

# 2025 Archive – LEPC Minutes

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## LEPC, January 27, 2025 - approved

-In-Attendance: David Dohe, Missy McGinnis, Terrence Silvia, Cortney Murrow, Tony Perez, Cortney Murrow, Deb Beam, Stephanie Simmons, Shelby Bohnert, Cole Eberle, Clyde Thrush, and Jessy Bliss

-Introductions were made around the table, with new participants in attendance.

-Missy McGinnis motioned to accept meeting minutes from October 26th, 2024 meeting, Terrance Silvia seconded, motion passed.

-David Dohe presented the ICS Positional Chart for the county. This was a result of Cortney Murrow, MCHD Director, recently completing a review of health department and county level plans. Discussion took place on updates that will be made to the positions, who would be the most applicable, and a timeframe for completion. David encouraged members to bring feedback to the chart in upcoming LEPC meetings.

-David addresses the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 5 that pertains specifically to Emergency Management requirements. Coordinating, primary, and support agencies discussed as part of ESF 5, including adding a KDOT representative to LEPC.

-David discussed the HMEP Grant that was applied for last year and recently David received notice of award for. The HMEP Grant will pay for a HazMat IQ for 1st Responders training on February 19th in Asherville, March 12th in Beloit, and March 19th in Hunter. This is a 4-hour basic training class, please contact David for more information.

-Stephanie Simmons, Mitchell County Hospital COO and Mitchell County PIO, provided an update discussing the start of the new fiscal year and recent hospital changes.

-Deb Beam, Mitchell County Hospital Emergency Preparedness Director, provided an additional update from the hospital, including getting additional managers trained in HEICS, the healthcare version of ICS.

-Shelby Bohnert with the Mitchell County Regional Medical Foundation / NCKPHI provided an update on the upcoming Shelter and Recovery Exercise taking place on February 5th at the Fort Hays Tech North Central campus. This will be a regional meeting that Cortney Murrow, David Dohe, and Deb Beam currently plan on participating in.

-Jessy Bliss, Mitchell County IT Director, discussed recent scams and provided general education.

-Cole Eberle, newly appointment District 3 County Commissioner, introduced himself and stated goals and tentative plans for the future of Mitchell County.

-Terrance Silva with Mitchell County Dispatch provide an update stating business is as usual, with technology updates currently in progress with the assistance of Jessy Bliss.

-Clyde Thrush, representative with KDOT, is the area engineer based out of Concordia. Discussion occurred as to who would be the most applicable representative from KDOT to participate in the Mitchell County LEPC. A final decision to be made in the future.

-Missy McGinnis provided an update from EMS. Throughout most of 2024 EMS only had 2 working ambulances, shortly after receiving one of their ambulances back there was an issue and more work needed to be completed. EMS was recently approved for an ambulance purchase to come in 2028. The ambulance that was already on contract to be purchased was initially supposed to be arriving in 2025 and now is being pushed back by the manufacturing company to 2026. Shift leads were recently interviewed and appointed. Additionally, Missy will be hiring an assistant/bookkeeper in the new future. Lastly, a new “who’s responding” app will be put on a trial basis, with the goal to clear up radio space.

-Tony Perez with Mitchell County Sheriff discussed business updates at the department. Technology updates have been ongoing. Mental health has continued to be a challenge, both within the jail and at traffic stops. Tony will be heading to Topeka today for a conference and will bring back information to the next LEPC meeting. There is a job opening in the jail, possibly 2 in the near future. A road position is also open.

-Community mental health challenges brought forth by Sheriff Perez initiated a round table discussion regarding the challenges on mental health in our community, the recent Community Health Needs Assessment, and Pawnee Mental Health’s role / overall involvement.

-Cortney Murrow, Mitchell County Health Department director, stated business was as usual within the department. The MCHD is continuing to give flu shots, in addition to regular vaccinations. Additional discussion took place regarding the tuberculosis outbreak in Kansas, with additional verbal education provided.

-Next scheduled meeting: April 28th, 2025 at noon. Location Fort Hays Tech North Central Conference Room.

