



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDEP) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster Council Committee Meeting

PDE&P Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2022
Draft approved at 5-2-2022 PDEP Meeting

Members Present:

Catherine Way	Co-Chair, DC3, City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Adriana Rabkin	Co-Chair, DC3 Member, Director Marin VOAD
Quinn Gardner	SRFD Emergency Manager
Rob Ireson	Chief, RACES/ACS
Elaine Wilkinson	Marin County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Garry Lion	DC3 Member, Marin Economic Forum

Members Excused or Absent:

Vincent Valenzuela	American Red Cross, Marin Chapter
Amber Davis	HHS Public Health Preparedness Manager
Tom Cromwell	Marin Medical Reserve Corps (for Anne Carta)
Anne Carta	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, County HHS
Maggie Lang	Southern Marin Disaster Council
Steve Marcotte	DC3 Member, West Marin Disaster Council

Public Attendees:

Frank Cox	Former PDEP Co Chair/DC3 Member frnkcox7@gmail.com
Mike Grant	Marin County Office of Education, mgrant@marinschools.org
Sara Robinson	Marin Aging & Adult Services, SRobinson@marincounty.org
Raed Al-Zaher	SRFD Emerg Prep Coord, Raed.Al-Zaher@cityofsanrafael.org
Miranda Miller	Ross Valley Emergency Prep Coord, mmiller@rossvalleyfire.org
Rachel Kertz	Central Marin NRG Coordinator, coordinator@nrgmarin.org
Paula Doubleday	ReadyMarin.org, paula.double@gmail.com
Amy Glenn	Central Marin NRG Advisory Comm, aglennstyle@gmail.com
Jody Timms	Age Friendly Marin Network, jodytimms@comcast.net
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC, Red Cross lori.sch@att.net
Milt Hyams	DC3 District 1 Rep, mmhyams@aol.com

The following documents were emailed to PDEP in advance:

- PDEP_Agenda 2022-4-4.pdf**
- PDEP_Minutes 2022-3-7a.pdf (Draft to be approved)**
- Community Development Agency Safety Element and 2.1.2022 Staff Report

I. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes

- Catherine Way welcomed attendees. Draft PDEP Minutes 3/7/2022 were approved as submitted.

II. Schools Update, Mike Grant

- Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) is working with Woody Baker-Cohn in OES and Jennifer Ancona, Mass Care lead for HHS in OES to assess schools as possible shelter sites in an emergency. They have identified 4 or 5 schools that will be setup and updated in terms of maps and resources to be used as mass shelters. This project has been delayed due to Omicron variant of Covid-19.
- Adriana Rabkin: If an emergency occurred now would schools be used for mass shelter purposes? Mike Grant: Continuity of school operations is a key priority, but we are able to use our facilities to serve additional people. In 2017, Terra Linda set up the gym as a backup shelter during the fires. The goal would be continuity of operations of the school while also providing a shelter as needed. Many of our older plans for shelter have changed. We are trying to get current updates and have current school staff trained for the plan.



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- Catherine Way: Which schools have been identified as shelters? Mike Grant: Tam HS, Redwood HS, Terra Linda HS, and San Rafael HS.
- Mike assured the group that someone from MCOE will participate in PDEP meetings regularly and provide an annual update.

