



**MARIN OPERATIONAL AREA
DISASTER & CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the June 11, 2020 Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) was held digitally on Thursday, June 11, 2020, in compliance of local and state shelter in place orders as allowed by Governor Newsom's *Executive Order N-29-20*. DC3 will not be providing in person meetings until further notice. The Council and Public have been given instructions on how to join and participate in these meetings.

Council Members Present: Dennis Rodoni, Joe Chinn, Chris Choo, Michael Grant, Garry Lion, Stephen Marcotte, Michael McDermott, Peter Mendoza, Mohamed Osman, Adriana Rabkin, Ed Schulze, Frederick Stemmler, Vincent Valenzuela, Bill Tyler, Jay Hubert, Chris Reilly, Jason Weber, and Catherine Way. **Council Members Excused:** Jack Baker and Lisa Santora.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni ("Chair") called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. The meeting was held virtually.

APPROVAL OF March 12, 2019 MINUTES

The Chair asked for a Motion to Approve the March 12, 2020 minutes after a quorum was met. As submitted to the Council, with no corrections and no additions, the Minutes were adopted.

**Motion: Schulze / Second: Way
AYES: ALL**

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

3. Presentations:

Marin Recovers, by Angela Nicholson

Since businesses have begun reopening in Marin County, we have been putting together a robust program for business recovery. We called upon sixteen industries to identify six to ten business owners in the sectors to help us give feedback on how they can operate and reopen safely. As the state has slowly opened up different sectors, we have called on these groups to help develop guidelines for businesses on the <http://www.marinrecovers.com> site.

The site is intended to give specific guidance to business owners so they do not have to search for information. A business can go to the website and print out site-specific plans as they are updated, to post at their businesses. We have tried to make it simple for businesses to reopen. The website also provides resources for members of the community since many are in great economic trouble. Some examples of these resources cover information for rental assistance and what happens if you are COVID positive and need income replacement. We also have included local Chamber of Commerce plans for

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small businesses. We are trying to make the site a “one stop shop” for our community as they come out of this deep shelter in place.

We have not attested to the state that our numbers are low enough, that we should be able to open faster than the State guidance. Many counties of the state have done this. Our incidence of COVID has been significantly higher in the state requirement. In order to attest to get a variation from the State’s guidance, we need to have under twenty-five cases per 100,000 residents in the previous fourteen days. At this time, we have seventy-six cases per 100,000 in the last fourteen days. This is about 160 to 170 cases in the last fourteen days.

We continue seeing increases of cases in the County. Our decision on re-opening is based on the epidemiology and what’s safe for people. It also includes recognizing that when we do open up, there will be more cases. We need to try and figure out if we have appropriate hospitalization available, PPE, and testing rapidly available for those who require it so that we can provide services to them. We have many services in place and at this point and have fairly low hospitalization rates. We are moving forward with Marin Recovers and are appreciative of the industry people who have worked with us. We have learned the peculiarity of Marin businesses in order to keep them and their employees safe.

Supervisor Rodoni commented that Marin Recovers shows a great partnership between public health, private business, and city and county government. It’s important that this partnership works in order for it to be successful.

Questions:

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers, asked if there is information on the website that shows community groups where they can obtain PPE. *Angela* stated that the site does list businesses that provide PPE. She also added that a group of volunteers called, the Marin Mask-eteers, have sewed approximately 10,000 masks for the County and also sell masks in their shop.

Peter Mendoza, AFN Representative, asked if there was anyone serving on Marin Recovers from the CA Department of Rehabilitation. *Angela* stated no, but Laney Davidson, from the County of Marin, reviews guidance and makes sure it meets accessibility standards. We are also working with other County departments to ensure online accessibility is met to fit the needs of the community. *Peter* added he was asking more for the County for support for people with disabilities who are working or returning to work. He said it might be a good resource for employment needs as they return to work. This group is vulnerable to COVID-19 and may need reasonable accommodation to be able to go back to work.

COVID-19 Update, by Dr. Matt Willis

The San Francisco Bay Area corresponds to more areas in the state that are more restrictive due to being one of the hot zones in the state for COVID-19. This has been the case since the beginning. Santa Clara County was the first county seeing dramatic transmissions in the community. Hospitals in early March were seeing surges; ICUs were close to being full and were running out of ventilators. Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County Public Health Officer, called a meeting to confer with other Bay Area Public Health Officers to discuss the developing COVID-19 problem. At first, there were cases in the South Bay counties which worked their way up to San Francisco and further north. It was during this meeting that the Public Health Officers decided to enact one of the first shelter in place policies in the nation, with a real lock down. Days later, Governor Newsom would spread this order to the State.