-Missy McGinnis motions adjourn, Deb Beam seconds, motion passed.

## LEPC. April 28th, 2025 – approved

-In-Attendance: David Dohe, Missy McGinnis, Terrence Silvia, Cortney Murrow, Tony Perez, Cortney Murrow, Cole Eberle, Nathan Gentry, Clyde Thrush, Sharon Sahlfeld, Deb Beam, Shelby Bohnert, Skilar Winder, and Jessy Bliss

-Missy McGinnis motioned to accept meeting minutes from January 27th, meeting, Deb Beam seconded, motion passed.

-David Dohe presented the LEPC Record Retention Schedule. David provided education on mandatory reporting, length for record retention, and additional general information. Additionally, David identified that Tier II reporting closed on March 1st. The LEPC committee voted unanimously to approve to have Commissioner Cole Eberle appointed to the Elected Official Position and Clyde Thrush with KDOT to the Transportation position for the LEPC. David will get this information to the Mitchell County Board of County Commission for the official appointments through the commission and then will forward the document to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

-David discussed the HazMat IQ FRO Training for Mitchell County Responders, with a total of 49 participants, which is approximately half the responders in MC. This was for any responder that could possibly be first on scene, with most of the education regarding scene safety and how to identify various hazardous instances. The grant used to pay for the class was over \$13,000, the majority of which should be reimbursed to Emergency Management. First Responder time may be used as match.

-Deb Beam, Mitchell County Hospital EM, provided an update from the hospital, discussing the renovations that are currently underway. This will impact the surgical clinic, respiratory therapy, and cardiac rehab until further notice. Anticipated completion is this fall. The hospital is still seeing a variety of respiratory illnesses. Lastly, the annual board meeting is scheduled for tonight.

-Missy McGinnis with the Mitchell County EMS provided an update. Amber Peters has been hired as the Assistant Director and Bookkeeper, with plans to continue to work on the truck while also completing administrative tasks. On May 2nd, EMS will be participating in a Tactical Emergency Casualty Training, with the goal to have as many EMS employees as possible participate. EMS is also planning to have a PALS and ACLS class coming up, possibly in June.

-Clyde Thrush with KDOT provided an update. Discussed road upgrades, including timeframes from starting and completion.

-Shelby Bohnert with the Mitchell County Regional Medical Foundation / NCKPHI provided an update on the most recent Sheltering Exercise, including the 12 counties that

participated and general feedback that was received based on the exercise. KDHE facilitated the exercise and went well overall. A follow-up meeting will take place next week.

-Cortney Murrow with the Mitchell County Health Department provided an update. Cortney discussed recent PHEP exercises, additional funding the HD received from the state for staff education, and upcoming back-to-school preparations.

-Nathan Gentry with HAM Radios provided an update. Nathan stated not a lot of is currently going on. The storm spotters are continuing to be active. June 28th-29th is the annual field day. Nathan encouraged anyone interested to come out, located at the VFW in Glasgow.

-Terrence Silvia provided an update from Dispatch. Additional technology updates have been occurring, including a 5 year refresh totaling approximately \$32,000. The Tiger Team from AT&T will be coming tomorrow to install additional revisions. In-time transcription is going to be updated, which has been shown to be very helpful during calls.

-Sharon Sahfeld, Beloit Call, stated no update at this time.

-Cole Eberle with Mitchell County Commissioners discussed items currently under review by the County Commission. Cole identified key topics being worked on as including the budget and mental health. Cole states receiving a significant amount of feedback regarding budget from the public. Regarding mental health, Cole presented the possibility of creating our own crisis response team in Mitchell County.

-Tony Perez, Mitchell County Sheriff, provided updates with Law Enforcement. Tony stated he recently participated in the community Mental Health Taskforce, and provided information on upcoming community activities they will be involved with. Staffing also discussed, including a shortage in jail staff. Openings are available and Tony will be taking applications. Weapons upgrade recently took place, happening on a rotation. Drug money covers the cost of the weapons update.