III. Marin County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

- We welcomed Elaine Wilkinson, the new Marin County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. She is leaving her position as the Southern Marin Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. The job position was closed and interviews will start next week. Elaine will work in both positions until the Southern Marin position is filled.
- Elaine will be meeting with all fire chiefs in Marin County, per Chief Welch's suggestion, in order to understand their needs and figure out how to support them with this work.
- There are three main buckets for this position: NRGs, CERT, and the Get Ready Program/Get Ready 5th Grade. Younger families are harder to get traction with. Elaine is hoping to partner with the schools and focus on emergency preparedness with them.
- Paula Doubleday is helping with the website and communications.
- There are 19 different jurisdictions invested in this position. Elaine is trying to figure out where her effort goes first. She is looking at metrics, mapping of NRGs, sign-ups for Alerts, and identifying metrics to help demonstrate the value of this position. This is a team effort and there is a lot of interest in this position.
- Adriana Rabkin: On the public health update this morning, Dr. Santora shared that Marin's success with high vaccination rates is due to the coordination and collaboration among public and private partners. These updates will now start to focus on emergency preparedness beyond Covid and will be one more place where collaboration can take place. Between Elaine's efforts, schools, public health, county and local governments, NRGs, CERT, CBOs, PDEP and others, there are lots of opportunities for us to collaborate on emergency preparedness and help residents become more resilient.
- Catherine Way: How do we measure impact? How can we help figure out the best metrics to use? Metrics that show outreach, or preparedness efforts? Paula Doubleday: we have consistent visits to the ReadyMarin website of 600-800 every month. After the Tubbs fire there were 3,000 visits. We can pay attention to our analytics like the number of visits and length of time spent on each page, but we cannot determine if visitors got what they needed. We are also reinvigorating social media. It shows people engaged and reading. Catherine Way: we need a tool that shows the Board of Supervisors in 2 years that we want to continue funding this position.
- Sara Robinson: I have been looking for a similar tool for my work, but have not been able to find anything yet. How do we measure those residents who do not use websites? Are they getting the materials and taking action? Is there a mapping tool to identify who is left out?
- Quinn Gardner: Surveys are a possible means, but they have to be done well and there needs to be the budget for it. Conducting a feedback survey after any training or event (NRG, CERT, or larger county events) could help us track preparedness over time. Mapping is great, but you need a temperature map. It is not enough to just say a neighborhood has an NRG. How active are they? It would be great to do a countywide survey in the next 12 months. Catherine Way: Supervisor Rice said at the PDEP meeting last year that she attended that the County should invest in a survey. Maybe we can revisit that with her.
- Quinn: There have been multiple grand jury reports. These could be a resource.



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- Grand Jury 4/2019 <https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/gj/reports-responses/2018-19/wildfire-preparedness--a-new-approach.pdf?la=en>
- Grand Jury 9/2020: Climate Change <https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/gj/reports-responses/2019-20/climate-change--how-will-marin-adapt.pdf?la=en>
- Frank Cox: In years past, PDEP had outside speakers report on their jurisdictions' preparedness. Following the 2009 bird flu pandemic we heard from Santa Clara County & Peninsula and Alameda County Preparedness Fair speaker Terry Langdon, and Alameda Sheriff's Office. We have also heard from San Francisco Dept. of Emergency Management Daniel Homsey talk about neighborhood efforts. There are budgets that are approved at UASI and the State level that have to do with preparedness (Corinne Bartshire, UASI). We can coordinate message across federal (FEMA and Ready.gov), DHS, CalOES, regional 9 counties. We can coordinate metrics and data collection as well (use what FEMA, OES, UASI use).
- Elaine Wilkinson: There is funding available. We received a \$50k Homeland Security Grant for year 3 of my position. One of their silos is community preparedness. Frank Cox: For plans you can piggyback on efforts in neighboring counties. Marin Local Agency Formation Commission, LAFCO, has over 50 different Marin County organizations. It is underutilized. There is money and staffing out there. <https://www.marinlafco.org/>. Just as MCOE can reach thousands of families, LAFCO can reach thousands of citizens, agency and staff contacts.
- Raed Al-Zaher: You have to decide what you can measure. Are people learning or acting after visiting your website? There is a high number of CERT, but many are inactive.
- Sara Robinson: Have you been involved in the Safety Element? This is the County policy document being created right now. There is a huge section on preparedness in it. I went through it with Leslie Lacko and mentioned funding from LAFCO for preparedness. Catherine Way: These are state plans that are done every 8-10 years. The next public meeting about this is Tuesday, April 5th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM to discuss the Safety Element policy and program ideas. This is the third in a series of workshops. There will be live Spanish interpretation. Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpf-qtrTMSE9Qzq831M03BFQ0wFbxUcEJc>

IV. Disaster Council Update

- How can PDEP continue to make DC3, Disaster Citizens Coprs Council, a more robust group? Maybe tour the Emergency Operations Center? Get members to provide updates each meeting.
- There is lots of turnover. The District 2 Rep, Mike McDermott, is stepping down. The AFN seat held by Peter Mendoza has not been filled. We have talked in PDEP about making district reps more involved. Until the Matrix report comes out this summer we cannot propose any changes.
- At the last DC3 meeting we heard from Mark Brown, Executive Director of MWPA, about their collaborative approach with 5 districts and the Adapt to Wildfire campaign. The Evacuation study might be an important metric to use. We also heard from Ann Eichhorn with The Red Cross.

V. Updates from PDEP members

MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way: MCCMC is not meeting now.

