



## Northeast Florida Regional Council

# QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

*Serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties*

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP Grant)** – Activities for this hazardous materials training grant are on hold due to COVID-19. Several classes are in the queue for delivery.

**Hazards Analysis** – All county/facility site visits have been completed and associated CAMEO (Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations) work has been submitted to the state (deliverables 1 & 2). Final letters to facilities and county EM programs are due by May 1 (deliverable 3). CAMEO is software used to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. Developed to assist front-line chemical emergency planners and responders, CAMEO can access, store, and evaluate information critical for developing emergency plans. The LEPC is required to use this software to complete analysis associated to facility site visits and verification of chemical inventories. Staff completes the review and submits data to FDEM for final approval. Once approved, county specific CAMEO data is provided to each emergency management director for their review and distribution to emergency response agencies.

**Clay Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)** – The Draft Plan has been submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management for review. Final comments will be received, and Council staff will make final changes and close out the project. Clay LMS Program Contract will end in May.

**Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program** – The Council has two SQG contracts for work in Baker and Nassau counties. FDEP is currently developing new guidance on how to complete facility inspections/audits for hazardous waste streams due to COVID-19 and associated facility closures. Program deliverables are due to FDEP in June. This has been subcontract to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

**Exercises** – *All contracted exercises are currently on hold due to COVID-19*

- **FDOH Bradford & Union COOP Exercise** – Council staff is prepared to implement a Health Department Continuity of Operations Exercise. This was originally scheduled for April 3rd but has been pushed to a June delivery.
- **FDOH Baker County COOP Exercise** – Council staff is prepared to implement a Health Department Continuity of Operations Exercise. This was originally scheduled for April 3rd but has been pushed to a June delivery.
- **JSO Intelligence Tabletop Exercise** – Council staff has been working with multiple agencies on developing and implementing an Intelligence Tabletop Exercise. This exercise will provide multiple type of information to analysts who will be expected connect relevant information to a potential person of interest. As a result, the analysts will be able to develop reports that can be distributed throughout the Law Enforcement discipline regarding a credible threat. This was originally scheduled for April 22nd but has been postponed until October 2020.
- **JAXPORT Full-Scale Exercise** – The JSO Intelligence Tabletop Exercise plays right into the implementation of the JAXPORT Full-Scale Exercise. The person of interest identified in the tabletop exercise will go onto commit terrorist acts at the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal. A Full-Scale exercise has been planned to practice operations and tactics associated to an active shooter event at the Cruise Terminal. This exercise has a variety of local, state, and federal agencies set to participate. This was originally scheduled for April 29th but has been postponed until October 2020.
- **JEA/COJ Annual Hurricane Exercise** – Staff is currently under contract to develop and implement a 3-day hurricane exercise. The exercise was originally scheduled for May but is currently under amendment to adjust the scope for considerations of hurricane response with COVID-19 complications.
- **St. Johns County Hurricane Exercise** – Staff is under contract to develop and implement the St. Johns County Hurricane Exercise. This exercise was scheduled for June 3rd. This exercise has officially been cancelled.

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## HEALTHCARE COALITION

The Healthcare Coalition, a program of the Council, conducted three Infectious Disease Workshops across north Florida in March. The Workshops brought together subject matter experts from public health, hospitals, long-term care (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.) EMS, home health and many others. The participants met to discuss and document infectious disease best practices for the various disciplines in the healthcare sector. Several techniques were used to collect data, including a survey tool distributed to the 600+ members of the Healthcare Coalition. A final report with infectious disease best practices will be developed and made available to the healthcare sector in the near future. With the COVID-19 pandemic, this turned out to be fortuitous timing for a workshop of this nature.

By April 15, we hope to have our Evacuation and Transportation Framework complete. This project aims to help our partners develop an evacuation and transportation alternative plan and provide a summary describing the process of developing such a plan.

We have completed the Active Assailant Tabletop exercise. One of five was completed with the rest being canceled due to isolation practices. The Active Assailant tabletop exercise These exercises would be implemented to assist healthcare facilities with validating active assailant plans and training. Additionally, the exercises are meant to assist healthcare facilities with meeting Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Rules for testing and training.

We have also completed our series of COOP (continuity of operations) training classes and technical assistance to members. Again, just in time for our partners to implment this training in real life situations.

Our quarterly reports are due 4/15 to include a membership roster by person and facility, meeting documentation and quarterly financial reporting.

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## REGIONAL OPIOID SYMPOSIUM

The opioid crisis is an issue that all of the Northeast Florida Region faces. The Council has begun planning and promoting the Northeast Florida Regional Opioid Symposium, scheduled to be held August 5th at World Golf Village. The Symposium will bring together key leaders in the region to discuss best practices in addressing the opioid epidemic. The event will be complimentary for our member counties. Registration will be open soon. Look for more details, including keynote speakers, in future communications.

# Save the Date

**When: August**

**5th, 10:00am-2:00pm**

**Where: World Golf Village**

# QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

January-March 2020

## LEPC

### **Local Emergency Planning Committee for Hazardous Materials (LEPC)**

Quarterly LEPC and State Emergency Response Commission meetings have been moved to virtual meetings. FDEM is currently considering changes to the deliverables to adjust for COVID-19. Council staff has completed all but one final deliverable for the year (Update to the HazMat Response Plan), which is due by June 30.