Now we’re at a point where the County is reopening. We know that the shelter in place was what it took to maintain control to reopen safely. We are reengaging with each other to make sure we are doing

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everything we can to protect one another. We are aware that it is not sustainable or economically viable to keep the shelter in place restrictions.

There are 625 cases to date and a dramatic increase in case counts since mid-May to early June. We are also tracking hospitalizations that jump from zero to ten in the County. Much larger counties have hospitalizations that range from thirty to sixty to eighty.

We have been comparing the number of tests conducted vs. the number of tests that are negative. We have also dramatically increased the number of testing done in the County – from 100 tests per day to now, about 500 tests per day. Despite the fact that we are doing more testing, positive tests have also increased which is concerning and shows increased transmission.

The greatest number of cases in terms of cities and towns are San Rafael and Novato. This is not only because they are our biggest cities, but it shows evidence of the highest transmission rate in the County.

If we look at the age groups within our population, 21% of Marin is below the age of eighteen and only 13% of COVID cases lie within this group. Those in the age group who are sixty-five and older take up 21% of the population and make up 15% of COVID cases. It is important that we make sure older residents who are at higher risk of contracting COVID and have a higher mortality rate are over protected. We are hoping to see fewer cases in this age group. 15% of COVID cases are hospitalized and within that, 44% of those hospitalized are sixty-five and older. This group also accounts for 100% of the deaths in the County, at seventeen to date. These numbers within the older population reinforces what we know about the virus and how harmful it is for this age group.

There are slightly higher rates of infection and more severe illness and deaths among males than females. The general demographic for race/ethnicity in the County is comprised of approximately 71% White, 16% Hispanic/Latin, 6% Asian, and other groups in smaller numbers. Out of those affected, 64% of cases have self-identified as Hispanic/Latino vs. the 16% they represent in the whole County. A shift occurred in the last month which dramatically swung for this particular community. This has been a key strategic influence in our response for this community.

Typically, there is a lot of variability with different models' predictions; some have error in them as well. However there are some models that are agreeing on some predictions. These models include John Hopkins University, RAND, and COVID Act Now. We don't normally see convergence of this nature. They end up with different numbers due to having different formulas, but they do show an increase of cases around July and August/September. We were predicting a possible surge in the fall, but these models indicate it may be occurring sooner than expected.

We have a new modeling formula for Marin to help us determine within our own community. Models are valuable but we need to interpret them in the context of their limitations and benefits. The models do suggest another surge which makes sense. We estimate about 5% of our population has been infected and may have immunity so far. The vast majority remains susceptible as these models show. This second surge makes sense conceptually. We have a model that shows the effects of non-pharmacological interventions (NPI) which are the things we do every day, like social distancing, covering our faces, or washing our hands. Our model shows difference levels of surges with varying levels of NPI behavior. It shows how sensitive our incidence is to how well we execute those NPIs. We have approximately 450 hospital beds in the County. If we are not exercising our NPIs and going about life like it was before (~30-40% effectiveness,) the Hopkins model shows that we would well exceed the number of hospital beds available for example. These models are a very scientific way of interpreting an important concept – our fate is in our own hands. How we relate to one another as we work to reopen will directly affect infection rates. If we participate more with NPIs, we have a much better chance of lowering the spread of the virus.

San Quentin Prison Update

These Minutes were reviewed and approved at the September 10, 2020 Marin Disaster Council Meeting.

- California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation managed, with assistance from California Department of Public Health, and supported by Marin Public Health at the request of the facility
- 122 inmates transferred from Chino due to large outbreak from that facility
 - Inmates were tested upon arrival
 - Placed in shared unit with other inmates
 - 17 cases total as of June 17, 2020 – 15 Chino inmates and 2 San Quentin – 1 inmate, 1 staff
- County has offered support with PPE, testing, and expertise in outbreak management
- Prison's surge plan will start on site, then outside hospitals they have contracts with, then Marin Health

Gradual reopening with the latest updates:

- Phase 2e – June 5, 2020
 - Outdoor faith-based and cultural ceremonies
 - Charter boat operators
 - Dog parks
 - Swimming Pool use
- Anticipated re-openings:
 - Phase 2f – planned for June 12, 2020
 - Indoor retail
 - Real estate – residential/commercial transactions
 - Car dealerships
 - Phase 2g – planned for June 29, 2020
 - Restaurants – indoor dining
 - Hair salons
 - Gyms and fitness studios

Questions:

