



REGIONWIDE FUNCTIONAL EXERCISES TEST PREPAREDNESS

After months of planning, the North Central Kansas Public Health Initiative (NCKPHI) and the North Central Kansas Healthcare Coalition conducted their first regionwide functional exercise. Fourteen counties participated in the exercise, which focused on health and medical response, over two days on August 5 and 6.

Federal preparedness grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) require that public health departments and hospitals test response capabilities including emergency operations coordination, information sharing, continuity of operations and medical surge capacity. A functional exercise is required once in a five-year grant cycle.

Counties participating on August 5 were Saline, Dickinson, Ottawa and McPherson. These counties received patient players (actors playing the part of patients) using ambulances from MERGe (a regional ambulance service response unit developed for major emergency medical events) and military helicopters. The moulaged "patients" were brought in from the Vigilant Guard exercise sponsored by the National Guard that was taking place on the same day at Crisis City just southwest of Salina.

On August 6, Clay, Cloud, Ellsworth, Osborne, Smith, Russell, Jewell, Mitchell, Republic, and Washington counties tested these same capabilities using simulated patients.

Counties invited their own participants. A broad spectrum of occupations, organizations and services were represented.

Sherry Angell, North Central Regional Planning Commission's NCKPHI Regional Coordinator, says the exercise was in the planning stages for a year.

"This is the first in the state that has ever been done," Angell says. "The lessons learned will be shared with other regions in the state."

Despite the intense planning required, Angell says the exercise was a success. Counties have 90 days after the exercise to review actions and complete evaluations.

"This process helps everyone identify gaps that may exist and what they need to work on," Angell says.



Top: The Dickinson County Mobile Emergency Operating Center was used for the functional exercise.



Left: Military helicopters were used to transport some of the "patients" during the exercise on August 5.

(Photos provided courtesy of Dickinson County Emergency Management.)

Evaluators for the exercise included regional hospital coordinators and regional public health coordinators from across the state as well as personnel from Lincoln and Dickinson County Health Departments, and Ottawa County Emergency Management.

The planning team included Lisa Williams, Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) Exercise Coordinator; Sue Cooper, North Central Regional Hospital Coordinator; Ladonna Reinert, Lincoln County Health Department Administrator; and Sherry Angell, NCKPHI Regional Coordinator.

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Rural Voices Contest Open to HS Seniors

High school seniors in North Central Kansas are invited to participate in the 2014-2015 Rural Voices Contest by entering a written essay or a short video based on the contest theme of "Rural Kansas...Opportunity."

Rural Voices YOUTH CONTEST

A cash award of \$850 will be made to the winning entry in each media category. The top entries also will receive web-based publication at the *EyeonKansas.org* site.

The Rural Voices Contest is sponsored by the NCRPC to engage the youth of North Central Kansas in thoughtful reflection on rural Kansas and to promote a fruitful discussion among citizens based on their insights. The contest, which launched in 2006, has now awarded nearly \$15,000 to high school seniors from around North Central Kansas.

Any senior in high school who lives in or attends a school in the 12-county NCRPC service area is eligible to enter the contest — including the counties of Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Marshall, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, Saline and Washington.

The deadline to submit an entry is November 17, 2014. Additional details are available by visiting www.eyeonkansas.org and clicking on the "Rural Voices" link.

NCRPC Executive Board Welcomes Connell

Bob Connell joined the NCRPC Executive Board of Directors in 2014. He serves on the Marshall County Board of Commissioners. Bob retired from Westar Energy in April 2014 after spending 41 years working as a lineman. He also has a cow-calf operation and operates the grader for the Marysville Township.

A native of Marshall County, Bob serves on the Marysville City Planning Board and Marshall County Partnership for Growth, Inc. and has served on numerous committees for



Bob Connell

the United Methodist Church of Marysville.

Bob and his wife, Janet, have two grown children, Jodi and Andy.

He enjoys raising Short-horn cattle, fishing and working on their family farm.

Regional Strategy Outcomes Task Force Begins

A Regional Strategy Outcomes Task Force has been formed and work began when the 17 stakeholders from around the region first met on August 19 in Concordia.

The concept of the task force was developed as work was completed on the 2014 NCRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) this past spring.

Ten main goals were identified in the 2014 CEDS. The task force will meet regularly over the course of a year to go through each of the goals.

"Our goal is to engage stakeholders from the region and focus on strategies, our purpose, and the services we provide," Doug McKinney, NCRPC Executive Director, says.

The task force includes representation from business, chamber of commerce, economic development, local government, health care, education, libraries and foundations.

"Part of the vision with this task force is looking out five years and considering what the needs are going to be down the road," Deb Ohlde, NCRPC Assistant Director, says.

The 2014 CEDS document is available at www.ncrpc.org/CEDS/index.html. The task force will be going through the following 10 goals:

- Basic Infrastructure
- Improving Housing Stock
- Supporting Business Development
- Regional Economic Improvement
- Strengthening Human Capital
- Providing Technical Assistance
- Enhancing Access to Business Capital
- Fostering Leadership Skills
- Diversifying Energy Resources
- Furthering Regional Community Capacity

looking ahead : Meetings, Deadlines, and More

Thursday, September 25, 2014

NCRPC Executive Board Meeting
Beloit Main Office, 2 p.m.

Thursday, November 6, 2014

NCRPC Bi-Annual Banquet
Concordia, KS
Social, 5 p.m. — Dinner, 6 p.m.

