



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
January 18th, 2022
Meeting Minutes

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Gem County Local Emergency Planning Committee is an organized gathering of community members, response agencies, organizations, and public officials, sanctioned by Congress to work together prior to any emergency, natural or man-made disaster, or hazardous material incident, in an attempt to improve planning, response, and coordination as well as the mutual understanding of capabilities and resources to the situation.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Gem County Local Emergency Planning Committee is to enhance capabilities in order to successfully mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergency situations in Gem Co community.

In Attendance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Liz Boltz, American Red Cross | Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM |
| Bill Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioner | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist. |
| Quincy Chung, US Forest Service | Bryan Elliott, Gem Co. Commissioner |
| Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary | Del Gray, Messenger Index |
| Ryan Hale, Emmett Stake Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Joy Husmann, Intermountain Hospital |
| Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept. | Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor |
| Joe Mayer, Member of the Public | Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse/
Fire Dist. #2 |
| Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition | Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner | Stacey Rosecrans, Gem Co. Recovery
Center |
| Denise Sorenson, Emmett City
Councilman | Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sheriff |
| TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health | |

Meeting called to order by Curt Christensen at 8:30a.m.

Approval of December 21st Minutes:

- Deferred to the February meeting.

Gem County Recovery Center – Stacey Rosecrans, Director:

- The Gem County Recovery Center is located across the street from the Court House at 115 S. McKinley Ave. They have a paid staff of five, two full-time, three minimally part-time, and a large volunteer corp. Center Numbers for December 2021: Total visits: 1,161 Walk-ins: 422 Participating volunteer hours: 256.5 Volunteers: 41 (6.24 hours per individual) Total Bridge Visits: 261 Bridge ONLY individuals: 34
- They are finding that COVID had a huge impact on the Recovery Community. A Recovery Community is anyone that is in any way associated with recovery from substance use disorders or mental health disorders. Even if you, yourself do not have a substance use disorder or mental health diagnosis it is very likely that you know or love someone that does. It is a group of people that stay connected to one another and work together to improve their recovery both individually and as a whole.
- Transportation Services: They offer referrals to transportation services. Some insurances such as Medicaid will pay for transportation services to and from treatment, medical and recovery-oriented appointments and events. They connect people with rides at lower cost or lower impact on their budget depending on their health and mobility. They have given away about half a dozen bicycles, some have been donated and some they have purchased. They can provide gas cards. Volunteers and staff have given people rides after a relationship and trust has been established and a release has been signed.

- Computer Lab & Education Enhancement Opportunities: People can come in and use the laptops at the Center to study for their GED, Driver's License pre-tests, any kind of education enhancement, Windows program trainings, job searches, applying for assistance and Medicare, etc.
- Family Emergency Crisis Assistance: If someone comes in experiencing a family crisis the staff, volunteers, and board members will come together as a group to discuss what kind of assistance they can offer them. This may include grief support, emergency travel assistance, hospital stay partnering, rehabilitation household help, etc.
- Bridge Outreach: Relief of food insecurity through access to our Choice Pantry. This is an augmentation for the Food Bank that our community already has. Participants may come in to get assistance with food information, preparation, storage and serving safety, as well as choose a few items to augment their own shopping and assistance. Items are provided by the Idaho Food Bank through the Star Food Pantry. Funded by donations and Optum of Idaho grants. Dinners, turkeys, and hams were provided during Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Supports Offered Daily: 1-1 walk in support with immediate response. They offer a safe social area for addressing anxiety, fear, isolation or inactivity. Someone to talk to. Crisis co-evaluation and interaction with crisis services including transport to a crisis center or other intervention. Self-directed recovery capital building. Whatever a person has in their life that keeps them in recovery is their recovery capital.
- Community Service: Participants come in for a variety of reasons. Some are court ordered, some retired and looking for a way to get into the community, some need company and activity. Whatever the reason, most come back again, even if they are not required to, because they have found a group they are comfortable with and a purpose they can believe in. They do not turn anyone away to do community service.
- Recover Coaching in and out of jail for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Support: A Recovery Coach's job is to support a peer in pursuing their own goals. While a person classified as a counselor or a therapist might diagnose addictive behavior and prescribe treatment, this is not the coach's focus. Instead, a coach will offer someone the tools and guidance needed to follow the path they've already chosen.
- Certified Peer Support Specialist for Mental Health Related Treatment Support: A peer support specialist is a person with "lived experience" who has been trained to support those who struggle with mental health, psychological trauma, or substance use. Their personal experience of these challenges provide peer support specialists with expertise that professional training cannot replicate.
- Sober Social Events: Some events are also used as community service events. Feed the Need on Thanksgiving, Candy Cane Lane: Children pay \$5 to "buy" presents for their families, motorcycle rides, etc.
- Re-Entry Services and Referrals: Upon immediate return from incarceration, peers need low-cost alternatives to services until they regain their footing. We help with searches and resources to provide housing, food, jobs, transportation and most importantly, acceptance, patience and safety. A peer connection network enables return citizens to have a like-minded group of Sober supportive friends and associates.
- 12-Step and Support Meetings: Smart Recovery, NA (Narcotics Anonymous), AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), CODA (Co-Dependence Anonymous), DBSA (Depression, Bi-polar Support Alliance). The Alcoholics Anonymous group is active in Gem County.
- Mental Health First Aid Training: MHFA training is a method of training that enables any common citizen or layman to recognize many mental health disorders or crisis as they present themselves and know what plan of action to take to best assist the person experiencing the difficulty. Through a grant

