



**Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDE+P) Committee  
of the Marin Operational Area Disaster & Citizens Corps Council  
(DC3) Committee Meeting**

**PDE&P Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2022**  
*Draft approved at PDEP Meeting 2-7-2022*

Members Present:

Catherine Way	Co-Chair, DC3, City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Adriana Rabkin	Co-Chair, DC3 Member, Director Marin VOAD
Anne Carta	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, County HHS
Tom Cromwell	Marin Medical Reserve Corps etc.
Vincent Valenzuela	DC3 Member, Red Cross Marin/Solano Disaster Program Mgr.
Garry Lion	DC3 Member, Marin Economic Forum
Rob Ireson	Interim Chief, RACES/ACS
Raed Al-Zaher	SRFD Disaster Preparedness Coordinator (for Quinn Gardner)

Members Excused or Absent:

Amber Davis	HHS Public Health Preparedness Manager
Maggie Lang	Mill Valley Fire, Emergency Prep Coordinator

Members Public Present

Lorenzo Cordova	Aide to Supervisor Rodoni, <a href="mailto:lcordova@marincounty.org">lcordova@marincounty.org</a>
Jennifer Ancona	Marin HHS Care & Shelter, <a href="mailto:JAncona@marincounty.org">JAncona@marincounty.org</a>
Rachel Kertz	Central Marin NRG Coordinator, <a href="mailto:coordinator@nrgmarin.org">coordinator@nrgmarin.org</a>
Frank Cox	Former PDEP Co Chair/DC3 Member <a href="mailto:frnkcox7@gmail.com">frnkcox7@gmail.com</a>
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC, Red Cross <a href="mailto:lori.sch@att.net">lori.sch@att.net</a>
Elaine Wilkinson	Southern Marin NRG Coordinator, <a href="mailto:nrg@smfd.org">nrg@smfd.org</a>
Jay Hubert	Former DC3, ACS/RACES, FireWise, <a href="mailto:jayhubert@comcast.net">jayhubert@comcast.net</a>
Susan Yeres	Red Cross, <a href="mailto:sue.yeres2@redcross.org">sue.yeres2@redcross.org</a>
Matthew Estipona	Marin CIL, <a href="mailto:matthew@marincil.org">matthew@marincil.org</a>
David Shatto	The Salvation Army, <a href="mailto:David.Shatto@usw.salvationarmy.org">David.Shatto@usw.salvationarmy.org</a>
Paula Doubleday	ReadyMarin.org, <a href="mailto:paula.double@gmail.com">paula.double@gmail.com</a>
Sara Robinson	Marin Aging & Adult Services, <a href="mailto:SRobinson@marincounty.org">SRobinson@marincounty.org</a>
Jody Timms	Age Friendly Marin Network, <a href="mailto:jodytimms@comcast.net">jodytimms@comcast.net</a>

The following documents were emailed to PDEP in advance:  
**PDEP\_Agenda 2022-1-10.pdf**  
**PDEP\_Minutes 2021-12-6a.pdf (Draft to be approved)**

**I. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes**

Catherine Way welcomed attendees. Draft PDEP Minutes 12/6/2021 were reviewed. One spelling change will be made by request from Lori Schifrin. Minutes were approved.

**II. PDEP Organizational Planning 2022**

2021 was spent developing findings to support and guide the County Disaster Coordinator. To start off 2022 we want to dive into the mission and objectives of PDEP, bylaws, how it got started, what is the right membership, and who is missing from this group.

**Disaster Council Background**

DC3 (renamed Disaster Council) Mission: Disaster and Citizen Corps Council's purpose is to lead ongoing efforts to improve disaster preparedness countywide, as authorized by Marin County Code 2.99et seq. Emergency Organization and Functions.

The Disaster and Citizen Corps Council's duties are to:

- Review and evaluate disaster preparedness progress in the public and private sectors;
- Promote disaster preparedness through communication and education;



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- Harness the power of every resident through education and outreach, training and volunteer service to make their families, homes and communities safer from natural and/or man-made disasters or emergencies; and,
- Report annually to the Board of Supervisors. Present written document with Council's mission statement and 1-5 yrs goals outline along with oral presentation by DC3 Chair and or Vice Chair.

