

## 2025.10.24 CPT Strategic Planning Meeting

Lisa Jamison (Friends of Portland NET), Ray Wolf (OSU Hatfield Fellow), Joshua Baker (Lloyd EcoDistrict), Michael Genuine (IRCO), Jim Quinn (Friends of Portland NET, Metro EM), Lydia Ledgerwood-Eberlein (MCEM), Jeremy Van Keuren (PBEM), Angelique Nomie (PBEM), Glenn Devitt (PBEM), Marisol Lozano-Peralta (PBEM)

### BEECN CONCERNS

BEECN started in 2013. Original purpose was to create “communication booths” spread fairly evenly throughout City of Portland where in event of CSZ for community members can communicate with EOC. Three-month implementation time may have led to some issues with the program. Program success lies in socializing the sites. BEECN info has been translated into multiple languages but are there other things we can do to improve it?

BEECN caches have large horizontal footprint, making it difficult to find storage sites. Perhaps part of what we want to do to improve BEECN should be around alternatives to storage caches.

Artificial split between BEECN and NET could also be addressed. Do we begin to formally merge the two programs?

Glenn suggests we already have merged them internally.

Jeremy - one reason BEECN score is so low is that we’re having trouble recruiting amateur radio operators (need 60 and only have 27).

BEECN promotion is communications centric. Goal is to stand up BEECN system in 24-28 hours, but that is not why BEECN program is powerful. We want to keep it because of socialization of geographic sites where people with gather after an earthquake. Literature at community response post-disaster indicates that when groups of people gather, they each other, collaborate with each other and share resources.

Lisa - PBEM sees BEECN and NET as integrated but from the outside, BEECN and NET do not consider themselves merged. BEECN is half a mile away from NET meeting location. Should be closer if they want them merged.

Jeremy - maybe PBEM should be more directive about BEECN / NET collaboration.

Lisa - but BEECN and NET can still be a team.

Lydia - has there been (pre-COVID) discussion about BEECN sites being Community Points of Distribution sites?

Jeremy - yes, and to a smaller extent, Medical Care Points. However, we don’t designate those locations ahead of time in case the location becomes compromised.

Lydia - these sites are already predesignated as communication sites. County would be responsible for announcing CPDs because it is related to Mass Care. Not sure if these will be published. However,

because BEECN is “set,” and stuff is there for communication, we should at least acknowledge the possibility that sites would become a place amongst emergency managers (not publicly).

Jeremy - GIS overlay of BEECN sites exists.

Lisa - how many are permanent and how many are moveable?

Jeremy - six permanent BEECNs exist. Permanent caches are buried in concrete in a park with a very secure door. Cost is \$20,000 a cache. **Could use UASI funds to purchase more.**

Glenn - seems we are looking at it through a projective view. Point of BEECN site is communication. Strongly suggests BEECN and NET rosters communicate. Also, does not want to run communication command post where there are thousands of people.

Jeremy - staff capacity is undersized so where do we maintain status quo and where do we “move the ball down the field?”

Joshua - what about collocating local resiliency hubs?

Jeremy - optimistic for future but bureaus are still siloed. Post earthquake communications plan citywide is not established.

Lydia - do you mean using COAD resilience hubs as communication sites?

Joshua - yes, for community engagement communication.

Lydia - trying to establish liaison network at MCEM. Part of communication would be communicating locations to CBOs.

Michael - suggests a mini-BEECN at IRCO, as Michael is trying to establish it as a resilience hub to increase communication and provide a voice for his community.

Jeremy - BEECN network is loaded with as much communication as PBEM thinks it can possibly handle. From a technical and person power standpoint, can we viably expand the network?

Michael - we do have dedicated individuals, but there is a span of control situation. City and Fire departments would need to prioritize communications. Mini-BEECNs can be supported via span of control.

Glenn - this needs to be included in operations plan.

Michael - contact people, too. Communication is the heart of everything. Wants to ensure CBOs have a voice. If we made it easy enough and inside the package of a resilience hub (including trainings).

Jeremy - maybe don't discuss BEECN as a network of community hubs. The **only** reason we would activate a BEECN network is in a post-earthquake scenario. Should we talk instead about a post-earthquake network of resilience hubs?

Michael - should discuss grid down situations in general.

Jeremy - should we blend BEECN and resilience hubs? One goal of BEECN is to reach non-English speaking communities and radio transmission is in English.

Marisol - suggests sparking curiosity in Spanish speaking communities is effective. Comes from a passion for what we do (i.e., "this is exciting, this is going to save lives") which leads people to taking it seriously. Constant presence and engagement are effective. We are short staffed, but nothing will replace a person to facilitate community engagement. Several bilingual NETS are interested in radio communication.

Jeremy - you are lifting the curtain, demystifying EM, and allowing people to see themselves in the process.

Marisol - and everyone has a role.