-Skilar Winder with mental health provided an update. Skilar stated she has continued to be very busy, and remains aware of her total numbers, especially with summer quickly arriving. An update on the Mental Health Taskforce was provided. Skilar started the taskforce, and states there is momentum that is currently keeping the conversation moving forward. An additional update on the possible crisis response team was provided, including presenting to the Beloit City Administrator this week on possible additional funding. The month of May is mental health month, with several taskforce participants coming together to do some type of educational awareness.

-Next scheduled meeting: July, 2025 at noon. Location TBD – Possibly at the Mitchell County Hospital.

-Terrence Silvia motions adjourn, Cole Eberle seconds, motion passed.

## LEPC, July 28th, 2025 - approved

-In-Attendance: David Dohe, Terrence Silvia, Cortney Murrow, Nathan Gentry, Clyde Thrush, Deb Beam, Shelby Bohnert, Stephanie Simmons, Skilar Winder, and Rick Horn.

-Terrance Silvia motioned to accept meeting minutes from April 28th, meeting, Nathan Gentry seconded, motion passed.

-David discussed ESF 6 post the exercise that took place earlier this year. A list of Mitchell County ESFs was provided, including the primary and support agencies. David further discussed everyone reviewing the list and determining if the functions assigned to their agency are feasible or not.

-David presented a packet of information with multiple updates, including upcoming cyber security trainings, officer awareness relating to narcotics, HMEP grant webinar series, and a business continuity workshop.

-David discussed a hazmat incident that took place on August 25th. Nathan Gentry provided additional information, stating two chemicals were thought to be unintentionally mixed together. Two workers were there when the incident occurred. Nathan stated it was significant enough that when fire and rescue arrived, some type of gas substance was coming out the back door. Hazmat was contacted and came from Salina, with a 2-hour response time they were called to when they arrived. It took approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes to clean up and mitigate the incident.

-Clyde Thrush with KDOT provided an update. Road improvements are expected to occur on the bridge at Chautauqua Park either in fall of 2025 or spring of 2026. There is also a job opening in Beloit for a supervisor. Contact Clyde for more information.

-Shelby Bohnert with the Mitchell County Regional Medical Foundation / NCKPHI provided an update on the SFY26 grant year beginning on July 1st, 2025. Shelby also stated she has been working on obtaining some shelter field guides and will share with David for further distribution when those are available.

-Cortney Murrow with the Mitchell County Health Department provided an update. Cortney stated they are busy with back-to-school quickly approaching, including pre-school physicals and required school vaccinations. The health department will have a walk-in week for school vaccinations August 4th – 8th and will continue to provide services by appointment Monday through Friday.

-Nathan Gentry with HAM Radios presented an update on the most recent had a field day, stating a good turnout of approximately 20 people. Nathan also stated there were close to 200 contacts that were made. The next event is scheduled for August 30th in Miltonville.

-Terrence Silvia provided an update from Dispatch. Terrance stated they are applying for a grant from the state for indoor mapping of critical infrastructure, with the k-12 schools being the primary focus. More information will be presented on the mapping project as it becomes available. Locally, they are working on some infrastructure problems that were identified during the most recent power outage.

-Rick Horn with KDEM was in attendance and provided an update on state level activities. Rick discussed state turnovers that have resulted in some internal issues. Rick also stated KDEM sent a team down to Texas to assist with the flooding situation.

-Stephanie Simmons, COO with the Mitchell County Hospital, presented an update. Stephanie stated there is a current focus on infrastructure, facility updates, and projects that are currently underway. Plans to expand the surgical clinic are expected to be completed in October 2025, and the hospital is working on internal security pieces, specifically relating to cyber security.

-Skilar Winder with mental health provided an update. Skilar stated she has been busy and tends to become busier around the beginning of the school year. Skilar also stated she is working on rebranding efforts to get more into the farming community. For the Mental Health Taskforce, discussions are occurring around community information distribution and educational opportunities. Also, the Mental Health Taskforce hosted a Wellness Round-Up promoting mental health in our community earlier this year, with a great turnout with individuals of all ages that participated.