### **PDEP History**

Frank Cox: (Frank served on PDEP from 2005 – 2020). PDEP originated by members of DC3 who were actively involved in disaster preparedness. PDEP's primary effort was to identify preparedness issues which they accomplished by conducting surveys of DC3 members and countywide surveys on preparedness as well as bringing in speakers on relevant subjects. They invited speakers to present on disaster topics including wildfire, earthquake preparation, floods and global warming, and many other topics. All PDEP meeting minutes and DC3 reports were posted publicly<sup>1</sup> and they urged action by responsible agencies. For many years PDEP invited outside speakers, engaged responsible agencies and identified gaps. All of this was used to advise DC3 and engage members of the community.

### **PDEP Background**

The PDEP Committee of the Disaster Council meets regularly to identify and support the best preparedness practices in Marin County, and to regularly report to the council its findings. It also makes recommendations to the Council meant to enhance disaster preparedness, public education, collaboration, and community resilience in Marin.

PDEP's role is as an operational committee for the DC3; we are boots on the ground and understand what is needed in the community. We have a strategic goal to become a force multiplier to residents. Share keynote findings to others to encourage them to take action.

### **Proposed Mission Statement**

Support Disaster Council in leading ongoing efforts to improve disaster preparedness countywide

- Sara Robinson: "support" is too broad. If you want subcommittee to have any effective power or influence with the Disaster Council, you need to be very specific about what PDEP has to offer. Look at last year and the discussions we had and presentations that were made. We encouraged the Disaster Council to take action. PDEP monitors what is going on as we all have our hands on the pulse of preparedness and PDEP helps with collaboration efforts. PDEP's mission statement should be as specific as possible to the work we are doing. The mission statement should be approved by the Disaster Council and should give PDEP power and resources.
  - Vincent Valenzuela: Residents are not familiar with DC3 or PDEP and we should avoid acronyms as much as possible.
- Tom Cromwell: PDEP is there to advise the BOS and the objective should be to advise the residents of Marin County and directly give preparedness information to the public. How can we get our general education and instructions out to the public?
  - Frank Cox: The Disaster Council is not effective at getting out information to the public. This should not be a PDEP directive as we don't have the staff and

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<sup>1</sup> Past PDEP meeting minutes can be viewed here: <https://www.marinsheriff.org/about-us/field-service-bureau/office-of-emergency-services>



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resources. We don't conduct personal preparedness training nor are we the personal communicator of this information. But we can advise and encourage the Disaster Council and BOS to do the things they should be responsible for. This should be an objective for PDEP for the year.

- Jay Hubert: Capitalize on the role PDEP has. VOAD organizations are key partners and should be used to spread the word.
  - Sara Robinson: Who is responsible for defining the governance structure of preparedness in the County? What are the relationships? PDEP should help define this structure and our place in it. We can't say what we are going to do until we know how we relate to BOS, VOAD, county preparedness coordinator, Disaster Council, etc.
  - Rob Ireson: Without staff of money PDEP can identify what kinds of information and education needs to be publicized for different types of disasters and can identify the best methods to disseminate the information through all channels that exist.
- Rachel Kertz: Everyone on PDEP represents different areas and different interests. If the end goal is to come up with direction, advice or guidance, that may be difficult because we are coming from different places. Who is this group for? Why are we coming together/What are our objectives?
    - Adriana Rabkin: The different perspectives will allow us to make sure we are representing all different community and resident voices and needs.
    - Catherine Way: We need to look at who is at the table and who else needs to be at the table with PDEP.
  - Lorenzo Cordova: Emergency Preparedness is a high priority for the BOS but It is also one of 17 priorities. We depend on PDEP and Disaster Council to be a conduit to their community and to represent their residents. The BOS is a conduit of information to residents through newsletters but we need a more coordinated job to get the message out on emergency preparedness. Discussions are ongoing. We hope to define the Disaster Council mission better and we might advise a changed makeup of the Council.
    - Garry Lion: PDEP could have an active role in helping BOS provide information for their newsletters.
    - Adriana Rabkin: There could be a disaster preparedness section in each Supervisor's newsletter and they could all promote the same information.
    - Lori Schifrin: Make sure information gets out to the general public.

### Proposed Objectives

- Identify and support the best emergency preparedness practices in Marin County
- Enhance emergency preparedness, public education, collaboration, and community resilience in Marin
- Identify gaps in emergency preparedness
- Present topics to DC3 that are important for residents and businesses to hear

### PDEP Committee Membership

Catherine Way: PDEP Members are Disaster Council members who were vetted and appointed by the BOS<sup>2</sup> and/or leaders in large organizations with a disaster preparedness function in Marin County.

