

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting Minutes - Approved

Date: January 26th, 2026

Location: Fort Hays Tech North Central

Attendees

David Dohe, Terrence Silvia, Cortney Murrow, Nathan Gentry, Clyde Thrush, Deb Beam, Jennifer Brown, Shelby Bohnert, Tony Perez, Jessy Bliss, Logan Knight, and Cole Eberle.

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, and Committee Members

The meeting was called to order.

Cortney Murrow motioned to approve the minutes from the October 27th, 2025, meeting.

The motion was seconded by Tony Perez and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Terrance Silva to replace Corey Isbell's spot representing Fort Hays Tech North Central with Jennifer Brown. Tony Perez seconded and approved unanimously. David will take the recommended vote to the County Commissioners for final approval of the appointment.

2. THIRA

David Dohe reviewed the THIRA documentation – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment. This should be completed prior to the EOP being submitted in March. David requested everyone review the provided documentation and return it to him ASAP.

3. Tier 2 Reporting

Information is in the packet of paperwork provided by David Dohe. Applicable businesses are required to submit information to KDHE in regard to chemical storage and amounts. Additional information will be posted on the Mitchell County website.

4. Review Statewide TTX Conducted on 01/20/2026

54 Attendants from across our healthcare coalition region participated in-person. The exercise was based around the FIFA world cup coming up later this year in Kansas City, with additional objectives related to weather conditions. They are expecting a significant number of travelers from outside the state and country, creating potential added occurrences. An area of greater discussion during the LEPC occurred regarding epidemiology, sheltering, and transportation.

5. CVA Tabletop Exercise

David discussed an upcoming CVA Tabletop Exercise coming up on January 29th in Tipton. This will be utilized as the annual LEPC exercise that needs to be completed to stay in compliance.

6. Mitchell County Commission

Cole Eberle, Mitchell County Commissioner, provided an update on the county level. Cole discussed Pawnee Mental Health and potential action steps moving forward on a Crisis / Community Health Mental referral system within the county for if Pawnee Mental Health is not an option. Skilar Winder and Lyda Fincham spoke at the Commissioner Meeting this morning and developed some action steps moving forward, including communicating with Pawnee again.

Cole provided an additional update on general county business, including budget and health insurance. Also, Commissioners signed off on the control burn resolution that was recently put into effect. Several meetings and media outlets were utilized to spread the word of the new resolution. Cole stated overall public comments were ok once the initial reaction was brought forth and discussed.

7. KDOT Update

Clyde provided an update with KDOT, including an engineer being recently hired. Clyde stated they have not had one in this position for several years. Additional general information was provided regarding staffing structure and work on the bridge near Chautauqua Park.

8. HAM Radio Update

Nathan Gentry reported updates for HAM radio, including various equipment updates, and that the winter HAM radio day had to be cancelled because of the recent cold spell.

9. Dispatch Update

Terrence Silvia shared that the Dispatch issues with battery backup have been resolved. Taking the kitchenette area off the battery backup has assisted with some of the complications they were having. Terrence had one person leave employment and already has that position filled. Lastly, they are waiting on server software licensing.

10. IT Department

Logan Knight, intern working with Jessy Bliss in the IT department, was introduced to LEPC. Jessy provided additional updates, including the increased ability for detection monitoring, and recent ransomware occurrences.

11. Health Department

Cortney Murrow with the Mitchell County Health Department provided a general update from the health department, including current influenza vaccine administration status. Additionally, Cortney provided an update on respiratory surveillance throughout Kansas and the nation.

12. NCKPHI

Shelby provided an update from the NCKPHI region. Shelby discussed an upcoming PHEP exercise taking place in March, grant work that is being completed, and information on the upcoming FIFA Cup.

13. Law Enforcement

Tony with the Sheriff's Department provide an update. Currently there are 23 people in the jail, the majority of them being out of county. LE is seeing difficulties regarding mental health and how to manage inmates that need additional mental health services. Jail and Patrol are both fully staffed at this time.

Tony stated he has received additional pushback regarding the new burn resolution.

14. Hospital

Deb Beam with the Mitchell County Hospital provided an update. Deb stated the hospital is seeing a significant amount of respiratory illness at this time. Level 4 Trauma Recertification was intended to take place last week, however, it has been pushed back due to illness. Ribbon cutting took place last Friday for the new outpatient area. Departmental active shooter exercises have also been taking place. This is currently building on a process to go towards a community exercise. Lastly, Deb spoke about how the FIFA World Cup could potentially impact the hospital.

15. Closing Information

Next Storm Spotter meeting will be on March 9th starting at 6:30pm at the Fort Hays Tech North Central campus.

16. Next Meeting

Date: April 27th, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

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

17. Adjournment

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