

CHILD SAFETY & CRISIS RESPONSE COMMITTEE
SUMMARY NOTES – JANUARY 17, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner James Thomas.

The committee discussed the following issues:

- Commissioner Thomas talked about the reports and feedback from the TOPOFF Exercise in the Spring of 2005. Decontamination facilities, evacuation planning and family reception centers, schools, safe environments for families during emergencies were discussed.
- Scott Newgass, SDE handed out and discussed a presentation of Incident Command System (ICS) Training to support schools in everyday crisis as well as mass emergencies. A Train the Trainer session is scheduled for February to train 2 people in each RESC. This will extend to 3 training days in each district. Public & private schools will have an opportunity to participate in training.
- There was discussion about NIMS compliance by the communities and training of Fire & Police Chiefs as well as school resource officers.
- A question was raised by Elaine Zimmerman and there was discussion about the need to extend ICS training to preschool/pre-kindergarten and day care centers that are not in school systems.
- There was discussion about public awareness and communicating with parents through letters or reminders of what the schools are doing for emergency preparedness.
- Elaine Zimmerman extended an invitation to all for an event to be held on January 24, 2006 at the Legislative Office Building. Children will present their perspectives on the impacts of disasters.
- Commissioner Thomas stated that a presentation about NIMS compliance will be made to municipal CEOs and Mayors in February. It will also be offered to Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs and School Superintendents. DEMHS wants to partner with others to extend this training more widely. The Capital Region has made training available to churches, schools & city government.
- There was discussion regarding state emergency plans and compliance with NIMS, updating town plans, working with the 5 DEMHS Area Coordinators, updating shelter lists, etc.
- David Larson recommended that the schools and municipalities practice the emergency plans annually. He also discussed the need to review pandemic issues.
- Commissioner Thomas stated that a Hurricane exercise will be held in the Fall and that it will include state agencies, towns, schools, and the media. Schools as shelters, the need for generators, recovery efforts, special needs populations, and private sector support was discussed.
- Automatic External Defibrillators, school fire and lock-down drills, training and awareness on the use of equipment including radios, walkie-talkies, access to outside phone lines, were discussed.
- Strategic Public Awareness campaign was discussed. It could include public service announcements, integration of family preparedness planning, evacuation and mass transit options, planning for early care and education environments, including family day care homes, licensed centers. The potential for a contest to design an emergency preparedness/response mascot – similar to McGruff or Sparky – to help introduce and involve kids to preparedness.
- The next meetings are scheduled for March 14, 2006 and April 20, 2006.

CHILD SAFETY & CRISIS RESPONSE PARTICIPANTS 1/17/06

American Red Cross

David Brown

Commission on Children

Elaine Zimmerman

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)

Robert J. Rader

Vincent A. Mustaro

Connecticut Association of Schools

Mike Buckley

Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents

David Larson

Connecticut Emergency Management Association

Bruce Lockwood (Canton Emergency Management Director)

Connecticut Police Chief's Association and City of Norwich

Lou Fusaro

Department of Children and Families

DeAnna Lia

Lou Ando

Department of Education

Robert Lichtenstein

Scott Newgass

Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)

James "Skip" Thomas, Commissioner

Wayne Sandford, Deputy Commissioner

Brenda Bergeron, Attorney

Department of Public Health

Ellen Blachinski

Department of Social Services

Julie Bisi (for Peter Palermino, Family Services Division)

Governor's Prevention Partnership

John Davion

Steve Ristau

Office of Policy and Management