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<sup>2</sup> Disaster Council Members:

<https://apps.marincounty.org/BosBoardsCommissions/MbrListPublic.aspx?BrdID=29&return=default.aspx>



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PDEP Member seats include but are not limited to:

- American Red Cross
- VOAD
- NRG Lead
- Aging & Adult Services
- Access and Functional Community Lead
- CERT Lead
- Utilities including Water Dept.
- Public Health
- Schools
- Marin Mayors and Council Members
- Economic Forum/Business Community
- Disaster Councils

Catherine Way: We currently only have 4 Disaster Council members serving on PDEP. We are missing resident representatives, communications team, and schools.

- Lorenzo Cordova: Add Chambers of Commerce to represent the business community.
- Tom Cromwell: We need to encourage the 5 supervisorial districts to send representatives to participate on PDEP.
- Jay Hubert: We need subject matter experts: organizations that have deep knowledge about hazards e.g., PGE, Public Health, DPW, and people who are responsible for communicating. And schools.
- Sara Robinson: I would add representatives for public health providers like Kaiser or Marin Health. The Tahoe Fire Chief said a lack of shared knowledge was a problem. Hospitals could not reopen after the South Lake Tahoe fire without State review and approval.
  - Anne Carta: Alison Nygaard works for Amber Davis in Public Health Preparedness and works with these providers.
- Adriana Rabkin: Amber Davis knows about these meetings but has probably just been too busy to attend. If we want all of these groups to participate regularly how do we get them to the table? How does this fit into our goals and objectives? Perhaps we require that they provide an update each month so that PDEP can report it to BOS. If one of our objectives is to gather information about what is going on around the County we might be more likely to get these folks to the table and we can gather the information and report it to the BOS or Disaster Council.
- Catherine Way: PDEP is a subcommittee of Disaster Council. We cannot ask all of the members to attend PDEP.
- Sara Robinson: We could change meeting agendas and set up quarterly thematic meetings so that some people don't need to participate every month.
- Vincent Valenzuela: If we want to invite other groups, how does PDEP define disaster preparedness? Catherine Way: We might want to consider emergency preparedness rather than disaster preparedness.
- Rachel Kertz: I think about for the organization/group that I represent, what information and resources do I need from the county to prepare and address emergency preparedness and emergency response.
- Frank Cox: The role of PDEP is to identify the problems, issues, and unmet needs. Bring in speakers on the key topics. Catherine Way: Perhaps we can bring them in quarterly. DC3 did not do very much with the information and speakers PDEP brought to them. Adriana Rabkin: make sure PDEP's mission and objectives are clearly defined before we bring in speakers so that the information goes beyond this group.



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- Rachel Kertz: What are our individual organizations doing to address equity? Where are the gaps? What do we need to do? I would love help to get into these groups. Where does equity fit into the priorities?
  - Catherine Way: Changes are coming with the sheriff and Mary Jane Burke retiring. Transitions in leadership are happening.
  - Jay Hubert: The work done last year on equity was essential. Spending the money in specific areas, such as pandemic money, makes more sense than spending it equally. How do we communicate and reach the most vulnerable among us? Reaching the more vulnerable residents will teach us about how to reach everyone. Catherine Way: Focus on the most vulnerable residents first.
- Raed Al-Zaher: Fairfax just formed a new disaster council. What is the process of inviting them to PDEP? Catherine Way: Maggie and I previously formed a collaboration of the disaster councils to share ideas and best practices but it dissolved. They are a disparate group who all work very differently. Jody Timms: Fairfax appointed an official Emergency Preparedness Committee. Catherine Way: The County coordinator could be a conduit to these councils and coordinate across the groups. No one has tried to organize them across the County. Adriana Rabkin: Maybe we can bring them into a PDEP meeting to hear what they are working on and their objectives. There is value in hearing what they are working on.

### February PDEP Meeting

We would like to invite the district representatives to participate in the next PDEP meeting so that we can discuss their expectations of their involvement on DC3 and what we think would be of greatest benefit to the community and residents of Marin.

### III. Updates from PDEP members

#### MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- MCCMC have not met. No update.

#### Marin VOAD

- Adriana Rabkin: The VOAD continues working with Public Health on the Covid front and is helping distribute rapid test kits to community organizations working with essential workers. Through the work with the Community Response Teams (CRTs) there is great effort to get accessible information into the hands of residents through all means possible and there are efforts to boost emergency preparedness like signing up for Alerts and installing smoke detectors. Mari Ochoa is a bilingual specialist with the County PIO team and she participates in the CRT teams. Her team is able to quickly produce Spanish information materials that are needed in the community. The CRTs are a great source for disseminating public health information to vulnerable communities.
- The Radio Communications Volunteer (RCV) program is meeting with the County Administrator, Fire, Sheriff and Public Health this week. This is the final presentation with constituents before we go to the BOS in February to be approved as an official program.
- Our first general VOAD meeting of 2022 is this Wednesday and we will be sharing best practices and guidelines among CBOs for how they are operating amidst Omicron. Are they requiring vaccinations and boosters for all staff? Are they testing people? What guidelines are they following? This will be important information for all of them as they figure out how best to continue operations with the Omicron variant running rampant.

