what they need through the State website; pediatricians, family practice physicians, large clinics, EMS providers will be given first priority while retailers (such as Longs Drug Stores) are not prioritized since the availability of vaccine is in short supply. It is easier to monitor the five target groups through the health providers versus retail stores.

Rhonda Stallings asked about booster shots and if one was better than none. He replied that children under age nine need boosters; the boosters don't need to be the same type vaccine, but preferably taken 28 days apart.

Sonoma County to date has received 49K doses; 35K doses have been distributed between providers (hospitals and clinics).

Rhonda Stallings stated that there have been reported cases of H1N1 in one cat and two ferrets, which has happened in households where family members were sick. The advice is still to wash your hands and don't sneeze in your pet's face. Dr. Netherda said that flu virus does jump from one species to another, mix and become a new virus (which is what Swine Flu is) and could be more deadly.

John Saguto said he heard that the bulk of the vaccine will be available the end of December/January which is towards the end of flu season. Will this vaccine be beneficial for next year in warding off hybrid flu? Dr. Netherda responded in the affirmative, that people being vaccinated this year will be better off next year.

Charlene Rundstrom asked if the H1N1 vaccine will be included in the regular vaccine next year. Dr. Netherda said most likely that that it will be included in the regular seasonal flu vaccine.

5. Report on the October 15th Big Rumble Earthquake Preparation Drill

City Manager Kelly distributed a summary of the events: The city was pleased with the outcome of the earthquake preparedness drill. The Emergency Operations Center exercise was very useful and we continue to identify issues that need improvement and focus on staff roles during a disaster. She thanked Chief Sackett for reviewing the Emergency Operations Plan binder and identifying communications issues; Management Analyst Rogers for coordinating the outside groups' participation and managing our Big Rumble participation; Fire Captain Joe Morrison for coordinating SCOPE team leader participation and scenario drills; Sergeant Ruben Martinez for representing the Police Department's role on the Big Rumble committee.

Management Analyst Rogers said that the registered groups who participated in the drill were enthusiastic leading up to the actual drill, had a variety of types of emergency preparedness drills planned that suited their organization/group, and called in to report how the drills went. Next year, the BigRumble website staff would like groups to take photographs of their events for marketing the success of this State wide effort.

Herb Golenpaul said the focus of their drill at Pueblo Serena was to make sure everyone could be contacted. Out of 126 units with 165 people, subtracting those who were out of town or working, they contacted 62 units or 62% of the population. The captains contacted their sections by phoning or by ringing door bells. Herb said these were great results considering it was the first time they had done this drill; all contacts were accomplished in 20 minutes.

Diana Lawrence, Unified School District, report that all eleven schools participated in one way or another with about 5,000 students plus approximately 250 staff. She has asked the City for prices on the Personal Safety Emergency Kit, one for each child. Herb Golenpaul is seeking prices also on the kits for Pueblo Serena residents.

Hans Steuck reported that Chantarelle HOA participated in the drill. He asked if others had the 60 Minutes segment on TV that said the next terrorist attack could be on the power grid system either on the East coast or West coast and asked if planning should include being completely without any power for several days and how to communicate. City Manager Kelly said that people can rely on their car radio for communications.

Chief Sackett said the police department is in the process of upgrading their generator; and the key to survival is self sufficiency for 3-5 days. Herb Golenpaul said that some mobile home parks have team captains who use battery operated radios. Chief Sackett said the police department does rely on the ACS ham radio operator, and is hooked up in our EOC and County wide.

City Councilmember Gallian said on the magnet that the Disaster Council is putting together, that the local radio stations be included; reception is spotty in the Valley for KSVY. Also radios with cranks don't use batteries as another method. A radio station that has guaranteed reception would be ideal, so listing several stations would be good.

John Saguto said he had concerns that the local radio station's generator and antenna are at risk during a major disaster and that a remedy hasn't been presented. When the phone lines break, communications at stations will be in operable. Mayor Brown suggested the possibility of using communication systems at Len Tillem's office on Broadway, who broadcasts his legal show on KGO AM810.

