



## DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2909

Office: (785) 832-5259

Fax: (785) 832-5101

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**April 5, 2023**

*Judicial and Law Enforcement Center*

Chair Mike Patrick welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on April 5, 2023.

**LEPC Board Members present in the meeting included:**

Joe Hardy	Mike Patrick
Truman Waugh	Jamie Hofling
Gabi Sprague	Tony Foster
Mike Russell	Derek Bland
Chad Voigt	Kim Murphree
Veronica White	Greg Gardner
KJ Abel Ruch	Karrey Britt
Matthew Faulk	Brad August
David Ernst	

**Emergency Management staff included:**

Robert Bieniecki	Jillian Rodrigue
Joshua Taylor	

**Others attending:** Shannon Lowe, Gregory Dillon

**Welcome/Minutes of January 4, 2023**

- Chair Mike Patrick called the meeting to order.
- David Ernst moved to approve the minutes of the October 5 Full Board Meeting. Brad August seconded and the motion passed.

**Presentation:**

- Josh Taylor presented on the Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop (IPPW).
  - The IPPW helps develop priorities for exercises across agencies to create the Integrated Preparedness Plan which runs on a three-year cycle. This process also helps to document the needs of county agencies for grant and funding purposes.
  - Josh reviewed IPPW survey results from LEPC members.
  - IPP Surveys will continue to be sent to LEPC partners quarterly.

**Executive Committee Business:**

- **2023 Board Reorganization:** The July 5<sup>th</sup> Full Board Meeting will be our reorganization meeting. Members will receive a survey in the coming months to assess your interest in remaining on the board and serving on the executive committee. This process gives an

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opportunity to ensure that community agencies and needs are well represented on the board.

### **Staff Updates** – Robert Bieniecki, Jillian Rodrigue, Josh Taylor

- Plans:
  - **LEOP:** The 2023 ESF review cycle has begun and has been scheduled throughout the year. At the end of the year, ESF primary contacts will come together for a final exercise module together in the EOC. This process will lead into the 2024 update of the County Emergency Operations Plan.
  - **COOP:** The 3-part workshops are continuing, focusing on the cities in the county. Classes will take place in April, May, and June. EM's COOP plan has been approved by the state.
  - **Mitigation:** We are waiting for the grant cycle to start again, but if you are interested in developing proposals ahead of time, reach out to Josh.
- Grants:
  - **HMEP:**
    - 2023: EM will be hiring a consultant to perform a wholistic program gap analysis. We have proposals to consider and will be choosing a contractor in the next few days.
  - **EMPG:** No updates.
- ARPA Project Updates:
  - EOC projects (primary and alternate): Progress is being made in the Alternate EOC. The main EOC will be in a holding pattern until the Alternate is ready so we maintain 1 working EOC at all times. New furniture will be delivered to the EOCs in two weeks.
  - New Vehicle: A vehicle has been ordered.
  - CERT Trailer: A trailer has been ordered. When it is in we can work on building out the interior.
  - Siren Projects (Digipeater and cellular backup): Digipeaters are installed. Cellular backup is in progress.
  - PPE: Volunteer raincoats and staff jackets have been purchased and received.
- Volunteer Groups
  - Volunteers have participated in storm spotter training as well as radio etiquette training. Volunteers have expressed interest in more radio training.
  - Training is being planned for the next few months, including cyber training and exercising potential activation activities.
  - Working on the development of a volunteer peer support team.
  - A short volunteer newsletter goes out monthly; email Erin Huneke if you are interested in being on the email list.

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- Outreach and Training:
    - Lawrence Parks and Recreation has requested some severe weather trainings for outdoor staff, as well as participation in two tabling events which will take place this summer.
    - We will be participating in the Juneteenth event in South Park again this year.
    - We are continuing to make updates to our website to make it more representative of our work and easier for the public to navigate.
    - We are holding a CERT weekend class April 14-16 at the Flory Building. The October class will take place in Eudora.
    - EM is helping to build a mass casualty plan template for downtown Lawrence. This plan could potentially be adapted for large events in other areas of the county. Planning progress slowed with KU's basketball loss in the NCAA tournament, but is still moving forward.
    - Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical is hosting ICS 400 July 26-27. Training slots are still available for any agency employees who need it.
    - Robert is waiting on his appointment to CEPR (State Commission on Emergency Planning and Response) and has begun attending meetings. CEPR oversees LEPCs and HMEP grants among other projects. Robert will be presenting to the commission on product outcomes from Douglas County HMEP grants.
    - EM Staff continue to develop and share their COOP and recovery content geared towards libraries. We are working on tailoring this to non-profits as well.

### Information Sharing

- Mike Patrick: Mike discussed the state-wide swatting issue and praised Douglas County Emergency Communications. Baldwin City Police Department is looking at replacing patrol cars with Teslas which come with their own nuances and challenges.
- Joe Hardy: Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Med is rebranding several trucks. Training is a year-round process and continues constantly.
- Gabi Sprague: The Housing and Homelessness Plan developed by the County and City of Lawrence has been presented to both commissions. Community listening sessions will be held May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30am and May 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm, along with a virtual listening session on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Matthew Faulk: The Treatment and Recovery Center is planned to have a soft opening on April 10<sup>th</sup>. In-patient facilities should be available starting May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Tony Foster: Emergency Communications has an MOU with Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ to be able to divert calls from 911 dispatch to the 988 call center when appropriate and vice versa.; In May, a Douglas County Radio Users group will begin discussing the possibility of an encryption project for county radios, which will be a long-term project.; There has been a recent 600% increase on cyber attacks on public safety agencies. Tony encourages all agencies to be proactive about cyber security.

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- Greg Gardner: Underlined the importance of cyber security, including being aware of phishing emails.
  - David Ernst: Discussed the possibility of SIM card swapping, which is essentially identity theft.
  - Chad Voigt: Discussed the purchase of new trucks, and the South Lawrence Trafficway Project, the west-leg of which will hopefully be breaking ground in late 2024.
  - Jamie Hofling: Updated on the progress of the Climate Action Plan (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/22193694fa0544079c1f6a3de027aa90>) and encouraged continued communication and participation in the planning process.
  - Veronica White: Public Health is in the process of getting a new director.
  - Gregory Dillon: Gregory is taking over outreach to the LEPC for Eric Nold at EPA.
  - Kim Murphree: LDS Church put on a CPR training last week and are working on outreach to younger generations about amateur radio.
  - Derek Bland: Baldwin City Public Schools is working on CPR certification process and looking into an Emergency Crisis Badge communication system.

### **Adjourn:**

Mike Patrick called for a motion to adjourn. Greg Gardner so moved, and Brad August seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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