

**State of Connecticut**  
**Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 28, 2009**  
**DEMHS, 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford**

**Attendees:** William J. Hackett, DEMHS; Robin Montgomery, Brookfield P.D.; Tom Vannini, DEMHS; Amparo Garcia, DSS; Tom Gavaghan, DEMHS; Kate Henry, DCF; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Bruce Lockwood, CEMA; Vincent Mustaro, CAFE; Sharon Mazzochi, DEMHS; Sgt. James Thomas, CT State Police; Sandra Baker, DEMHS; Mary Kate Lowndes, Commission on Children; and Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM

**1. Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 1306 by William J. Hackett, Director, DEMHS. Director Hackett will now serve as Chairman of the committee due to the retirement of Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford.

**2. Report from DEMHS:**

- A. STEP One Program – 13 towns are participating in the program with a total of 4,000 students. The following schools districts are currently participating: Avon, Ashford, Canton, Fairfield, New Britain, Franklin, North Stonington, Bolton, East Hartford, Region 11, Salem, Voluntown, and Southington. Teachers will receive the training and then pass it on to their students. DEMHS will conduct an internal STEP meeting with their Fiscal Unit and will have a financial breakdown of awards at the next Child Safety meeting in October.
- B. School Security Grant Update – Tom Vannini reported that close out letters have gone out to the municipalities. 42 towns have been inspected thus far. \$280,000 was unused and will be returned to the General Fund. Positive feedback has been received on the projects to date.
- C. Fall Emergency Planning for Schools Workshops – Tom Gavaghan provided a briefing on the program and upcoming training. A two day workshop is scheduled to take place at Education Connection on October 19 and November 3; and at EastConn on October 21 and November 4. Workshops will be held from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. There will be a prerequisite for registrants - Introduction to ICS for Schools (FEMA Course IS-100SC). Attendance will be limited to 50 participants. CEUs will be provided for completion of the course. Registration will be handled through the DEMHS website.
- D. DPH/DEMHS H1N1 School Conference – A conference was held July 22, 2009 at SCSU. Conference participants included school nurses, administrators and local health officials. Public Service Announcements for H1N1 Influenza are under development. CT DPH has links to CDC and federal government agencies on their website to provide a source for access to information. A meeting was held at DPH earlier today to discuss continuity of operations in the event of an H1N1 influenza emergency.

### **3. Sub-Committee for Day Care Centers & Pre-School:**

No Report

### **4. Items from Members/Open Discussion:**

Bruce Lockwood is a committee member for the National Commission on Children and Disasters. This federally mandated Commission studies the needs of children affected by disasters. The meeting participants received an overview of the planning work being done by the Commission. An update was given on the launch of a classroom pilot program that is scheduled to begin next month. The American Red Cross, FEMA, and Save the Children are some of the agencies collaborating on the project. The Commission is due to submit a draft report to the President and Congress in October, 2009 and the final report will be complete in October, 2010. The website for the Commission is <http://www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov>. The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for September 14 and the full committee will meet on September 15, 2009.

The following topics were also addressed during open discussion:

- Short and long term recovery for daycare facilities regulated by DPH.
- Silver Alert Bill passed by the Legislature on July 1<sup>st</sup> and how it differs from the Amber Alert.
- Development of a Child Abduction Response Team and the need for funding to conduct training.
- Submission of a grant proposal with the focus on bullying.
- Waivers for states for H1N1 issues.
- STEP Program – additional one year commitment.

### **5. New Business:**

Brenda Bergeron, Legal Counsel, DEMHS asked the committee to consider having by-laws. Draft by-laws will be made available for review at the next meeting.

Director Hackett addressed the issue of having a reporting system for School Safety Exercises that are conducted in State. It is recommended that research into developing a short form reporting document be considered.

CCM has a yearly symposium and is always seeking out new ideas. There was a consensus from the group to participate in the 2010 CCM Symposium.

### **6. Next Meeting**

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 1:00 pm; DEMHS, 25 Sigourney Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hartford