Sarah Tracy said the Visitors Bureau and the City Accounting Department coordinated their drill together, took pictures of staff during the "Drop Cover and Hold" drill. She had hoped that many visitors would be present to give them a California experience, but only had two were present and from Marin! The drill was good in that they do share the building with the Finance Department – they have had communication before but this was one more opportunity to fine tune preparedness plans and get to know one's neighbors. They did not let their staff of volunteers know ahead of time so it was very educational (even though it was on a small scale).

6. Reports from Subcommittees

Public Information Outreach Subcommittee: Chief Sackett reported that the disaster hotline is now active. The purpose of the hotline is to provide residents with important information in the event of a local disaster. The hotline gives the City an option to quickly and efficiently disseminate important information during an emergency, such as the status of City services, water contamination issues, road closures, and referral numbers. The line is not to replace 911 or 211. Since the phone line is not staffed, does not allow people to leave messages.

City Manager Kelly said the outgoing message (disaster hotline) can be updated as often as needed, can be done remotely. The line can handle 100 callers at a time with out getting a busy signal. Staff is in the process of creating a magnet with important phone numbers. The goal is to publicize various emergency numbers so that the public knows ahead of time where to call for information during an emergency.

John Saguto suggested the City's website include the same hotline information in written form for audibly impaired individuals (if electricity is still functioning).

Joan Tillman said the hotline message would also be a good opportunity to include what people should do with their pets. She reported on **Sheltering Preparedness for Pets Subcommittee** saying they have spent a year trying to put in place greater pet preparedness and advancing the option of sheltering with their owners during a disaster. They had hoped such a plan would take some of the load off vet hospitals during a disaster and reduce some of the confusion. City Manager Kelly asked John Saguto to state the ARC position. He said the ARC standard policy is we are in immediate, temporary aid for humans which will continue to be their foremost response to aid and response of human suffering. The ARC is very mindful of the fact that pets do place an integral role of the recovery and for those people who will not go into a shelter operation without their pets. So as the challenge is to first get people housed and fed, he is looking at the possibility of sites that are more pet friendly, where pets can be kept (in tents) in close proximity to the perimeter where people are housed, but is not the first priority. Regarding which shelters will be used, after they have been checked by the ARC for safety and which ones will be used, they are placed on a national list so anyone can access that information during a disaster. He said the ideal model is people staying in their house during a disaster (when possible) – the exception would be the large number of visitors. He also stated that as soon as they set-up a shelter, they are looking to relocate people and disassemble the shelters. Rodger Doncaster said that normally when the ARC works with pets, they partner with organizations, whether it is the Human Society and REVMA (Redwood Empire Veterinary Association) who organize kennels and where pets will go.

Rhonda Stallings, DVM, said that the whole point of their planning was that Sonoma could be cut off from ARC. Mr. Doncaster said he doesn't think that Sonoma is in any more risk of being isolated than any other town and that REVMA and ARC have staff in Sonoma. Rhonda said she does not know of anyone from those organizations that live in Sonoma and provide that partnership (including providing crates). After a year of working on this project, they don't have such contact information.

Herb Golenpaul said he would like input of what to do next with regards to the **Demographics Subcommittee**. He has a listed of all the retirement homes (which have disaster plans) and senior communities. Should he have list of the number of people that might need evacuated? Is there any other information that he should obtain? Chief Sackett said that Herb has probably fulfilled the primary function of making the initial outreach of areas of Sonoma which citizens could potentially need additional assistance (i.e. nursing homes and senior centers) to make sure they are taking their own precautions for evacuation plans to address the population they are responsible for, and can rest assured that those groups will be more self-sufficient.

Mr. Golenpaul said along with Debra Rogers, they have updated the shelter list which includes Sonoma's addresses, contacts, phone numbers and other information. Ms. Rogers said she would send the updated list to Mr. Saguto and Mr. Doncaster for use by the ARC. Mr. Doncaster said he has a staff person updating the MOU's.

7. Set Next Meeting Date

December 10, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. was set for the next Community Preparedness, Subcommittee meetings.

January 14, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. was set for the next regular Sonoma Disaster Council meeting. Both meetings will be held at the Emergency Operations Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra N. Rogers