

Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee

Minutes – January 4, 2007

Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford

Attendees: David Brown, Red Cross; Michael Buckley, CASP; Patricia Estill, COC; Peggy Freidenfelt, DPH; Thomas Gavaghan, DEMHS; Bob Kenny, DPH; Bruce Lockwood, CEMA; Scott Newgass, DOE; Celine Provini, Gov. Prevention Partnership; Robert Rader, CABA; Harry Rilling, CPC; Robert Rader, CABA; Stephan Ristau, Gov. Prevention Partnership; Wayne Sandford, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Barbara Wolf, OPM; and Elaine Zimmerman, COC.

1. Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford at 1:07 hours.
2. Report from DEMHS: reported by Deputy Commissioner Sandford.
 - A. Future Training Dates: On 1/12 the Deputy Commissioner will be speaking to the CT Association of School Business Officials. On 1/23 US Attorney's Office is sponsoring a Safe School Initiative presented by the U.S. Secret Service at the Theater of the Performing Arts, in Hartford.
 - B. There will be NIMS training at EMI from 7/15 to 7/18 in Emmitsburg, MD.
 - C. Tom Gavaghan advised that on 2/13 the Town of Suffield will be sponsoring the REDI Program. He also stated that the Town of West Hartford has bought the web based program. Some discussion ensued on the merit of purchasing the REDI Program for the entire state for all schools, public, private and university. Motion made by Dave Brown to request a set aside from the FY2207 Homeland Security grant to implement this project. Second by Bruce Lockwood. Vote was unanimous, if received to have the program available but not mandated for use.
 - D. The question was broached regarding additional training this Spring on Planning and School Safety by Tom Gavaghan. Discussion with the decision that two additional training sessions should be conducted in September.
3. Sub-Committee for Day Care Centers:
 - A. Elaine Zimmerman advised that several meetings have been held to look at Emergency Planning for Day Care providers and the consensus is that After-School programs and independent day care providers need to be addressed as well. Next meeting will be held the morning of January 17th at the LOB. Plans for evacuation should include how the parents are to be reached in an emergency situation. Children attending summer camps and park & recreation programs, as well as other venues, should be addressed as well. Some questions on the table for the group is how to train these providers once they are located. Bruce Lockwood made a motion to officially recognize this group as a sub-committee to the Child Safety and Crisis Response Committee. Second by Dave Brown, unanimous.

B. Scott Newgass questioned whether a statewide conference for safety and crisis management should be held, possibly a morning session for all with break out sessions in the afternoon. Some discussion was had with the result being the formation of a sub-group to work on a conference to include multiple disciplines. Members as follows: Chair – Bruce Lockwood, Scott Newgass, Dave Brown, Tom Gavaghan, Dave Larson, Bob Rader and mike Buckley.

4. Security Assessments:

- A. Local assessments – school districts may be hiring consultants to do their assessments and not involving their local Police Departments and SRO's to partner with the project. Also DEMHS has the Critical Infrastructure protection Unit which can help and possibly do training for the school districts. CCM may also be able to offer some help. Districts need to realize that it's not just the locks and the doors, that there are soft issues to be addressed.
- B. State Funds - \$15 million proposal by lawmakers to bolster school security. Some discussion on how far 15 million dollars would go with over 1380 schools in the State.
- C. Schools as Shelters – most schools are designated by their communities as shelters. Unfortunately, most do not have a secondary power source. Generators are not included in the 70% funding formula from the State. Some discussion ensued on ways to get the proposal to add generators to the 70% formula for reimbursement. Is there a way to be sure that no building be considered a shelter if there isn't a secondary power source available?

5. HSIN Portal Status: Deputy Commissioner Sandford reported that the project is moving forward and training is taking place, but that the progress is slower than was anticipated. Training for schools will be upcoming in the future.

6. Items from Members:

- A. Per Elaine Zimmerman – The next Commission on Children meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th from 10am -12 noon, at the LOB in Room 1C. The topic will be on Youth Violence and guests will include the Hartford Chief of Police and various legislators.
- B. Per Scott Newgass – the ERCM grant will be coming up in Spring.

7. Future meetings: Per the concensus of the group, meetings will continue on a quarterly basis to be held the first Thursday of every month at 1pm at Brainard Field. The next meeting will be March 1, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 1421 hours.

Next Meeting: March 1, 2007 at 1pm, Brainard Field