

**LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**Emergency Operations Center Meeting Minutes**  
**Lincoln County Service Center 801 N. Sales St. Merrill, WI Room #257**  
**September 30, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**  
Conference Call: +1 470-228-6177  
Access Code: 119 860 703#  
Meeting ID: [meet.google.com/gwm-xesu-cyz](https://meet.google.com/gwm-xesu-cyz)

Representatives:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ascension Good Samaritan     | <input type="checkbox"/> Merrill Fire/EMS          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff Office           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ascension Sacred Heart       | <input type="checkbox"/> Merrill Police Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirus Clinic               | <input type="checkbox"/> NCW HERC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomahawk EMS             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corning Fire/ EMS            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Crest                | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomahawk Fire            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Management         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine River Fire/EMS       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomahawk Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Department            | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverview Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomahawk Police          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield Clinic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell EMS               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomahawk School District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merrill Area School District | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell Fire              |   |

**Attendance:** Greg Hartwig, David Johnson, Dee Olson, Shelley Hersil, Sharon Uttech, Teresa Erler, Carmen Viegut, Rick Wolf, Jeremy Blankenship, Jessica Witte, Dr. Michael Clark, Robbie Deede, Kristin Bath, Renee Krueger, Sue Kuber, Theresa Anthony, Wendy Peterson, Luke Myszka, Rhiannon Kleinschmidt, Jay Sommers, Melissa Diers- Sarasin, Erin Wells, Lynn Ross, Dale Bergman, Dr. John Sample, Debbie Moellendorf, September Murphy

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting called to order by Murphy at 11:00am.

2. **Sector COVID updates**

- a. **NCW HERC:** Hospitals are seeing an increase with in-patient care/ admissions, and testing. There continues to be an increase need in testing in communities across the region.
- b. **Health Department:** Lincoln County is averaging 12-20 cases a day, tough to keep up. They are still able to contact trace w/in 24 hours. Testing event in Tomahawk Thursday Oct. 1. They are seeing an increase in calls about testing. There are struggles with testing. A lot of contact tracing with students. Looking at future planning to replace National Guard (Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>) for testing. Looking for testing site that would be a good fit for winter and possible drive through. Looking for people to partner with for testing. Hoping to do 2 more testing events in October. Have noticed an uptick in attendance with community testing events.
- c. **Clinics:** No update available.
- d. **Hospitals:** Region wide Ascension is at or over capacity. Emergency department testing volumes are increasing. Resources are being strained. Merrill Good Samaritan is taking lower level care COVID patients, to help relieve strain. Tomahawk Sacred Heart is doing well, accepting lateral transfers. Visitation is currently limited- no visitors at this time.
- e. **Schools:** Merrill Area School District is keeping up with daily sanitizing. Have a potential testing site. Lincoln Hills is continuing to screen staff and students. Have had a couple COVID positive cases. Staff are wearing masks. Few struggles with getting staff tested with local hospitals. Quarantine requirements and work requirements gets confusion at times among staff and other parties involved. Health Department clarified essential workers quarantine with no symptoms can work. If agency can get by without quarantine staff this is recommended. HERC addressed State Health Alert #16. Some other counties are discussing allowing symptomatic essential employees working if Okayed by employer.
- f. **Skilled Nursing Facilities:** Long Term Care: Pine Crest increase in general screening. Outdoor visits have temporary been stopped due to positive staff member. Weekly testing for staff and residents. Still taking admissions. Monitoring staff and residents daily. No recent COVID cases. Working with Aspirus Weston and Marshfield Clinic for testing.
- g. **Fire/EMS:** Tomahawk EMS: Fall Ride uneventful compared to past years. Ambulance service is busy. PPE supply is going well.
- h. **Law Enforcement:** Merrill Police Department has no updates at this time. No other updates available.
- i. **Social Services:** Have limited staff for various reason and due to quarantine. Upcoming energy assistance needs can be applied for online through County Website or via phone.
- j. **Emergency Management:** Still continuing with PPE needs. Still have a few options through state resources.
- k. **Other community members:** MACHome: Doing their best. Still have some availability in warming center and transitional living. Warming center is closed 2 hours a day for cleaning and sanitation. Haven't seen

any major increase in clients potentially due to “no evictions”. United Way: Agencies are working through COVID in positive ways. Trying to raise funding to aid other programs. Food pantries are going strong. Vast majority of volunteers are masked. Needs have been steady. ADRC: Scheduling appointments as needed. Providing majority of services via phone. UW Extension: Continuing to post and share information on their website and Facebook page. Majority of staff working remotely. Most programs are being offered virtually. New project of care bags for isolated adults. Looking for volunteers to support efforts. City of Merrill has seen a few positive cases among employees. Transit services are closed temporary for staff under isolation. New absentee mailbox located at city Hall so people do not have to come into building to deliver forms.

3. **Unmet needs:** No additional unmet needs were identified at this time.
4. **Next Meeting:** To be Announced.
5. **Adjourn:** Murphy adjourned at 11:36am.

Minutes prepared by Melissa Diers- Sarasin and September Murphy