Jeremy - PBEM's role is to open the gate to CBOs that are separated from emergency management and say we will support you in that.

Lydia - acknowledges loss of positions on programs. Success of the program requires people, but what happens in the face of budget cuts if a program relies on a government structure to keep it going?

Jeremy - goal is to make program as "resilient" as possible and give it to the community as much as possible. Imperative to decentralize programming as much as possible so it will survive with institutional knowledge if there are budget cuts. Should weave this into strategic planning.

Michael - if the opportunity is there and it's easily accessible, companies will pay for employee involvement. This takes the onus off government programs.

Jeremy - let's focus on BEECN and how to structure these conversations (i.e., rubber meets the road). **Do we want to steer the BEECN program into a community hub program?**

Glenn - answer should come from the community and PBEM will do what we can.

Michael - BEECN cannot also serve as a distribution point. These should be two different spots with a runner. A CBO will serve as a resilience hub with a runner.

Lydia - are there other organizations like IRCO who can serve as resilience hubs?

Michael - very unique to IRCO. We have the building and the staffing. The part that's not unique is wanting to be part of the resilience community. The want is there, but NET and BEECN participation is time consuming. **If participation is easy enough, a lot of communities will participate.**

Jeremy - should we be ready to receive communities who want to participate?

Joshua - a lot of groups are in their resilience infancy. How long is the strategic plan?

2026 - 2029

Glenn - no BEECN volunteers. Some NET roles are BEECN. **BEECN is a spiderweb of communication only.** People will go where they go. But if NET knows that IRCO has a resource, they can communicate this. **Part of NET should be making these relationships and establishing a comms plan.**

Michael - a link between government and citizens. Communication is the link.

Jeremy - what radios would CBOs use? Might be BEECN radios.

Glenn - can't with traffic.

Lisa - could use a relay system.

Glenn - yes and NETS should test this.

Michael - radio training should be part of resilience hubs.

Glenn - includes socialization of radios, too.

Lisa - is there a list of all COADs?

Jeremy - yes. However, COAD mission is not yet clearly articulated and should be discussed during COAD session.

Lisa - COADs are a good recruitment place.

Jeremy - should socialize COAD, NET and BEECN partners to each other.

Joshua - BEECN has also been communicated as a resource center, not just a communication center.

Jeremy - this is a common misunderstanding.

Lisa - BEECN training includes discussion of medical supplies.

Lydia - what is BEECN communicating? What's the point of going there for a community member?

Jeremy - BEECN includes triaged radio messaging (neighborhood safety, life safety and recovery). Would like injuries to be addressed by congregation of people supporting each other.

Lydia - would go to BEECN to communicate and receive communication.

Jeremy - missing piece, which should go in strategic plan, is that PPB and PF&R are not yet participating in this communications conversation.

Lisa - troubling that you can't tell community members who's listening.

Jeremy - if nothing else, I want people at the BEECN site as this will result in resolutions. Should take opportunity of strategic planning process to call this out for Police and Fire involvement.

Glenn - BEECN timeline is 24-48 hours after an earthquake. Eventually NETs will set up BEECN. Then communication goes out from EOC. Then eventually, we start doing team reports of what we need to know.

Lisa - this makes sense but is not how it's been presented to us. We have the impression that we will be there, and people will come to us with their problems. But **it's not 9-1-1. Should communicate NET site**

as a resource for 911. Need to clarify what makes the most sense. Need more conversation around this with (upcoming) resilience hubs and COADs.

Jeremy - glad we have ideas with what we want to do with BEECN on a broader scale. Should Jeremy create goals, objectives and KPIs for the group to review or would this be too unilateral?

Group agrees.

1. We should explore the idea of bringing in more community hubs and creating more opportunities for that.

2. Need to draw BEECN and NET teams closer together.

Lydia - this will add more operational responsibilities to NETs.

Michael - if NETs can just communicate with us, resilience hub can take care of other concerns.

Jeremy - community based trainings are addressing those other concerns. Maybe there should be a scoring system based on trainings for becoming a community hub.

3. Relationship with PPB and PF&R to establish comms plan. Could tie in use of BEECN as a check-in site for public employees.

4. Money. These initiatives are attractive to grant dollars.

Lisa - **should communicate that focus of BEECN is communication**, including resource communication.

Jeremy - this makes placement easier.

Glenn - BEECN location becomes another asset for a NET team.

Jeremy - so part of programming includes GRMS radio and NET channel for how to reach BEECN.

Lisa - communication only is an easier sell than medical support.

Joshua - should BEECN locations be reevaluated since it occurred in 2013?

Glenn - public locations won't change.

Jeremy - considers sites to still be viable. Difficult to change sites as they've been socialized for over a decade. Another reason is that when you move the geographic site of the BEECN you are also moving its spot in the communications web with the fire stations.

Joshua - have other parts of the city grown dramatically in the past decade? Could this be addressed with new BEECN sites or the addition of a resilience hub?