EHPC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Previous Meeting Minute Approval:

- Motion: Jim McArthur
- Second: Steve Pinyan

Introductions:

By-Law Updates Review:

- Review of draft By-Law updates.
- Draft circulated to the group and the Steering Committee.
- Open discussion (vote to be held at the February meeting):
    - The previous by-laws were lengthy.
    - The draft can be distributed after the meeting for review.
    - Changes:
        - The State is adopting the single-coalition goal.
        - The group will continue to be referred to as a coalition.
        - During an event, the State will now conduct outreach to members; the coalition will continue to check on members to offer additional support.
        - The service area has been updated to move Onslow to the Southeastern coalition, with the exception of ECU Health Duplin.
        - Changes to positions:
            - Recommendation: establish a chair and vice chair for both the coalition and the committee; this group will be referred to as the Steering Committee.
            - Jennifer O'Neal has requested to step down, as she is now the Emergency Manager for her county.
            - Representation: one EMS, one hospital, and one public health agency representative.
            - Coalition staff may not vote or make nominations.
        - Electronic voting by email is permitted.
- No questions were raised.
- State partners had no additions.

Strategic Plan Updates Review:

- Change the full rewrite cycle to every three years.

- New Priorities discussed.
- No questions were raised.
- State partners had no additions.

Nominations: (contingent of approval of By-laws)

- Chair:
    - Jim McArthur (nominated by Jen Smith)
- Vice Chair:
    - Mike Paul (nominated by Nat Gladding)
- Jennifer O'Neal will remain on the Steering Committee.

Schedule Change Discussion:

- EHPC follows a meeting schedule to ensure key items are discussed annually. Due to the recent state changes and need to re-write the bylaws and strategic plan, the schedule has not been followed.
- List of key topics was shared during the presentation, EHPC will re work the schedule to ensure all important points are discussed annually starting in 2027.

SMAT / MRC

- State Medical Reserve Corps
    - The team consists of 20 members to date.
    - Requirements are due by January 1, 2027.
    - Jim McArthur expressed concern about the difficulty of completing the requirements:
        - Website is difficult to navigate.
        - Process is lengthy.
    - 1st Email: The application was emailed by Stephanie. Please contact her if you did not receive it.
    - 2nd Email: Background check, sent from "Mycrc.org"
        - Seven days to complete.
    - 3rd Email: Education portion
        - Sent by Heather Ferguson of the State.
    - Sections 2 and 3: Click the FEMA link to trigger the option to insert certifications.
    - Jim McArthur asked whether the State can deputize team members in the event of an incident.
    - A day may be scheduled for volunteers to come to the warehouse for additional help.

        - Registration and the background check must be completed before attending.
        - Assistance will focus on the education portion.

Upcoming Events:

- Dash 4 Cash: Dec. 6, 2026
- Wings over Wayne: May 8-9, 2027
- Disaster Symposium:
    - Save-the-date to be released soon.
    - One-day event.

Regional Updates:

- Communications: (Matt McMahon)
    - Some complaints were raised that EMS radios were not programmed correctly.
    - July 2027: older radios will cease to function.
    - Monthly testing
- Regional SMAT III Update:
    - no report
- PHPR ERO:
    - Grant deliverables are in progress.
    - Ebola outbreak in Congo
    - Military Games (late June to early July 2027) in the Charlotte area.
- Hospital EPI: (Kimberly Nelson)
    - Evan Klayman: new epidemiologist joining the Infection Control team.
    - Surveillance of Flu A and RSV
        - Masking is encouraged in patient care and common areas.
        - Flu A peaked in December last year.
        - Flu A H1N1 predominantly seen so far this year (H3 predominated last year).
    - Measles:
        - Ages 5–19: most cases are among the unvaccinated.
        - Current measles outbreaks in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.
    - Ebola Outbreak
        - Some travel restrictions
        - International passengers must attest to any travel to the DRC within the last 21 days.
- ECUHMC Trauma:

    - no report
- EastCare: (Julie Griffin)
    - David Miller will be new executive director
- OEMS: (Chasity Sterns)
    - New to the position.
        - Assumed Kimberly's former position.
    - SMAT Questions:
        - Refer to Heather
    - Current Roles:
        - David Ezzel: operations side of EMS.
    - Monitoring travel related to Ebola.
    - SMAT onboarding
        - Works with Adobe monthly to resolve bugs.
        - Takes approximately one hour to complete.
    - YouTube training is available for deployment, preparedness, and packing ideas.
    - Under the new process:
        - The process is identifying several volunteers with a criminal history.
            - The background check is highly sensitive.
        - Cleans up the state volunteer list by identifying volunteers enrolled in multiple MRCs across the state.
    - Please reach out with any questions.
- Regional Response Team:
    - No update
- 42nd CST:
    - no update
- DPR Update:
    - All three meetings have been completed.
    - MOAs have been issued for the projects that were voted on.
        - MOAs are one year behind.
    - Do not make purchases until a fully executed MOA is in place.
- NCHEMC Update: (Chris Starbuck)
    - Quarterly meeting held this week.
    - All Hazards Resource Guide
    - Discussion of surge planning (respiratory season).
    - 1135 Waivers
        - Checklist
        - Billing: hard structure vs. soft structure.

    - UNC Rex had TJC survey
        - Two EM sessions:
            - Initial EM session: Discussion around HVA creation/approval/infrastructure
            - Second session: large group, two exercises.
    - Discussion of reviewing the committee's charter and elected positions.
    - Dates released for next year
    - Discussion of AI safety.
    - Starbuck will share the meeting minutes when they become available.
- Emergency Management:
    - New Emergency Manager
    - Area 1 interview completed; an offer is expected soon.
    - Jackie Ward has taken a planner position.
    - Please notify the coalition of any exercises.
    - UNC Wayne Tabletop Exercise:
        - Local prison system participated: prison riot exercise.
            - Stephanie to invite the prison group to present at the next meeting.
    - ECUH Bertie/Chowan Exercise:
        - School system participated; information sharing.

Meeting Dates:

- February 16: Monroe
    - Voting on election and By-Laws
- May 5: Virtual
- August 24: Monroe
- November 9: Virtual