

Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) Meeting Agenda

Date: 27 September 2023

Time: 1100 - 1400 hours

Location: Hybrid – Physical Location: 17321 Melford Blvd, Bowie, MD 20715

Call-In Information:

- Virtual Information

Time zone: America/New York

Google Meet joining info.

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/qhp-xvhx-src>

Or dial: (US) +1 605-854-1249 PIN: 460 594 181#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/qhp-xvhx-src?pin=9770420551347>

Invitees:

Name	Position Title	Designation
Adrian Grieve	Division Disaster State Relations Director (PA, MD, DE, DC & FEMA RIII), American Red Cross	Member
Bruce Wahl	Former Mayor of Chesapeake Beach	Member
Clay Stamp	County Manager, Talbot County	Member
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense, NAVAIR	Member
Douglas Brown	Deputy Director, Carroll County Department of Public Works	Member
Dwayne Freeman	Athletic Director/Facilities Coordinator/School Safety and Security Team at South Hagerstown High School	Member
Earl "Buddy" Hance	Commissioner, Calvert County	Member
Jasper Jones	Grants Management Specialist, U.S. Department of Labor	Member
Jennifer Martin	Deputy Commissioner, Population Health and Disease Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department	Member
Jonathan Bratt	Assistant Vice President, Enterprise Resilience, University of Maryland	Member
Jonathan Dayton	Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Alleghany County; President, Alleghany County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association	Member
Jonathan Favorite	Director, Strategic Partnerships	Member
Joseph LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation	Member
Kevin Simmons	Director, Office of Emergency Management, City of Annapolis	Member
Mike Berna	Fire Chief, Maryland Fire Chief's Association	Member
Robert Poole	Retired Special Agent, ATF; ODNI, Insider Threat SME	Member
Ronald "Ronnie" Gill	Director, Office of Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Management, Prince George's County	Chairperson
Ryan Miller	Principal, Critical Functions, LLC	Member
Stephen Wantz	TBD	Member
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium	Member
Tiffany Green	Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department	Member
		Member
Marverly Nettles	Consultant, Risk Management	Member
BG Janeen Birckhead	The Adjutant General	Ex-officio
Tim Tharp	Chief of Staff, Maryland National Guard	Ex-officio

Harold "Bud" Frank	Deputy Chief of Staff - Public Safety and Homeland Security	Ex-officio
BG Adam Flasch, USA, Ret.	Director, Governor's Office of Homeland Security	Ex-officio
Russell Strickland	Secretary, MDEM	Ex-officio
Chas Eby	Deputy Executive Director, MDEM	Ex-officio
Anna Sierra	Chief Development Officer	Ex-officio
Brittany Cook	Executive Associate to the Secretary, MDEM	Staff Support
Blake Langford	Chief Program Management Officer, MDEM	Staff Support
Ken Maloney	Continuity Unit Supervisor, MDEM	Guest
Jon Caudle	Cyber Preparedness Unit Supervisor, MDEM	Guest
Marcia Deppen	Director, Consequence Management, MDEM	Guest
Sara Bender	Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, MDEM	Guest
Janet Moncrieffe	Director, Mission Support, MDEM	Guest
Lance Cleghorn	Prgm Mgr Senior IV	Guest

Purpose:

- To fulfill the statutory requirement, as articulated in MD Pub Safety Code § 14-105 (2017), "the Council shall advise the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management."

Objectives (OB) and Intended Outcomes (IO):

Ref#	Objective with Intended Outcome
1	OB-1: Adjudicate and resolve any SERC Business IO-1: Meet all statutory and regulatory requirements
2	OB-2: Discuss Legislative Subcommittee actions IO-2: Determine any courses of action the GEMAC should pursue
3	OB-3: Receive MDEM & 911 Board Briefings IO-3: Situational Awareness; identify opportunities for future council discussion and work efforts
4	OB-4: Receive presentation on the "State of School Emergency Preparedness in Maryland" briefing IO-4: Situational awareness, opportunity for members to discuss future state of programs and provide SME guidance for potential areas of opportunity
5	OB-5: Conduct roundtable to provide any other information for the benefit of the council IO-5: Situational awareness, operational coordination for all members
6	OB-6: Determine and reach consensus on next steps IO-6: Shared understanding of future intent and interim task(s) required to achieve group goals

Agenda:

- Lunch Served at 1100 to 1200 hrs

1200 hrs Opening Remarks

Ronnie Gill - Chairperson

SERC Business

Douglas Brown – GEMAC, SERC Subcommittee Chairperson

No new business was brought to SERC to share since the last meeting.