The Anheuser Busch hazardous materials exercise scheduled for March 17th has been postponed due to COVID-19 concerns.

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## RESILIENCY

**NOAA Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Hazards Workshop** - Partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to host a “Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Hazards” workshop. More than 45 decision-makers from around the region were in attendance, with a roster that included elected officials, nonprofit leaders, coastal management experts, and senior staff from local municipalities.

**Southeast & Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP) Conference** - Mr. Lahav served on the Planning Committee for the SCDRP Annual Meeting in Jacksonville and was also invited to plan and moderate a panel discussion. The NEFRC was able to secure Florida’s first Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) to give the keynote address. Mr. Lahav’s panel discussion titled, “Community Planning & Capacity Building,” featured: Mayor Ellen Glasser from the City of Atlantic Beach; Hon. Michael Boylan, City Council Member for Jacksonville; Mr. Michael Cullum, Chief Resilience Officer for the City of St. Augustine; Ms. Leda Khoury, FEMA Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator; and Dr. Quinton White, Director of the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University.

**COJ Special Committee on Resiliency** - The NEFRC has been assisting Jacksonville City Council with ongoing work relating to the “Special Committee on Resiliency,” led by Councilman Matt Carlucci. The NEFRC has provided planning assistance to City Council on tasks related to public meetings, draft policy language, and statewide coordination. There are six meetings scheduled between January and June of 2020.

**ADAPT Podcast with Brendan Rivers from WJCT** - NEFRC Resiliency Coordinator Sean Lahav participated in a podcast series produced by WJCT Public Media as part of its “ADAPT Florida” online editorial website. The 25-minute podcast highlights local and state developments taking place related to resiliency; and focuses in on community engagement initiatives being facilitated by the NEFRC across the region.

**Sunrise Rotary Club of Palatka & Leadership Jacksonville Presentations** - Mr. Lahav was the breakfast program speaker for the Rotary Club of Palatka Sunrise in February. His presentation focused on the concept of “community resilience,” and provided insight on issues related to hurricane preparedness, sea level rise, and business continuity planning. NEFRC CEO Beth Payne and Mr. Lahav gave a joint presentation to the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2020. Speaking before an audience of roughly 60 community leaders, Ms. Payne provided an overview of the NEFRC and the work that is being engaged across the region through Council Programs. Mr. Lahav then provided insight on what resilience developments are taking place across Florida; and gave local examples of some of the issues that are being examined.

**COVID-19 Response** - Following the onset of a global pandemic that caused immediate changes across the U.S. and Florida, Mr. Lahav created a “COVID-19 Resource Guide for Small Businesses,” with the objective of helping local communities withstand the economic impacts of the current disaster. The seven-page guide includes details on federal and state guidelines, information on disaster financial assistance, communication and disaster recovery resources, social distancing advice, and tips on how to keep the virus from disrupting businesses and keep commercial establishments safe.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **Strategic Regional Policy Plan Update**

As part of the update for the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP), the Economic Development element has been harmonized with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) / Elevate Florida. This process ensures that regional governments, Chambers of Commerce, and the NEFRC are all working with the same data, goals and objectives in their economic development efforts. A draft of the proposed element can be found at NEFRC.org under “Resource Library”.

### **Seeking Project & Grant Opportunities**

NEFRC staff have been meeting with staff from several local governments to discuss potential projects that may be good candidates for Economic Development Administration and other grants. Please contact us with ideas for projects in your county. As projects move forward, NEFRC may need to update the CEDS implementation plan to include them.

### **Economic Development Following COVID-19 Shutdown**

The COVID-19 shutdown will present an unprecedented challenge to economic development institutions as they attempt to restart economic growth once the crisis is over. NEFRC is following implementation of the CARES bill closely, and will play a role sharing information between counties and assisting where needed.

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## PLANNING

### **Planning for the Transportation Disadvantaged**

Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board meetings were held in Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties in February and March. Highlights included approvals by the Local Coordinating Boards in Clay and Flagler for re-designation of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority as the para-transit provider in Clay County, and re-designation of Flagler County as the para-transit provider in Flagler County. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged will consider the local recommendations at their May 1, 2020 meeting. The Local Coordinating Boards in counties that are members of the Regional Transit Working Group (Baker, Clay, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns) were provided with a spreadsheet comparing local practices as a first step in determining how regional service will be operated. The Regional Transit Working Group has now turned its attention to sharing information and resources related to the challenges presented by the COVID 19 virus.

### **Planning and Policy: Technical Assistance**

The Towns of Beverly Beach in Flagler County, Callahan in Nassau County and Interlachen in Putnam County have been actively working with NEFRC on maintenance of their Comprehensive Plans or local zoning issues. Council staff tries to provide efficient service to streamline the process while ensuring all local and state requirements are met.

### **Comprehensive Planning**

NEFRC staff reviewed two transmitted proposed amendments to the City of Jacksonville Comprehensive Plan and two proposed amendments to the St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan. In one instance, intergovernmental coordination was recommended as the proposed land use map change is in proximity to a Natural Resource of Regional Significance that is in both Nassau and Duval Counties. As NEFRC is not meeting in April, the NEFRC Board President approved the NEFRC reports through an alternative review process. A proposed change to the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Beverly Beach was also processed, although NEFRC staff did not do a report as they acted as the planner for the Town in that instance.