

# **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

## **COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting held at Office of the Chief State's Attorney, Rocky Hill CT

**March 9, 2006**

**ATTENDEES:** Deb Arrieta, DEMHS; William Austin, WHFD/CREPC; Timothy Baldwin, Southbury FD; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Jeff Blatter, Bloomfield FD; Leonard Boyle, DPS; Sandra C. Brown, Hartford Hospital; Matthew Cassavecchia, Danbury Hosp.; Carmine Centrella, MMRS; Kristin Dean, CRCOG; Mark DeCaprio, DEP; Douglas Dortenzio, Wallingford PD; Marian Evans, BHD; Kerry Flaherty, DEMHS; Thomas Flaherty, POSTC; Tom Gavaghan, DEMHS; Doug Glowacki, DEMHS; Leonard Guercia, DPH; William Hackett, DEMHS; Betsy Hard, Bloomfield PD; Kevin Keast, US Coast Guard; Bob Labanara, CCM; Barbara Lakatos, Hartford Hosp.; Michael Maglione, Waterbury FD; Thad Martin, Military; Virginia Mason, COGCNV; Katherine McCormack, Hartford; Jim Mona, DOT; Jim O'Leary, COST; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Doug Pesce, DHS; Gary Pescosolido, DEMHS; Raymond Philbrick, DPW; Adam Piskura, CFCP; William Podgorski, DPS; John Quinlavin, CT-EMS; Susan Rainville, POSTC; Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez, Bridgeport Health; Peter Rockholz, DMHAS; Wayne Sanford, DEMHS; John Shaw, MMRS; Michael Spera, Old Saybrook; Gary Stango, PSAP's; Dan Stebbins, USAH; Jim Strillacci, West Hartford PD; James Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Michael Varney, DOIT; and Daniel Warzoha, Greenwich.

### **I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0908 hours, and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion made to accept the minutes of the February meeting by Gary Stango; second by Betsy Hard; approved unanimously.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Presentation by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – presented at the beginning of the meeting, by Deputy Commissioner Rockhotz and Captain Thomas Snyder (DPS).

### **V. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED**

- A. Proclamation by Town of Weston First Selectman Woody Bliss to make NIMS the standard for incident management within the town.

- B. Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials unanimously voted to support and invest in a regional approach to emergency operations planning in CT.
- C. Letter from Bruce Lockwood regarding School Anonymous Hotline Proposal. To be referred to the Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee.

## **VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Interoperability Committee – presented by Michael Varney. 1) The bids for the master radio contract were opened March 8; 20 proposals received. This will be a two year contract, with two possible extensions of one year each. 2) Vendors have been scheduled to demonstrate the STOC's equipment. Should have a bid in approx. one month. 3) Southwest Area Region 1 is moving to complete its communications project. They will meet next week to review the draft document. They hope to have it ratified by all SW municipalities before the next council meeting. 4) A radio capabilities demonstration was held at Rentschler Field and was well attended. 5) A Request for Proposal committee has been assembled to finalize the bid for the Emergency Notification equipment. The RFP should be posted next week and will take approx. 30 days to complete the process.
- B. Citizen Corp Advisory Council – Chief Bill Austin distributed a map showing the rapid progress being made across the state. Currently 550 people are processed and 320 are in training. The state will have a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) drill in April with some Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) activity supporting this drill. Governor's Foot Guard has completed their training and will drill in April with a focus on security and animal rescue.
- C. Credentialing Committee – Mike Spera advised that the committee is waiting for final specifications on credentialing from the Federal Government.
- D. Training Committee – Adam Piskura spoke in Jeff Morrisette's absence stating that there has been no training meeting to date and more information will follow. Per Commissioner Thomas there will be a Hartford Flood Drill sometime in April and a Hurricane Drill on June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Incident Management Teams – Jim Mona advised that they have completed the information gathering. The mission will be to simplify while using the information collected. This will be implemented on a regional basis and information will be reviewed to see if there are individual area needs to be satisfied. The next meeting will more fully clarify what still needs to be accomplished.
- F. Child Safety & Crisis Response: Per Deputy Commissioner Sandford the committee is meeting quarterly. A presentation made to the superintendents to get the schools more involved was well received. They are interested and plan to bring the information back to their individual districts.
- G. Mutual Aid Legislative Subcommittee – Chief Michael Maglione advised that the committee met on Tuesday to review some of the problems with Statewide Mutual Aid and what legislation is already in existence. They plan to keep the language broad and then address each discipline's individual problems or needs. The next meeting will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am, at 25 Sigourney Street.

## VII. UPDATES

- A. Grant Program – presented by Gary Pescosolido of the Grants Unit.
  - 2003 – funding is being wrapped up and currently waiting for final numbers from Rob Kevan in Washington D.C. on remaining monies.
  - 2004 – 12 million dollars have been processed which equates to approx. 30% of the total, and the unit is working on some large projects (e.g. radio orders, etc). Each month, the towns receive an email informing them of their remaining balances and the Grants Unit continues to help them to place orders.
  - 2005 – 3.5 million dollars in requests processed to date.
  - 2006 – facts sheets have been distributed in the Council information packets. The 2006 request was submitted one day prior to the deadline. \$30,700,000 was requested for projects outlined in the packet.