GEMAC Legislative Subcommittee

Jon Bratt – GEMAC, Legislative Subcommittee Chairperson

Due to limited capacity Jon Bratt will no longer serve as the chairperson. MDEM will provide legislative updates as done in previous years.

MDEM Legislative Update

Anna Sierra – Chief Development Officer, MDEM

An active legislative session is expected in 2024. A few items of last year will return and be considered as well as new items.

- Panic Button in schools that is supported by Senator Walsher from the requirement of the Maryland Center for School Safety. Panic button to be purchased from a DHS support list. There is also a parallel national legislative initiative for panic buttons in classrooms, called Alyssa's Law, that seeks to improve the response time of law enforcement during emergencies in public schools. These buttons could be used for emergencies, violence, medical emergencies. This has been enacted in some counties. There are still many unanswered questions about cost, existing buttons, funding, private school requirements, and the 911 dispatch. MDEM is evaluating this initiative by looking at what other jurisdictions are doing, what are the lessons learned to make a thoughtful policy recommendation. Most of the lessons learned are from - calling 911 has been shown to be an effective means of communication but coordinating multiple calls to 911 and multiple agencies' responses is clearly needed. Panic buttons are costly and wouldn't resolve this gap. The group will create a formal report of the findings and identify effective policy recommendations that address gaps, fears, and lessons learned.
 - Discussion followed about the use of panic buttons/ notification to other people in the building, other security measures such as automatic locking mechanisms, public address systems and a regional alert system.
- Voluntary Special Needs Registry - the ability for someone with guardianship to voluntarily register someone who has physical limitations, such as being non-verbal, physical or cognitive limitations or deaf, which would interfere with a law enforcement situation. The bill sought to reduce the confusion and safeguard for such vulnerable community members. The bill did not advance due to concerns with the administration of such a large population, without funding. Also, the registry would alert responders when responding to an incident at a registered individual's home address. In a situation not occurring at the home address, there is no mechanism to alert responders. This recommendation is expected to be revised, further developed and reintroduced in 2024.
- Update on the State Disaster Recovery Fund which passed, but was not funded. Development of the program is halted. MDEM can proceed and develop the fundamental criteria of funding. MDEM will meet with local emergency managers and coordinating entities for recovery operations in November to determine needs, and concepts. Local EMs have been active with their legislators to advocate for this, although Gov. Moore has advised this will be a tough year for fiscal spending.
 - GEMAC can advise the Governor as they see fit.
 - Governor introduces a budget in January, and it goes to the legislature for review. Legislature, as of 2023, can move money and cannot spend more than the Governor allocates.

MDEM Director Briefing

Marcia Deppen/Chas Eby – Director, Consequence Management Directorate, MDEM

Activation of State EOC during Ophelia, now wrapping up recovery and activation level has returned to normal level.

Involved with some multi-agency coordination matters for the possible Federal Government shutdown. The Risk Analysis Team is working with other state agencies to analyze the impact of a government shutdown. From MDEM's perspective, they are concerned about the impact on Maryland residents, and how they could fulfill gaps.

The Primary Operations Management Plan manual was recently updated and is in the process of being finalized. It will be published to the website and will be sent to GEMAC.

MDEM was awarded a Contract for technical assistance support from FEMA's National Exercise Division. MDEM will provide a multi day full scale exercise in Spring 2025 on the Eastern Shore. Planning has not yet begun.

DHS FEMA announced that the next NOFO for the State & Local Cybersecurity grant program has released to Maryland \$6.2 million with a 20% match requirement. This is the second year of that program.

Recruiting and hiring are underway for a few new MDEM positions in the Cyber Preparedness Unit, as well as for a Local Support Branch Manager, Non-profit Engagement Program Manager, and a Liaison Officer roles. Following some retirements, the Liaison roles will be enhanced and expanded. Formerly organized regionally, now will be organized into groups of two and do special events. They will be focused on consequence management, preparedness and response. Mitigation team is similarly reorganized. Non-governmental Operations will also perform a liaison role. Focused on doing liaison work/ relationship building.

Awaiting funding decisions on IT proposals.