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers, stated that we are seeing a lot of protesting. She asked if we were seeing any changes in the number of positive tests yet or if it was too early. She also asked how you would encourage cities and towns to recognize the value of the political process of protesting, but trying to stay as safe as possible. **Dr. Willis** responded that it was too early to tell what the effect of this has been. He noted the majority of people that are protesting are covering their faces and that people are gathering outdoors. Risk is much lower for transmission in this situation. A lot of outbreaks in mass gatherings have been attributed to being indoors. From the public health standpoint, we want to allow these gatherings to occur safely and make sure people have masks. Public health officers recognize racial inequities have been an important determinant of health for so long, even in Marin County. Looking at life expectancy in Ross, one of the more affluent, mainly white communities vs. Marin City, a lower income, primarily African-American community, the life expectancy difference is about fifteen years. If there is a movement with hope to improve these systems, then from a public health standpoint, these things should be allowed. We are offering testing for those who were protesting who are concerned about exposure.

Adriana Rabkin, Marin VOAD, asked who is being tested – is it primarily essential workers? Dr. Willis answered that people who don't have a lot of risk who want reassurance are being tested, essential workers, and many others for certain communities. We are not seeing a lot of cases within those who haven't ventured out a lot or can work from home. **Adriana** asked what the County was doing to support people who test positive who live in apartment buildings or have multiple family members. **Dr. Willis** said that the County is actively working on these services. There are community based organizations that reach out to those who have tested positive and bilingual services and staff that assist. We are doing investigation on work and living situations and offering income support especially if people are not able to work. We want to make sure people aren't compelled to work to make ends meet. We offer alternatives for housing and have units set aside for those who live with multiple people who need to be quarantined.

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Ed Schulze, District 4 Representative, asked if he were to enter a facility or business and they take your temperature, is it safe to say that it is safe to be around those who are inside? Dr. Willis said that no, not just on the basis of taking one's temperature. We can't assume anyone is safe to be around unless there is 6' of distancing and a face covering. There are still people who don't show symptoms who can infect people. Also, not everyone who has COVID has a fever. We don't want to over rely on one modality. We have to take in account all the measures of prevention to be more protected.

Public Comment:

Sybil Boutilier, had a question regarding the strike team – are they are only being referred to skilled nursing facilities or other congregate adult living situations? She also asked how they interact with these populations and what the role of mobile testing units played. **Dr. Willis** responded that skilled nursing facilities and congregate living facilities are one of our most important priorities. The mobile unit visits focus on locations that have activity – it could be a place of employment or a skilled nursing facility, if we're seeing clusters of cases for example. If there is no activity we need to respond to, we work through a schedule of facilities that need routine testing.

Meg Cadiz, stated she was representing on behalf of the Executive Director of Legal Aid of Marin. They were asked by the Canal Alliance to prepare a legal guide for those who have tested positive and wanted to see if Public Health could review the document. **Dr. Willis** responded they would be glad to review it.

Pati Stoliar with Age Friendly – Corte Madera, asked about COVID symptom trackers and if they were being used in the County. She noted that one was put together by Harvard, Stanford and Kings College in London, due to the lack of testing available. **Dr. Willis** replied that we've been looking at a variety of technological solutions. Crowd sourced tracking is best if a lot of people are using it. For this to be successful, public health would have to make a push for the public to use it. He said he hasn't chosen a stand point yet partly because he doesn't know if the evidence is clear. Tracking would be varied from the flu and COVID symptoms and some could be attributed to a cold or allergies. We have been reluctant to push for this locally for these reasons. We are learning week by week on what strategies to use and what to promote.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Self-Registration by Volunteer Disaster Service Workers, by Tom Jordan

The proposed motion will allow self-certification of pre-vetted members of the public who are volunteering to assist a coordinated response effort as a disaster service worker per California Civil Code Sections 3100, 33103, 2015.5, which allows for volunteer oaths to be fulfilled by self-certification. This falls under the purview per Marin County Code Section 2.99. The DC3 has been provided a letter and resolution for a proposed motion.

Questions:

Ed Schulze, District 4 Representative asked what the term duration was. **Tom** replied that it is open ended, but the practice was to register for a fixed period which is reflected on the form. A fixed period for the COVID response DSW status would be set at one year period for example. **Supervisor Rodoni** added that it would allow someone to be able to recertify if they wanted to.

Public comment:

Skip Fedanzo commented that CERT typically has been using a four-year re-certification cycle. If this self-certification is adopted, are the individual organizations allowed to determine what length is appropriate for their organization? **Tom** responded, yes, in this

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circumstance, we are looking to make modifications through the resolution, especially for medical and technical specialists. It will be under their discretion for the length and the specific function for which they are serving.

