

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

March 8, 2007

ATTENDEES: Deb Arrieta, DEMHS; Bill Austin, CRCOG; Michael Basso, CDC; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Peter Boynton, USCG; Sandra Brown, Hartford Hosp.; Carmine Centrella, CRCOG; Wayne Dailey, DMHAS; Douglas Dortenzio, Wallingford; Tom Flaherty, POSTC; Elizabeth Frugale, DPH; Tom Gavaghan, DEMHS; Doug Glowacki, DEMHS; Libby Graham, DEMHS; Len Guercia, DPH; Albert Hoffman, USCG; Don Janelle, Manchester; Tim Kradas, DPS; Bob Labanara, CCM; Rick Lunn, LHCEO; Michael Maglione, Waterbury FD; Philip Marino, New Britain; Cheryl Mayeran, DPH; Katherine McCormack, Hartford; John Mengacci, OPM; Jim Mona, DOT; Jeff Morrisette, CFPC; Dan O'Brien, AMR; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Gary Pescosolido, DEMHS; Roy Piper, DEMHS; William Podgorski, DPS; Jean Popiak, CDC; Joseph Portereiko, Hartford Hosp.; Susan Rainville, POSTC; Ken Rigney, DEMHS; Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez, Bridgeport; Steve Scorzato, CTNG; Michael Spera, Old Saybrook; Gary Stango, Hartford; Dan Stebbins, USAO; James Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Roy Walton, CTNG; and Dan Warzoha, Greenwich.

I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0905 hours, and Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. The question was raised if there was a report on Web EOC. The Commissioner advised that it would be reported on at a future meeting.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Motion made to accept the minutes of the February meeting by Gary Stango; second by Doug Dortenzio; approved unanimously with two abstentions from Commissioner Thomas and John Mengacci.

IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

None

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Interoperability Committee – Commissioner Thomas advised that in the absence of Michael Varney and Bill Hackett, the report was sent on paper and included in the agenda packet.
- B. Citizen Corps Advisory Council – Bill Austin advised that the last months minutes were handed out. There are currently approx. 1000 people waiting or in

the training process. Senate Bill 6703 was introduced and the Annual CERT Conference will be October 29th. He also advised that the status of the Medical Reserve Corps has been clarified.

- C. Credentialing Committee – Reported on by Mike Spera. The draft RFP reviews are ongoing and the committee plans on due diligence in regards to the Salamander System that has been bought by some state entities.
- D. Training/NIMS Committee – Jeff Morrisette advised that the next meeting would be March 27th where the plan is to review the NIMS Implementation Plan for updates.
- E. Incident Management Teams – No report in the absence of Tim Baldwin.
- F. Child Safety & Crisis Response: Commissioner Thomas reported that the committee is moving forward with educators and a conference is in the planning for some time in the fall. They also plan to promote partnering between Day care facilities and local EMD's for emergency planning. The Commissioner advised that planning and drilling is shown to work and a great example of that was the incident at Burns School in Hartford this past week.
- G. Mutual Aid Legislative Subcommittee – Brenda Bergeron reported that the bill is moving along nicely.
- H. Regional Collaboration Committee – Libby Graham advised that the committee has a meeting on March 15th at 1pm at the CCM Office in New Haven and will present the revised Regional Emergency Support Implementation Plan and potential mechanics for a regional funding model.

Motion to accept committee reports was made by Doug Dortenzio, second by Jim Mona, unanimously approved.

VI. UPDATES

- A. Grant Program –Libby Graham advised that the FY03 through FY06 grants are continuing to move along. Libby then did a presentation on the FY07 Grant Application and its components. See PowerPoint. A Motion to accept the FY07 Grant proposal as presented was made by Bill Austin, second by Mike Spera, approved unanimously.
- B. CTIC – Commissioner Thomas advised that the CTIC is fully manned and continues to work diligently.
- C. Urban Search & Rescue – Bob DiPietro was unable to attend the meeting and sent his report, which was included in the agenda packet handed out at the beginning of the meeting. The question was raised regarding the rumor that the law enforcement component was to be removed from USAR. Commissioner Thomas advised that that was untrue.
- D. Other – None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Thomas advised that the new members of the Coordinating Council are Commissioner Danaher of DPS who is replacing Commissioner Boyle, and Jim Finley of CCM who is replacing Joel Cogen.

B. Bill Austin reminded the group that they will be holding a sheltering drill from 8am on May 26 through 8pm on May 27th to include approximately 400 people and will test some of the Universal Access concepts. He also requested some clarification on funding for entities such as CCSU, UCONN Health, Bradley Airport, etc. who participate regionally but are not allowed to receive part of the regional allocation.

C. Michael Spera asked if there was a budget for DEMHS. Commissioner Thomas advised that the Department budget starts at page 282 of the Governor's Budget proposal. He then asked if DEMHS would be hiring police to work as agents in the Department and Commissioner Thomas advised that this was just a rumor.

D. Commissioner Thomas advised that the Universal Access letter has gone out to all municipalities and we will be looking for feedback from them.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. CCM Conference – May 1, 2007, Cromwell CT.