MJOC 24/7 Center is the heart of our organization. Staffing has been challenging, but they have gotten creative with resources, and training staff.

Janet Moncrieffe – Director, Mission Support Directorate, MDEM

Received \$13.2 million from the Grant Program from USC and SHGP UASI? Urban Area Security Initiative All applications have been completed for all jurisdictions. There have been a few additions to the national priorities. They will host a webinar to discuss the national priorities with the local jurisdictions.

Job openings: The Mission Support Directorate has 4 job openings. Three administrators and one Supervisor are sought for the Non-Profit Security Grant Program.

Sara Bender – Director, Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate, MDEM

FEMA updates. The Storm Act funding which supports the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan fund was approved in the amount of \$6.5 million. Another NOFO for that project will be released in the Fall 2023. NOFO could be delayed due to immediate needs for funding for disaster assistance. Likely will not be announced until the federal budget is passed. The Public Assistance COVID program funding is also paused.

BRIC/FMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs; notice of Interest process closed last week for the cycle. The program is proceeding on a normal timeline, with no extension and applications will be submitted in January.

Community Disaster Resilience Zones are designed to build resilience across the nation by driving resources to the most at-risk and in-need jurisdictions. This process will be used to target assistance from FEMA for areas that have the potential for higher cost share for remediation. Maryland will have 6 zones and the first zones were identified recently by census information and the National Risk Index. The six zones are all on the Eastern shore: Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester counties. FEMA is going to be expanding this program but there is no timeline. FEMA and other federal agencies will use this data for resilience, mitigation and assistance decisions.

Mesonet update. The Mesonet will be a network of 72 weather observation towers across the state to help agencies and first responders prepare for dangerous weather, among other functions. MDEM is partnering with the University of Maryland. 3 landing agreements are in place in Allegany, Easton and Caroline Counties. Pending construction quotes for those three sites presently, although estimates are higher than planned. 13 other land site landing agreements are under review. Talbot may be the first site in the next month. Sites have been identified in Howard, Prince Georges, Kent, Wicomico, Worcester, Baltimore, Garret, Somerset, Easton, Washington counties and Baltimore City and agreements are progressing. They are still seeking sites for Cecil, Anne Arundel and St. Mary's Counties.

Job opening is advertised for the Non-profit Engagement Program Manager.

Cyber Security Briefing

Jon Caudle - Cyber Preparedness Unit Supervisor

Ken Maloney - Continuity Unit Supervisor

Lance Cleghorn - Program Mgr Senior IV

Presented, "How MDEM and DoIT are Building Operational Resilience."

Outline:

MDEM - Cyber Preparedness Unit Functions

MDEM - State Continuity Unit Functions

DoIT = Director of Cyber Resiliency Functions

The Cyber Preparedness Unit (CPU) Functions are to assist local governments, State entities and agencies, and critical infrastructure with pre-incident preparedness and incident response and recovery.

They reached out to DoIT, National Guard, MSPolice, MCAC, MCSS to determine capabilities, existing resources, and coordinate for large cyber incidents.

- Preparedness responsibilities:
 - Cybersecurity Planning Development
 - Cyber Disruption Coordination Plan (consequence management)
 - Cyber incident Response Plan (technical response)
 - Collaboration to Create and Achieve Operational Resilience
- Training & Education
- Exercise & Capability Evaluation
- Assessment Coordination
- Cyber Preparedness Technical Assistance
- Federal Grant & State Funding Opportunities

Response & Recovery responsibilities

- Incident Management Assistance
- Incident Advisor
- Support & Triage Resource
- Requests
- Recovery Planning Support

State Continuity (of Government) Unit - Functions

- Continuity of Operations
 - Essential Functions of State Departments and Agencies
- Continuity of Government
 - Executive Branch COG; Judicial & Legislative Branch technical assistance
- Enduring Constitutional Government
 - Culmination of each COG plan
- Continuity Communications & IT
 - Support before, during and after disruption of operational communication/DR/IT

- Records Management & Records Retention
 - Management of vital records: Records Emergency Action Plan

MDEM has a robust continuity team who ensures that these functions happen. This team provides direct technical assistance from planning to exercise for the state and local partners. They have provided several training via email, private sector, etc for the industry standard of business continuity for the government agencies. They also provide incident advisors to support impacted entities to restore essential functions and execute continuity strategies. They support many local jurisdictions in any way they can.