Per Commissioner Thomas, some internal streamlining has been done in the Fiscal and Grant Units resulting in the following processing timeline goals: Cash Advances – 15 days; Reimbursements – 30 days; Bid proposals – 30-45 days. The Port Security Grant package is anticipated to be released shortly. The Grants Unit will work closely with the Critical Infrastructure Unit, who did a detailed security analysis of all three ports, and will be using this information as part of the application process.
- B. NIMS – Deputy Commissioner Sandford stated that the three NIMS seminars held for Chief Elected Officials have resulted in 105 CEOs becoming NIMS compliant. Two additional seminars that were requested by the CEOs will be held and should result in a total of 140 - 145 CEOs certified upon completion. DEMHS is currently working with various State agencies, DEP, DPH, DOT, to get their employees trained. On the local level, the Town of Chester has self-certified that they are 100% NIMS compliant and will be presented with a Certificate of Recognition at the towns next board meeting. POST and the Fire Academy have completed over 100 training classes and train the trainer courses in the last 60 days and are to be congratulated for their hard work.
- C. CTIC – Commissioner Thomas stated that the committee will meet quarterly and are currently purchasing computers and Blackberries for the local officers coming into the Unit. With the new communities of Waterbury and New Haven coming onboard, all five areas of the state will be represented. Commissioner Boyle stated that CTIC will be meeting with the Naval Criminal Investigative Services and are awaiting information on the scope (full service or a pilot program) of an interactive database that may be available. This is a system that will allow CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) information to be entered from any department and be available statewide.
- D. Urban Search & Rescue –Deputy Commissioner Sandford that USAR has taken delivery of two trailers and they are being loaded with equipment. Two tow vehicles are also on order to transport these trailers and equipment where needed. The facility at Brainard is being updated with a security system already installed, and the roof repairs almost complete. The next projects will be to rewire for internet access and a new phone system that will link USAR to the Sigourney Street office and the Armory. Continue working to get on the bonding list for the

remaining vehicles, radios, and equipment. The Advisory Board has met and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Evacuation Planning - Addressed by Director Kerry Flaherty. The process is moving along well and the planning stage is almost complete. Regional Planning Teams have defined all shelter locations and DOT is working on the transportation corridors. Maps will be generated from this information and an education program will be developed to advise the general public of procedures before an emergency occurs. The Federal Government will visit in April to review the plans.
- B. Pandemic Flu Update – Commissioner Thomas advised that DPH, DEP, and the Dept. of Agriculture are working together to monitor the state bird populations (wild and domestic). Draft plans are on view at DPH for both flu contingencies.
- C. Discussion on Statewide Arrest Powers – Commissioner Boyle addressed the issue tabled from last months meeting. He believes the Police Chiefs Association made the request in good faith for the benefit of the public. For the record, by statute, municipal police can currently make an arrest anywhere in the state for a felony offense whether on or off duty. The recommended bill will give officers full arrest powers for non-criminal offenses. This brings up the following three issues: 1) Currently CEOs have the ability to bestow full arrest powers, at any time if needed, to officers from another municipality for purposes of mutual aid. Should that power be negated? 2) Public Safety concerns: a) the officer would have no ability to communicate with the local town PD; b) may not have a full understanding of the town's Standard Operating Procedures; c) may not have a full understanding or knowledge of the town itself; d) the Chief of the PD may not even know the officer is there; and 3) Liability Issues – possible with both the arresting municipality and the jurisdictional municipality. The issue of plain clothes officers may make the problem more difficult.

Chief Strillacci responded to the concerns raised by Commissioner Boyle regarding 1) Mutual Aid – towns can be left out because of boundary issues; and the difficulty of coming up with a statewide mutual aid compact. 2) Public Safety – the officers enforce state law, not town policies and procedures. 3) Liability – issues do exist. Each town has lawyers to work those issues out. The State Police go into other towns and deal with the same communication and SOP issues, so it should be able to work for all.

Discussion ensued.

Gary Stango reintroduced the motion for the advisory board to support CPCA in this legislation. Second by Betsy Hard.

Vote : In favor – 10; Opposed – 7; abstained – 4. Motion passed.

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. CCM's Emergency Management Symposium June 1<sup>st</sup> in Cromwell. Speaker is from Louisiana.

- B. New Haven Area conference – March 20-21<sup>st</sup> on Terrorism and Disaster by the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence.
- C. Michael Spera advised that we must remember that the funding decreases coming will impact the State. Homeland Security should be a national system, not federal.

**X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Tim Baldwin; second by Gary Stango; Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 1110 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

**XI. NEXT MEETING – April 13, 2006, at 9am, Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT.**