

Connecticut Statewide Citizen Corps Council

Advisory Committee Minutes

June 18, 2015

Attendees: William Shea (DEMHS Deputy Commissioner); John Warren (DEMHS Operations Manager); Paul Gibb (Litchfield Hills); Joel Severance (RiverCOG); Don Janelle (CEMA); Don Davis (CRCOG); Norma Peterson (Fairfield); Joanna Rogalski (NVCOG); Gary Ruggiero (DEMHS); Thomas Gavaghan (DEMHS Region 3 Coordinator); Sue Prosi (Western CT COG); Mark Amatrudo (Wilton EMD)

Call to Order: John Warren called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. followed by introductions.

Public Comments: none

Guest Speaker: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the May 21, 2015 meeting minutes was made by Joel Severance and seconded by Don Davis – motion passed with one abstention.

Old Business

Correspondence: None

DEMHS Report: Gary Ruggiero reported that DEMHS will be conducting a CERT Training the Trainer Class at Brainard on July 11 and 18, register on the DEMHS website.

Deputy Commissioner William Shea reported that draft changes to the By-Laws have been written. Comments are to be e-mailed to Brenda Bergeron. The Commissioner also stated that his intent is to have someone from Grants attend the Citizen Corps Advisory Council meetings. The Commissioner reported that one of the items for the September meeting will be to work on the FY2014 Grant Spending.

Discussion followed regarding the May meeting and list of suggested purchases from Advisory Council members under the FY2013 Grant.

American Legion Report: No report.

New Business

Category A: Burlington CERT approved for \$1,200 for a class of 25 students expected to start after approval, (motion by Joel Severance, second by Don Davis, approved unanimously)

Category B: None

Category C – Northwest Hills Council of Governments approved for \$3,000 for 6 month period starting June 19, 2015, (motion by Joel Severance, second by Susan Prosi, approved unanimously)

River Council of Governments approved for \$3,000 for 6 month period starting July 1, 2015, (motion by Joel Severance, second by Susan Prosi, approved unanimously)

Special Grant requests – None

Statewide Operational Update: Updates and changes were made to applicable operational levels.

Other New Business –

Motion made to reinstate Category D Grants with up to a \$4,000 request per town. Motion made by Paul Gibb, second by Don Davis. Discussion followed. Motion rescinded by Paul Gibb.

Motion made to reinstate Category D Grants with up to \$1,500 request per town. Items include backpack items, Identification Equipment, apparel or other items as per previous Category D Grant eligible items. Grant would be first come, first served based on available resources.

Motion made by Paul Gibb, second by Don Janelle. Discussion followed and motion was approved.

Question by Joel Severance that if a Voting Member cannot make a meeting, can they have a proxy attend and vote in their place. Discussion followed and all agreed that will be allowed provided that written documentation be submitted from the Voting Member.

Members reported that they could not open the e-mail attachments for this meeting. Will send attachments as pdf in the future.

Discussion was held on the new Draft By-Laws as distributed at the meeting. Request was made to Brenda Bergeron to provide a copy of the existing By-Laws for comparison. Comments on the new draft included why the Regional Coordinators were all made voting members along with many other DEMHS personnel. The new Steering Committee and such have many more DEMHS personnel than Voting Members as are now on the Council. Concerns are the new makeup is majority DEMHS and those existing non-DEMHS Voting Members will be the minority.

Regional Council Updates:

Susan Prosi reported that in Region 1 the Training and Exercise Committee was meeting. Susan stated that she has conflicting schedules attending meetings. Susan discussed some issues with the Draft By-Laws.

Joel Severance reported that the Regional SART Team will be meeting tonight in Madison. All are welcome.

Greg Martin no longer is a voting member of this Council as the Council of Government he represented has been eliminated. His name to be removed from distribution list.

Susan Prosi suggested moving the location of the Citizen Corps Advisory Committee to different locations. Discussion followed that this was tried recently at a couple of different locations and attendance dropped. It was reported that the West Hartford Town Hall location has been booked thru the end of the year. A central location, perhaps Middletown, might be a help.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM on a motion by Joel Severance, second by Don Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: July 16, 2015

Future meeting dates for 2015: July 16; August – NO MEETING; September 17, October 15th; November 19th; and December 17th.