COOP plans are built entirely in house. They provide a template which complies with State mandates to other State Agency group coordinators. The plans are inputted manually and once the initial plan is in place, routine maintenance and revisions are all that's needed. All state departments have uniform COOP plans that meet the legislative requirements. They are electronic and stored securely. Backups are available but not accessible otherwise.

DoIT Office of Cyber Resilience - Functions

Proactive Services:

- Adversary Emulation
- Threat Hunting - indicators of activity across the landscape
- Cyber Continuity - partnerships to facilitate communication when incident occurs

Operational Services - what they do when an event unfolds

- MDSOC - MDJOC for cyber
- MD-ISAC - Information sharing and assessment
- Managed SIEM - Security Incident in Event Management

Reactive Services - how do we help recover

- Mass Comms- how to communicate with everyone
- Incident Response
- MD-CERT (SCIRT) Cyber Emergency Response Team for large scale/statewide event.

DoIT: Improving Incident Response

- Prior to 2021, MD SOC existed but was an outsourced capability but that year, basic capabilities for incident response was established "inhouse." Since then, The State created the MDSOC followed by legal backing for DMSOC and created reporting requirements. In 2023, the Office of Cyber Resilience MDSOC and Incident response organized under cyber resilience with a focus on becoming more proactive than reactive. Goals for 2024 is to build out more proactive services and in 2025 achieve the Cyber Fusion Center which will fully integrate cyber and intelligence capabilities, managed services and Network Maryland.
- DoIT: Analyst Training Program

Creating and Achieving Operational Resilience

- Operational Resilience is created through the alignment of operations, technology and leadership.
- Operations resilience is achieved through the collaboration, coordination, cooperation, and engagement of all stakeholders.

Operational Resilience is the ability to deliver and execute operations, including essential functions and critical business functions, through disruptions from any threat or hazard.

Operational Resilience Components:

- Continuity
 - Continuity of Operations for Government Essential Functions
 - Business Continuity for Revenue Generating
- Disaster Recovery
 - IT Restoration of Systems, Applications and Infrastructure
- Essential Records
 - Records Management & Retention
 - Data Management
 - Data Privacy
- Risk Management
- Cyber Resilience
 - Cyber security
 - Cyber Incident Response
- Crisis Management
 - Crisis Communication
 - Incident Response
- Consequence Management

Question: What is DoIT doing to build trust with locals? Response: The Director of Local Cyber Security has been working tirelessly with local communities. They are building relationships and trust through services and support.

Question: Is incident information disseminated from State to local jurisdictions? There are integrated fluid connections when events happen. Through the MDI-SAC, incidents are shared.

MDEM Executive Leadership Brief

Russell Strickland – Secretary, MDEM

Expressed gratitude for the staff who responded to the Ophelia storm.

NEMA - National Emergency Management Agency. FEMA We did not receive the supplemental that they needed for the disaster relief fund before the expected federal government shutdown. A \$20 billion Disaster Relief fund for FY24 will likely be reduced by 12 million due to the budget shortfall. If the government shutdown, \$8million dollars earmarked for disaster relief will be inaccessible.

Congress is in the process of considering a bill for Management Costs. Management costs are limited to an incident's expiration date. States are asking that management costs be allowed to be used beyond the expiration date to give state aid and global jurisdictions. It would be used for recovery, this bill is under consideration

FEMA - there is a bill that is being considered that would remove FEMA from the DHS and have it report directly to the White House. This has been considered since 2000. Recently, there is a freshman congressman who has presented the bill because they believe there are benefits to changing FEMA's reporting.

Chas Eby – Deputy Executive Director, MDEM

Other Q&A and Roundtable

GEMAC Members

Coordination of Ophelia was impressive, kudos to MDEM for the coordination of Ophelia

Recovery- agree with Secretary Strickland - we need to do recovery better

Welcomes the creation of the Disaster Relief Fund which will provide an opportunity for the State to create a template that local governments could emulate and scale.

Gratitude for MDEM for expanding the SWEM calls to include the higher education community to facilitate coordination and ensure safety of students and community.

Letters of Support - Blake can provide support. Contact Brittany Cook for info.

Nov. 1 next meeting.

Next Steps

Ronnie Gill – Chairperson

NLT

Adjourn

1400hrs

Ronnie Gill - Chairperson