Marin VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)



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- Adriana Rabkin: Marin VOAD will be building up to and practicing the Great Shakeout on Oct. 20. We will work with CBOs to develop and practice their own emergency management plans from now until then. We will send out alerts, practice our communication plan, hold a conference call with CBOs following the event, and then conduct an After Action Review in November after the full scale Great Shakeout exercise. This is an easy thing to practice and build on with all of their prepared materials and resources. County OES is pushing messaging to their channels such as schools, County employees, and local jurisdictions and Marin VOAD will work with CBOs and community partners.

American Red Cross (ARC)

- Vincent Valenzula was not present. No update.

Marin County HHS Public Health Preparedness

- Amber Davis: was not present. No update.

Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)

- Anne Carta: was not present. No update.

Marin Economic Forum/Business Community

- Garry Lion: had to leave before his update. No update.

OES RACES Chief Radio officer

- Rob Ireson: RACES / ACS¹: ACS/RACES is a volunteer Ham radio group under Office of Emergency Services (OES). RACES supports public agencies. The Radio Communications Volunteer project (RCV) is a pilot program under Dept of Public Works, using radio to connect community organizations with the Emergency Operations Center through Marin VOAD in an emergency.
- We created a group of members who established a club dedicated to getting an FCC license for new repeaters. We have 3 new repeaters that are up and operating along the 101 corridor: Big Rock, San Rafael Hill, and Mount Barnaby. We want 2 more repeaters in Southern Marin and West Marin. These will be used by RACES and RCV during the Golden Eagle exercise on May 19.
- The Bay Area UASI Golden Eagle full scale exercise² is May 19. ACS/RACES and RCV will both participate. Bay Area UASI is focused on operations across multiple jurisdictions following an earthquake. A couple of counties are focused on using ham radio operators. We are reaching out to our counterparts to coordinate across RACES during the exercise.
- Milt Hyams: The focus of Golden Eagle is on transportation. We are going to focus on communication for the transportation system and may put radios at both ends of Smart and at the San Francisco ferry terminal.

San Rafael Emergency Management

- Quinn Gardner: San Rafael will participate in the Golden Eagle exercise. Catherine Way: This exercise might be helpful for Miranda and Elaine. Quinn: You could also help out at the SR EOC as an evaluator, providing injects or just observing.

¹ 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/>

² Bay Area UASI Golden Eagle: <https://batep.org/?p=blog-single&blog=join-the-2022-golden-eagle-exercise-5-19-2022-45>



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- EmberStomp is coming up May 28.³ It is a wildfire prevention festival at Marin Center fairgrounds. A free, full day, family event.
- The first full in-person CERT class is hopefully happening at the end of April. We are having difficulty getting CERT to register for this. We have never had this problem in the past. We are hosting the class in San Rafael but it is countywide. San Pedro coalition is supporting this but not many people have signed up yet. We historically held this training on weekends, but have moved it to a 5-day mid-week training, broken into smaller parts.

Southern Marin Disaster Council

- Elaine Wilkinson: The next disaster council meeting is in 2 weeks. We will focus on wildfire and Mark Brown will be presenting. Maggie is transitioning her work to us.

West Marin Disaster Council

- Steve Marcotte: was not present. No update.

Public Comment/Questions

- Adriana Rabkin: A year and a half ago, in response to Rachel Kertz's discussion here in PDEP about ReadyMarin and the Central Marin NRG website using consistent links and information, a small group of us began focusing on emergency preparedness coordination, messaging, and resources. This group includes Rich Shortall, FireSafe Marin, Sara Robinson, Aging & Adult Services, Adriana Rabkin, Marin VOAD, Paula Doubleday, ReadyMarin, and Maggie Lang, Southern Marin Disaster Council. Elaine and Miranda have been invited to join this group to ensure we are all collaborating.
- Catherine Way: How can the 5 district reps be more engaged with their communities and PDEP. There is no job description and district reps do not know how to get the word out. Milt Hyams: I need to be more active with towns.

VI. Closing Items

- Our next PDEP meeting is May 2.

Closure: 2:18 pm end of meeting

Next Meetings: 1-3pm:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require

PDEP Meetings Year 2022 (dates may be adjusted): 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:** 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)

*PDEP\_Minutes 2022-4-4b.docx*

*DRAFT approved at 5-2-2022 PDEP Meeting*

<sup>3</sup> <https://firesafemarin.org/programs/wildfire-preparedness-festival/>