Remaining FY 2015 CDBG

Grant Deadlines

Water and Sewer — Sept. 30, 2014
Community Facilities — Nov. 3, 2014
KAN STEP — Feb. 16, 2015
Economic Development — Open
Window Jan. 1-Dec. 10, 2014



Contact Us:
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Send newsletter suggestions to
lthielen@nckcn.com.

Recent Storm Damage a Reminder to Be Prepared

Late on a Sunday afternoon on August 31, approximately 4 inches of rain, much of it in the form of jagged golf ball size hail, fell in downtown Beloit where the NCRPC office is located. It hailed over a 35-minute period. In portions of eastern Mitchell County and western Cloud County, over 8 inches of rain was recorded.

North Central Regional Planning Commission was partially ready for the storm. A contractor was already procured to replace the roof, the front awning protected the large windows, and the bricking of 10 unusable side wall and rear windows in recent years saved those areas from damage.

Most of all, the NCRPC has solid insurance coverage, has electrical power backups including the NCKCN generator in good working order, and off-site network data storage. Also, communication means were in place to inform staff of the storm results and the need for response when and where appropriate. But, resources not on hand were still



Doug McKinney is NCRPC Executive Director.

needed to cleanup and repair after this event.

Area farmers, homeowners, automobile dealers and other commercial occupants had similar or worse concerns. Many found neighbors willing to help with recovery efforts.

September is National Disaster Preparedness Month. Seconds count in a disaster. Having a plan to deal with disaster should be a high priority, according to state emergency management officials. Persons are encouraged to build a kit, make a plan, and to stay informed of the types of emergencies or disasters that historically have occurred in their area. A basic emergency disaster supply kit consists of plenty of water and nonperishable food, a first aid kit, flashlights, extra batteries and garbage bags for a variety of purposes. The website www.KSReady.gov provides solid advice for being prepared and disaster ready.

Prepare also by knowing basic first aid, having emergency contacts in your always charged phone, participating in place of work and community preparedness exercises, and volunteering to support local first responders. The NCRPC supports six Regional Homeland Security Councils and many local units of government with training, exercise planning and equipment so they are better prepared for future unknowns.

Plan to Attend NCRPC Banquet November 6

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the NCRPC Bi-Annual Banquet on Thursday, November 6.

The banquet will be in Concordia at the recently renovated Lincoln Elementary Building now owned by Valley Rental Center. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and the keynote address immediately following.

The keynote speaker is Michael Doane, Vice President of Sustainable Agriculture Policy for Monsanto Company. Doane was raised on a diversified crop and livestock farm in Osborne County.

The cost to attend is \$15 per person. Call the NCRPC at 785-738-2218 or email ncrpc@nckcn.com by October 28 to make your reservation.

HUD Releases New LMI Stats from Census Data

Cities or counties seeking Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist with improvement projects must meet one of three federally mandated criteria — one of which is to have a project that benefits low- and moderate-income (LMI) individuals.

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) has released new LMI statistics based on 2010 Census data. The LMI objective is met if at least 51% of the residents in a project service area are considered LMI. If an area does not meet the 51% requirement based on Census data, a LMI survey can be done to dispute the accuracy of the HUD data. The Kansas CDBG Program has determined that surveys will be good until the next HUD Census data is released.

The updated LMI Census data is available on the CDBG website at kansascommerce.com/index.aspx?NID=127. The Excel document, titled "2010 Census LMI Data," is listed in the Surveys section.

For assistance with the LMI survey process, contact the NCRPC.

Draft KS 50-Year Water Plan Now Available

A preliminary discussion draft of the *Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas* was released in July. The draft is a culmination of months of research and meetings with stakeholders and organizations across the state.

The Vision seeks to address plans to ensure a reliable water supply sufficient to meet the needs of the state's population and economy.

For more information or to view the preliminary draft, visit www.kwo.org. The final discussion draft will be shared this fall at the Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, November 12 -13, in Manhattan.





North Central Regional Planning Commission

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business updates

New Business is Brewing Success in Salina

Monte Shadwick, an experienced entrepreneur and community leader in Salina is thankful for the assistance that helped make his latest restaurant concept become a reality. Shadwick's new restaurant downtown, [Blue Skye Brewery & Eats](#), which opened in November 2013, offers a winning combination of craft brewed beer and wood oven pizza.

"Having owned a bar and grill before, I knew that downtown Salina would be a great fit for a beer and pizza restaurant," said Shadwick. "The wood fire oven and big brew tanks give the restaurant a unique feel. It's the first of its kind in the area," he added.

The idea of starting Blue Skye Brewery was an evolutionary process

that started a few years ago, when the entrepreneurship class he taught at Kansas Wesleyan University brainstormed on the question: What's the next thing that Salina needs?

In 2012, Shadwick decided to take some time off from teaching to tour the central U.S. and visit as many brew pubs as he could find. All the brew pub owners he met were willing to share how they grew their business. Almost all of the owners started as home brewers, so they suggested that Shadwick ask around Salina to find the best home brewers and talk to them. He did and the rest is history.

This project was made possible with funding from First Bank Kansas, NCKCN-Four Rivers Down Payment Assistance Loan Program,



Blue Skye Brewery & Eats is located at 116 N Santa Fe Ave Street, downtown Salina.

Salina Downtown, Inc.'s Façade Improvement Program, Salina Project Open, and investment by the owner.

For more information about the financing programs used contact Debra Peters, NCRPC Business Finance Director, at 785-738-2218 or dpeters@nckcn.com.

Thanks to the SBA Wichita District Office for providing the article excerpt. To view the full article, visit www.sba.gov/content/brewing-success-salina.