Ann Bauer, volunteer program assistant for the City of San Rafael volunteer program, asked if Tom could define “pre-vetted” and if this was something that the County approves, would city agencies need to approve of it or are we under the County umbrella? **Tom** replied, that yes you are under the County and specifically under the Marin Operational Area, a function of standardized emergency management system. “Pre-vetted” has a lot to do with the program managers. For example for medical volunteers, there are several components that need to be met such as affirmation, confidentiality, Livescan, and other programmatic elements that the potential volunteer must agree to prior to the Oath of Affirmation. **Ann** asked when would this take place and how immediate it would be. **Tom** responded that we are going through the civil process now to allow for it. The mechanics to applying it include taking the form through DocuSign and testing it out to make sure it is functional and to get it in use. If the Council moves the motion, it will be in use swiftly.

Motion: Mendoza / Second: Schulze
AYES: ALL

5. OLD BUSINESS:

Status of Grants Administered by Marin County OES

Please email OES at oes@marinsheriff.org for a copy of the grants report, which was shared at this meeting by Therese Gorostiza, OES Office Specialist/Grants Management.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Disaster Education & Preparedness Committee Report

Catherine Way, Marin Council of Mayors & Councilmembers, reported in May, we had Dr. Santora talk about testing and contact tracing and this month we had Angela Nicholson speak about Marin Recovers. Catherine asked for **Vincent Valenzuela** to speak about Red Cross’ involvement, **Garry Lion** to speak about Mike Blakeley’s talk from the Marin Economic Forum, and for **Adriana Rabkin** to speak on current VOAD topics.

Vincent stated that the Red Cross has started a virtual family assistance center across the nation. It is a local resource for people who are going through the stress and grieving associated with COVID-19, especially if one has experienced a loss. It is also meant for first responders, healthcare workers, and skilled nursing workers to be able to get information in sixteen areas that include emotional support, faith based resources, funeral information, legal resources, financial information, and veterans’ assistance. The program just started and the Red Cross is starting to spread it to local partners.

Red Cross is also starting their mass care planning due to the pending fire season. They are working with hotel projects separate from Project Room Key. Sheltering options have changed due to current circumstances.

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Garry spoke about Mike Blakeley, CEO of Marin Economic Forum, who has been keeping in touch with the community and their concern of the business impact from COVID. Local chambers, cities, and other forums of government began setting up task forces and panels to answer questions regarding these concerns. The County stepped in and began Marin Recovers which helped pull everything together. The CEO sits on the committee and represents the business community. We are trying to figure out what the demand will be for business services. Another big issue that exists is a lot of businesses have a break-even point they need to get to in order to determine if it's even worth it to stay open. These are the types of things we will have to monitor.

Adriana said that the VOAD has been very busy during the COVID response. They have been working with food liaisons to get certain populations fed. They have worked with the Great Plates program working with local restaurants to provide food. There were approximately 780 participants and twenty-eight restaurants involved and thousands of meals provided.

We have been brought into conversations about emergency financial assistance, childcare for health care workers, and providing meals for school children. We have assisted with setting up mental health activities like yoga and meditation and homeless facilities, spontaneous PPE donations, and coordinating face coverings for residents that are handed out at food distribution locations.

We are also coordinating a subcommittee of VOAD, on spontaneous volunteers and neighbors helping neighbors. It brought together age friendly groups, neighborhood leaders, city staff and mayors, and other local jurisdictions trying to figure out best practices to get services for those who are not part of any local groups.

For more information about this committee's activities and copies of the handouts, please email OES at oes@marinsheriff.org.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS/ PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Schulze wanted to keep the topic of having auxiliary power for communications towers, in order to keep this resource available to all. Supervisor Rodoni stated this is something we can try to figure out in the future, maybe from a county report.

Peter Mendoza spoke about working with PG&E and Marin Clean Energy. They are helping people with disabilities and the older communities to prepare for PSPS or other disasters. They will be helping people sign up for medical baseline status for their energy bills. They will also be assisting people with obtaining backup batteries who require these for medical reasons. Peter also spoke about personal disaster plans and go-kits, tailored more for those with AFN issues. People can contact Peter directly for more information at (415) 234-3840 or at peter@marincil.org for more assistance or information.

Supervisor Rodoni added he would like to start an annual report for the Board of Supervisors, possibly during the next meeting. He would call on others to help put this together.

8. ADJOURN:

*Being no further business, the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 4:38 PM.
Motion: All in favor.*

These Minutes were reviewed and approved at the September 10, 2020 Marin Disaster Council Meeting.

9. CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council meeting, held on June 11, 2020.

Date

Therese Gorostiza, Office of Emergency Services