from OPTUM of Idaho, the Center has received training throughout Idaho. The cost to the public is zero dollars. There are two MHFA certified trainers in our Region and four (two may be inactive) in Southern Idaho. Optum of Idaho has sent Stacey to Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, etc. for training.

- D’S-Swap: “Exchanging Damage and Destruction for Developing Direction. Offering Support Without Prejudice” Swap cards are given out with a phone number on the back that people can call to exchange dirty needles for a care package. Care packages may include Narcan, gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, and condoms.
- Funding: State Agencies: Health & Welfare, Optum of Idaho, behavioral health boards, Idaho State Legislature, etc. Gem County Commissioners Community Partners: Evans Reality, First Interstate Bank, Valor Health, etc. Recovery Partners: Recovery Idaho, First Step 4 Life, The Center for Change, etc. Donations from private sources, grants, and fundraisers.

Public Comments:

No public comments.

General Reports:

- **Quincy Chung, US Forest Service:** They will be having an informational presentation and workshop to discuss a new, pro-active approach to pre-planning for wildfire that will be taking place on the Boise National Forest. The presentation and workshop will occur on Feb. 8th, 9th, and 10th in person and virtual. Local participants will help to locate areas that would benefit fuels reduction measures. Laurie will email the information out to the group about the presentations.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** SWDH is taking a look at all the current trends with COVID. There is a rise in people asking for more PPE. Three schools closed due to COVID this past week. They are acquiring more COVID tests. Two new variants have been identified in the UK.
- **Bill Butticci, Bryan Elliott, Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioners:** The County is working on a compression break ordinance. They are working with Federal Agency CISA to check their Cyber Security. The County will have an online auction to get rid of surplus items. The Commissioners will be gone for the mid-winter conference in Feb. Opioid Committee recommendations will be sent out to those who volunteered to take part. They have received the last piece of equipment for the backup system in Dispatch. The unit was damaged and needs to be replaced.
- **Tahja Jensen, Gem County Prosecutors Office:** 3rd District Administrative Court Judge Davis VanderVelde issued an order suspending jury trials until the end of the January. Supreme Court have returned hearing arguments via Zoom.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Emergency Management:** Jay gave another presentation last week stating twenty weather disasters happened in the United States in 2021 exceeding more than one million dollars in damages. On Monday, the school reported six staff and students out due to COVID with seventeen by the end of the week. Omicron is the dominant variant in this area. Not every case that is tested is identified by variant. As of Jan 14th, we have had 3,046 cases with no additional deaths since Jan 6th. There have been fifty-two cases between Jan. 6th – Jan 14th. Reported cases are less due to people not getting tested. Urgent Care facilities in the area have been closed on the weekend or lessened their hours due to staffing and demand. Hospitalizations are maxing out again and there is a fear that we could return to Crisis Standards of Care.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** Patrols will be put along John’s Ave to enforce the speed limit. There will be a recommendation made to make John’s between the mini round-a-bouts 20mph. ARPA funds will allow a new water storage facility to be built East of town. Fiber optic will be put in to the future facility.
- **Chief Christensen, City Fire:** Car seat checks and car seats are available by appointment. Change out your smoke detectors if they are older than ten years. The Senior Center has amazing meals and it’s a great way to interact with the community.

- **Liz Boltz, American Red Cross:** Let them know if more smoke detectors are needed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:43 am. by TJ Wilson. 2nd by Mayor Petrie. Motion passes.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.