

# Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee

Minutes – May 6, 2009

DEMHS, 25 Sigourney Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Hartford, CT 06106

Attendees: Dennis Carrithers, CASCIAC; Peggy Freidenfelt, DPH; Amparo Garcia, DSS; Tom Gavaghan, DEMHS; Kate Henry, DCF; Bruce Lockwood, National Commission; Vincent Mustaro, CABA; Peter Palermino, DSS; Wayne Sandford, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Tom Vannini, DEMHS; and Barbara Wolf, OPM.

1. Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford.
2. Report from DEMHS:
  - A. School Security Grant Update – Tom Vannini reported that \$5 million was given out the first year. In year two, an additional \$5 million was appropriated which was cut down to \$1.8 million and was distributed in 3 days to 34 towns. Types of work completed with the funding include: lighting, fencing, cameras, card access systems, and notification systems.
  - B. STEP One Program – Wayne Sandford advised that Michele Collins, who was a Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE) for FEMA and was to leave, has been given a full time position to continue working on the STEP program. There may be a lag waiting for her paperwork to be completed. Application packages went to all towns and 12 have responded to participate this year. This will mean approximately 3400 children participating. The budget needed is \$23,000 and we have \$30,000 in HLS funds in place. 100% of the fourth graders participating will get backpacks and printed materials. A list of the schools participating will be sent to the Regional Coordinators.
  - C. H1N1 Flu Outbreak – Updates on K-12 Guidance, Day Care Provider Guidance and Caring for the Sick at Home Guidance.
3. Sub-Committee for Day Care Centers & Pre-School:
  - A. Peggy Freidenfelt reported that they have trained 380 people so far and that more are on a waiting list. They are waiting for additional money for supplies to continue training.
  - B. Peter Palermino advised that the Child Care Subcommittee met on January 30<sup>th</sup>. There is the need to develop a response for the feds regarding child preparedness. They may work with consultants to accomplish this task. The Federal Child Care Plan is due July 1<sup>st</sup>. Also development of a statewide plan.
4. Items from Members: Open Discussion
  - A. Bruce Lockwood gave an overview of the National Commission on Children and Disaster, to include their responsibilities, mission and scope of work. There are four subcommittees:
    - 1) The Pediatric Medical Care Subcommittee will explore ways to ensure an effective emergency medical response system for children, including improvements to the current mechanisms for developing, stockpiling, and distributing medical countermeasures for children in a disaster.
    - 2) The Mental Health and Human Services Recovery Subcommittee will review policies and programs to holistically assist families in achieving self-sufficiency after disasters by identifying models that could improve and streamline disaster case management services and expand the long-term provision of human and mental health services to children and their guardians.

- 3) The Evacuation, Transportation, and Housing Subcommittee will investigate ways to improve disaster evacuation protocols and transportation mechanisms, and establish sheltering standards, so that emergency response operations at the state and local level adequately address the unique needs of children.
- 4) The Education and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee will identify the barriers to children's safe and timely return to school after a disaster and ways to expand partnerships among schools and community stakeholders to improve school safety and preparedness for children and educators.

He will be working on the Evacuation, Transportation and Hosing Subcommittee which expects to have a preliminary report done in October 2009. The National Meeting will be held in June in Washington DC.

- B. Tom Gavaghan discussed the Emergency planning for Schools Workshop which has been held for the past two years. He advised that one day is not really enough but that getting school administrators for two days in a row does not work with their schedules. They will look into possibly giving CEU's and having the workshop be two days but continued from one week into the next (ex: Tuesday one week and finished Tuesday the following week.) The workshop will be in the eastern and western parts of the state this year. Deputy Commissioner Sandford advised that he start the planning process.

5. New Business: None

6. Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 1pm – 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT