

**Central Naugatuck Valley Emergency Planning Committee/Citizen Corps-
CERT
Watertown Fire House
December 11, 2008
5:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present: Dick Mortensen, Prospect; Chet Sergey, Wolcott; Richard Stubbs, ARC; Dave Hardt, Watertown; Fran Dambowski and Ken Hanks, Naugatuck

Guest: Elanah Sherman, Advocate, State Office of Protection and Advocacy

Staff: Virginia Mason, Assistant Director

Chairman Ken Hanks called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. Under Public Comment, Chet Sergey spoke about how pleased DEMHS leadership was with the Region 5 progress to date.

Invited guest, Elanah Sherman of the State Office of Protection and Advocacy, held a frank discussion of the priorities of her office in protection the rights of the disabled. She proposed to hold a conference for about 70-90 people in Region 5 in the spring. She distributed an agenda from another Region's conference and described each session in more detail. Elanah said her office will pay for all conference costs. She would like EMDs, LEPCs and CEO (if involved) invited. It was noted that the entire system of dealing with people with disabilities relies on self-identification. She recommended against having an ESF specifically dealing with special needs and, instead, incorporating them into all ESF work and discussed the concept of supportive care shelters. If a person lives independently, with or without assistance, then they must be accommodated in a general shelter. The goal is universal access and parity (if you don't offer something to the general population, you don't offer it to the disabled). Common sense should be used, but take care not to discriminate. The CNVEPC endorsed the idea of the conference. Fran Dambowski suggested the meeting be held on a Saturday to accommodate all the volunteer EMDs. Elanah suggested people look at the www.adaptiveenvironments.org website.

Ken updated the group on the Regional Exercise planning which will be called Operation Gridlock. The committee meets the 17th at the COG office. Virginia mentioned the successful Drought Exercise done by Gradient Planning in Southbury yesterday. It was very well attended by state and local agencies and assisted by Tom Romano of DEMHS.

Under Citizen Corps, Prospect requested training for 15 people since their previous grant expired. This would be their first CERT class. On a motion by Chet, seconded by Dave Hardt, it was moved to endorse Prospect's application. Wolcott sought an amendment to their previous Category B grant to add winter clothing. The grant is still below the Statewide Citizen Corps guidelines. On a motion by Richard, seconded by Dave, the EPC endorsed Wolcott's revised application.

On a motion by Chet, seconded by Richard, the following calendar for 2009 was adopted.

January 8, 2009 (already on calendar)
February 19, 2009
March 12, 2009
No April Meeting
May 14, 2009
June 11, 2009
July 9, 2009
August 13, 2009
September 10, 2009
October 8, 2009
November 12, 1009
December 10, 2009

The importance of attendance was discussed. Virginia will bring it up at the COG meeting tomorrow and send out letters of attendance to the CEOs so that those unable to attend regularly can be replaced. It is important for grant funding that as many participate as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Mason
Assistant Director