B. Emergency Manager's Conference – June 6th in West Haven at Savin Rock.

C. Bill Palumba of DPUC congratulated Commissioner Thomas on being reconfirmed.

D. Commissioner Thomas clarified that all Council terms were for three years and that all members will remain in place unless they are replaced by the appointing person as per Statute 28-1b. Will confirm with Governor's Office.

E. Captain Boynton advised that the Coast Guard is working on a nationwide upgrade for marine VHF communications that will focus on marine users and will include upgraded communications equipment. Also that construction has begun on a new \$10 million command building in New Haven. Captain Boynton also advised that he will be retiring and Captain Dan Ronan will be replacing him. He hoped to have Captain Ronan attend a meeting before the June 1st Change of Command ceremony.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Michael Spera; second by Doug Dortenzio; Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 1053 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

XI. NEXT MEETING – April 12, 2007 at 9am, at the Chief State's Attorney's Office, Rocky Hill.

TO: James Thomas, Commissioner DEMHS
FROM: Michael D. Varney, DOIT
RE: State of Connecticut, Interoperability Working Group Activities
DATE: March 8, 2007

Significant Points of update:

Communication Interoperability Working Group:

- Highlighted activities of the working group were highlighted in this month's "*DEMHS Advisor*". Other information and activities are located on the DEMHS website at www.ct.gov/demhs.
- The National Governors Association (NGA) in conjunction with the National Public Safety Communications Department of Homeland Security SAFECOM Program and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) will be hosting a Statewide Planning Workshop March 20-23 to brief states for preparing their Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans. According to NGA all states must submit a statewide plan by September 30th 2007. Connecticut is sending a team of individuals to this conference; a more detailed report will be made regarding this project next month.
- The Communications Unit Leader program that was written and delivered to individuals in Region 1 has been reviewed by subject matter experts from the working group and submitted to DHS for their possible use as the national program.
- STOCS Low power cross-band / multi-band devices are being operationally tested by the bid review team. Once 1 final issue is resolved a bid award will be made. Expected delivery of the units once ordered is eight weeks, they will then be available for training and deployment. It is anticipated to deploy approximately 100 units.
- A Transit Grant working with NY and NJ to enhance communications on the rail systems has been submitted. Connecticut's priority with the grant is to create a mechanism for all emergency responders to communicate with the rail system from Greenwich to New Haven.
- The I-CALL / I-TAC updated training programs have started to be delivered around the State, 11 programs have been scheduled and are available on the CT Fire Academy training calendar. Battery replacement for the issued portables has been coordinated with the Department of Public Safety and will be available at these training sessions.
- DEMHS is in the process of licensing the mass decontamination units and prime movers that are not covered under an existing state or municipal license.

The Managed Emergency Telephone Notification System (METNS) master agreement was awarded last month and is available to be used for purchase by municipalities, state agencies and other political entities. The agreement (06ITZ0047MA) is with Sigma Communications LLC and is available on the Department of Information Technology website www.ct.gov/doit.

USAR Report to Coordinating Council

March Meeting Report:

Training Opportunity: Follow-up

The Task Force has an opportunity to train at the Center for National Response (CNR) in Charleston, West Virginia. The CNR is a multi-purpose exercise facility designed to meet a wide range of WMD consequence management issues. The CNR uses a tunnel that provides realistic environments where responders can practice their techniques.

The Task Force is developing a plan to present to the Deputy Commissioner. The cost of the use of the facility is \$19,000 for an 80 member deployment. This does not include expenses such as food and travel. We are investigating several options to save costs. One option is to combine our training with the U.S. Army Civilian Support Team (CST). If this group accompanies us to the training site, our site rental costs are minimal.

We are continuing to gather information about this exercise. I think it is vital that we provide realistic training to our members. It has been noted that the Task Force's morale and work ethic was at its highest when they were preparing for the "Top-off" exercise last year.

For more information on the training site visit web site:

<http://www.centerfornationalresponse.com/index.html>

Manager Workshop:

The Task Force Leaders held a series of manager's workshop in the months of January and February. The intention was to evaluate our performance as managers and discuss methods of accelerating certain issues concerning the Task Force. The feeling among TFL's was that the group was on a plateau and needed a boost to keep our team moving forward. The group conducted data gathering to investigate out strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Many good issues came forward. The management staff is continuing to analyze this data. The next session will be to formulate goals and objectives and adopt a plan to implement them.

Stipend Positions:

Recent changes in stipend allotments have allowed the team to advertise to two (2) additional Logistics positions. TFL Mancini and I will be evaluating candidates at the end of the month and early April.

SUSAR Conference:

TFL Mancini has recently returned from a State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) team conference. He will brief our team in April.

Out of State Status:

TFL Mancini and I will be out of state from March 5 to March 16 attending the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. Acting TFL's will be designated in our absence.

Respectfully submitted;
Deputy Chief Robert DiPietro
Task Force Leader; CT-TF1 US&R