



CUYAHOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD(CCESAB)



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: 7/8/2025 9:00 AM

Location: 2501 Harvard Ave., Newburgh Hts., OH 44125 (HAMY)

Attendees

NAME	Present	ASSOCIATION	ALTERNATE	Present
Takisha Fuller	x	CCBH	Jacqueline Jackson	
Tracy Pate		CDPH	Lexi Shields	x
John Corn		NEORS	Tom Madej	
Larry Tafe (non-voting)	x	PSJS Grants	Lezlie White (non-voting)	
Bob Zehentbauer (non-voting)		OEMA	Michelle Sowers (non-voting)	x
Chief Briant Galgas		MHFD	Chief Matt Schneider	x
Mark Christie (Chair)	x	CCOEM	Kevin Friis	x
Fred Szabo (Vice-Chair)	x	CLE OEM	Bob Horwatt	x
Jeff Minch (Community Rep.)	x	Middleburg Hts. PW		
Gabrielle Hubbard	x	Metro Health	Tara Vargovich	
Paige Herron	x	CWRU	Jacob Sala	
Sharon Nicastro	x	ARC		
Act. Chief Bev Pettrey		CSU PD	Cpt. Scott Secor	x
Kelly Hickman		Services for Ind. Living	Nora Wall	x
Serena Steele	x	COAD		
Jeremy Mio (non-voting)	x	Cuyahoga County IT		
Christina Fozio	x	WellLink	Derek Duty	
Robin Roy	x	Cuyahoga County BOE		
Mike Herb (non-voting)		Cleveland Public Safety		
Eric Morgan (non-voting)	x	NEORFC		
Natalia Maikranz (non-voting)	x	CDPH		
Matt Reinke (non-voting)		CLE OEM		

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MINUTES

- **CALL TO ORDER**

- Meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM
- Roll Call conducted; quorum met.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- F. Szabo motioned to approve the minutes from the 5/13/25 meeting. C. Fozio seconded. All yeas, no nays. Minutes approved.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

- **GRANTS UPDATE**

- L. Tafe provided status updates for the impending FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Ohio EMA is still unaware of the timeline and is encouraging counties to use FY24 priorities as a basis. Once the NOFO is issued, it is expected to be a short timeline to submit projects. M. Christie stated that DHS has yet to release the Risk Profiles, which usually precedes the NOFO. Additionally, M. Christie informed the committee that the FY24 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant had been canceled. L. Tafe also stated that PSJS is coordinating an inventory of grant-funded equipment and provided an overview of the status of several open grants.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER BUSINESS**

- M. Christie introduced Greg Laurenson as the Office's new HAZMAT Analyst. M. Christie also stated that they had recently extended an offer to fill a vacant EM Specialist position. He also provided updates on the June 18th Progressive Field exercise, the water exercise planned for September, and the Annual EM Summit.
- T. Fuller stated that CCBH is finalizing their Preparedness/ MRC Coordinator position. Additionally, CCBH is attempting to integrate numerous new staff members and enable them to connect with colleagues and partners.
- S. Steele expressed that the CPOD training will be rescheduled to August 28th. It will consist of 4 hours of classroom training and 4 hours of practical training outside. S. Steele also updated the group on a new grant cycle for trainings. She needs to submit training requests to the state by 7/21. Lastly, S. Steele stated that an Access and Functional Needs Committee will be reconvened on August 12th to update Guidance that had been prepared several years ago.
- S. Nicastro provided updates on ARC's response to the Rainbow Terrace Apartments. ARC opened a shelter and managed 43 cases for the event.
- B. Horwatt discussed the Progressive Field exercise. Further, B. Horwatt elaborated on the city's response to the Rainbow Terrace Apartments incident.
- F. Szabo discussed Cleveland's EOC activations for July 4th and the recent "No Kings" demonstrations. F Szabo also touched on the city's response to the extreme heat along with their efforts to activate cooling centers.
- K. Friis discussed impending changes to the THIRA/SPR processes and stated that he will engage local stakeholders later this year.
- M. Schneider stated that the Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs' Association is on summer break.
- E. Morgan stated that the Homeland Security position within their office has been vacated and that it is unclear if it will be replaced. He also mentioned that the Medical Examiner's Opiod Analyst should be onboarded soon.
- J. Minch reported that Middleburgh Hts. had activated their cooling center for the recent extreme heat. Additionally, the city has experienced some recent sewer backup issues due to heavy rainfall.

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Lastly, J. Minch discussed the additional planning around community home days/ festivals that is occurring as a result of large numbers of youth showing up unexpectedly.

- L. Sheilds provided an overview of the funding cuts to public health. She also mentioned that registration for their first responder conference in November (3rd-9th) is open.
- P. Herron reported that the CWRU commencement went well.
- S. Secor reported that CSU's move-in day will be August 23rd. He also stated that the Wolstein Center is scheduled to host numerous upcoming events.
- M. Reinke provided additional insight into the city's response to the Rainbow Terrace Apartments incident. Cleveland is continuing to process resident needs and an After-Action Report (AAR) will eventually be produced.
- N. Wall stated that her organization will participate on the Access and Functional Needs committee.
- C. Fozio also discussed funding cuts affecting public health and hospitals. She stated that she is in discussions with the State on the matter.
- G. Hubbard stated that MetroHealth Hospital had received numerous burn patients from the Rainbow Terrace Apartment incident. She expressed that the event prompted a review of their surge plan. Additionally, G. Hubbard also stated that they plan to hold another MCI Expo and Simulation in November due to the positive reception to the one held in May. Lastly, a HAZMAT drill will be conducted on August 27th.
- J. Mio stated that they are working with Cleveland to partner on cybersecurity response and that CyberOhio activities are currently being affected by delays in funding. Lastly, J. Mio mentioned that there is a cybersecurity conference scheduled for August 26th-27th at the Huntington Convention Center.
- M. Sowers expressed that Ohio EMA is fulfilling EMAC requests from the recent flooding in Texas. She also discussed an open field position within Ohio EMA.
- R. Roy provided an update on the new location for the Cuyahoga County BOE along with its security improvements.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION¹**

- No Executive Session

- **NEXT MEETING**

- M. Christie stated that the next meeting is scheduled for September 9th.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM.

¹ **EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE HELD PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE (ORC) 121.22(G)** ORC 121.22(G)(5), a public body may hold an executive session to consider "matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes." ORC 121.22(G)(6) provides that consideration of "[d]etails relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or a public office." Under this exception, both conditions must be met: (1) the subject of the meeting must relate to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office; a(2) public disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of that public body or public office.