-Deb Beam, Preparedness and Infection Control with the Mitchell County Hospital, provided an update. Deb stated the ER has been extremely busy, but they had no fireworks injury in July. The hospital is working on renewing their Trauma Center Level 4 status. Deb also discussed the situation that occurred when the Cunningham phone lines went down last week and impacts that occurred as a result.

-Next scheduled meeting: October 27th, 2025, at noon. Location will be the Fort Hays Tech North Central Campus in the conference room.

-Stephanie Simmons motions adjourn, Terrance Silvia seconds, motion passed.

## LEPC, October 27, 2025 - approved

Location: Fort Hays Tech North Central

### Attendees

David Dohe, Terrence Silvia, Cortney Murrow, Nathan Gentry, Clyde Thrush, Deb Beam, Skilar Winder, Eric Burks, Amber Robinson, and Berta Jaquez – Catholic Charities.

### 1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order. Missy McGinnis motioned to approve the minutes from the July 28th meeting. The motion was seconded by Skilar Winder and approved unanimously.

### 2. Terms of Office and Membership

David Dohe reviewed the LEPC By-Laws, noting that terms of office are two years in length. He clarified that members represent specific entities (e.g., Law Enforcement, Hospital, Mental Health, etc.) and may designate a replacement if they are unable to continue serving. David also shared information on the upcoming Mitchell County Fire District #3 Propane Emergency Training for first responders and firefighters. The training is open to anyone interested in learning more about propane safety and emergency procedures.

### 3. Mitchell County / Pawnee Mental Health Contract

David presented the contract between Mitchell County and Pawnee Mental Health for review. The group discussed several aspects of the agreement, including the scope of services, funding considerations, and crisis management responsibilities. Concerns were raised regarding financial allocations and coordination during emergency situations.

### 4. Catholic Charities Update

Berta from Catholic Charities provided an overview of the organization's disaster response capabilities. The agency can assist through both in-person support and monetary donations during disasters. Additional non-disaster resources are also available, and members were encouraged to contact her for more information or specific case assistance.

### 5. KDOT Update

Clyde Thrush (KDOT) reported that the department is currently short-staffed due to medical absences but continues normal operations. Local infrastructure projects are scheduled to begin in the near future.

### 6. Fort Hays Technical College – North Central Update

Eric Burks shared updates from Fort Hays Tech North Central. He expressed interest in reviving "Disaster Day," a preparedness event for students and community partners, and invited members to consider taking the lead. Additionally, Deb Beam mentioned that the hospital is planning an active shooter exercise for Summer or Fall 2026.

#### 7. Health Department Update

Cortney Murrow (Mitchell County Health Department) reported that staff are currently busy administering flu, RSV, and COVID-19 vaccines. She also discussed challenges related to the federal government shutdown, which has impacted the WIC program. Strategic planning is underway to maintain WIC services locally throughout the shutdown period.

#### 8. HAM Radio Update

Nathan Gentry reported that there are currently no major updates from the amateur radio side. The next scheduled Field Day will take place in January 2026.

#### 9. Dispatch Update

Terrence Silvia shared that Dispatch continues to experience issues with its battery backup system. As of January 2026, the department will be short one staff member but expects to fill the vacancy soon. Significant 800 MHz radio system changes are anticipated by mid-2026.

#### 10. Hospital Update

Deb Beam (Mitchell County Hospital) provided an update on Preparedness and Infection Control. She actively participated in the mental health contract discussion, voicing Emergency Department concerns. Otherwise, operations remain stable and ongoing.

#### 11. Sheriff's Office Update

Tony Perez (Mitchell County Sheriff) reported that the jail currently houses 15 inmates. The department recently purchased two new vehicles. Tony also discussed his contract with Pawnee Mental Health, noting that he has not yet signed it due to some remaining concerns.

#### 12. Next Meeting

Date: January 26, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Hays Tech – North Central Campus, Conference Room

#### 13. Adjournment

Missy McGinnis motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Deb Beam and approved unanimously.