#### West Marin

- Steve Marcotte was not present. No update.



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### Red Cross (ARC)

- Vincent Valenzuela: Sound the alarm continues but may be slowing with this new Covid variant. We have a survey that allows people to sign up to request a smoke detector installation. It can be scheduled for now or in the future:  
<https://bit.ly/MarinRedCrossSmokeAlarms>
  - Adriana Rabkin: I mentioned this in the Community Response Team meeting. Some residents might be inclined to go to their local trusted Community Based Organization for help with smoke detectors. Can I share this information?  
Vincent: Yes. Red Cross can offer training to the organizations to do Sound the Alarm themselves. Adriana: Is Red Cross considering an outreach campaign following the recent large apartment fires in the Bronx and Philadelphia? Vincent: Outreach across the Country is a key goal but Covid has slowed this down.
  - Catherine Way: Through the MWPA, home hardening is available to individual residences to do fire mitigation. Perhaps the Red Cross flier can also be distributed by the MWPA so people can get free smoke detectors.
  - Raed Al-Zaher: In the Bronx apartment fire there were some equity issues. Target the AFN community with this effort.

### Southern Marin / Business Community

- Garry Lion: was not present. No update.

### Mill Valley Preparedness, community efforts

- Maggie Lang was not present. No update.

### Public Health Preparedness and related programs

- Amber Davis was not present. No update.

### Public Safety / Emergency Management

- Raed Al-Zaher: Our safety center lobby is closed now due to the Omicron surge.
- We will be talking preparedness at the Thursday farmers market at the Civic Center and will be distributing NOAA radios.

### Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)

- Tom Cromwell: MMRC was very active at vaccination centers. And MMRC has assisted with the distribution of Covid test kits to schools and organizations.
- FADR is now delayed again. It is expected Omicron will peak this month as it did in South Africa. We hope to start these classes then.
- Belvedere/Tiburon: The Disaster Council is going through a significant overhaul as information doesn't get to the public. We will define annual goals and our 3-year goals and will provide mandatory reports to city council so that we can disseminate information. We are going to work with the local newspaper and city council.

### OES RACES Chief Radio officer

- Rob Ireson: RACES / ACS<sup>3</sup>: We are working with the Radio Communications Volunteer (RCV) program mentioned by the VOAD.

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<sup>3</sup> Marin County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) are volunteers working under the authority of the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES). <https://www.marinraces.org/wp/>



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- ACS/RACES, Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS), and Dept of Public Works are working together to add repeaters in Marin County. There are two new repeaters up and we are thinking about adding more repeaters for voice and digital communications along the 101 corridor and in dead spots in West Marin.
- We are also developing Non internet based broadband into Sonoma.

### Public Comment/Questions

- Tom Cromwell: Dr. Willis was on NBC national news discussing how hospitalized Covid patients are counted: are they hospitalized for Covid or hospitalized for a different reason and they have Covid.
- Sara Robinson: I am excited to be working with Terrie Green in Marin City to provide CERT training at Golden Gate Village and Maggie Lang to provide CERTs to help with the training.

#### IV. Closing Items

- Our next PDEP meeting is Feb 7

**Closure:** 2:53 pm end of meeting

#### **Next Meetings: 1-3pm:**

**Dates may be flexible as circumstances require**

**PDEP Meetings Year 2022 (dates may be adjusted):** Feb 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, Aug 1, Sept 12, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, 2022

Site: PDEP conducts meetings online using ZOOM.COM during the Pandemic. We hope to return to meetings at the Central Marin Police Community Room soon.

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#### **DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm:**

**DC3 Year 2022:** Mar 10, June 9, Sept 8, Dec 8, 2022

DC3 Meetings are currently remote and are broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live. They hope to return to Board Chambers, Civic Center, soon. Dates may be flexible.

**Online:** <https://www.marinsheriff.org/about-us/field-service-bureau/office-of-emergency-services>

**Email:** [pdepcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:pdepcommittee@gmail.com)

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