

Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee

Minutes – March 14, 2006

Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford

Attendees: Louis Ando, DCF; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Julie Bisi, DSS; Ellen Blaschinski, DPH; Thomas Gavaghan, DEMHS; Stan Kasanowski, DCF; David Larson, CAPSS; Bruce Lockwood, CEMA; Scott Newgass, DOE; Robert Rader, CABA; Stephen Ristau, Governor's Prevention Partnership; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; and Barbara Wolf, OPM.

1. Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Deputy Commissioner Sandford.
2. Introductions: new attendees – Stan Kasanowski, DCF; Lee Toffey, DEMHS.
3. Report from SDE: Scott Newgass stated that on February 2nd, Train the Trainer sessions were held for RESCS. The focus is for a minimum of three trainings to take place in each district. CREC will be the fiduciary for the whole project. Also a circular letter is to go out from all Superintendents regarding the Pandemic Flu and will reinforce the availability of training. Letter to be forwarded to DEMHS once written.
4. Report from Commission on Children: a) Deputy Commissioner Sandford spoke about the presentation at the LOB. DEMHS hopes to use some of the artwork and possibly a few poems that the children submitted on 911 and terrorism, for posters reinforcing the TIPS hotline, on buses and trains throughout the state. Bruce Lockwood stated that it was a great presentation and turn out and wondered about the possibility of using the children's voices, recorded as they read their essays, in a format such as public broadcasting. Per D/C Sandford, DEMHS is looking to come up with some proposals and has a meeting scheduled with CPTV. David Larson asked if it was possible to get CT companies, i.e. insurance, to sponsor the cost of having the posters printed so they could be displayed in the schools.
b) Per Deputy Commissioner Sandford 'Operation Safeguard' will be unveiled next month. This will eventually give 80 or so identified businesses individualized information safety sheets to be hung in their locations. For example, these sheets would advise employees of a hardware store to be vigilant regarding the purchase of certain items from a terrorism point of view. This program will also reach out to schools through the DARE officers who will be trained in April.
5. Discussion:
 - a. Letter from Bruce Lockwood, Director of Emergency Management for the Town of Canton. After the events of Columbine, a response plan was devised for the Town of Canton using best practices from various locals. Many of these other plans talked of an anonymous hotline being available on a statewide basis so that children could feel free to pass along information they had heard without being identified. This system would not be a replacement for 911. The state of Oregon has legislation in place to deal with issues such as false reporting. This has been forwarded to the Connecticut General Assembly's Assistant Minority Leader for review. Bob Rader asked who would receive the calls and who would be responsible to investigate. Bruce felt that there would be only one number, not 169 individual municipal numbers, possibly answered by Department of Public Safety's

Message Center and investigation would be carried out by local law enforcement. Some funding identified as possible through the Federal Senator Byrd bill. It was also mentioned that this issue has been addressed previously and that the CT Police Chief's Association was opposed to the idea. It was agreed that with the short legislative session this year, it makes sense to consider this issue for possible legislation next session. Deputy Commissioner Sandford suggested that upon Commissioner Thomas' return, a meeting should be scheduled with the Police Chief's Association, DEMHS, and Bruce Lockwood to consider the issue. The Bullying statute requires that anonymous reporting be available; this is sometimes misinterpreted as confidential. The group also considered the possibility of utilizing the existing DEMHS tips hotline but marketing it differently for children. The consensus of the committee is that the issue is worth follow up and consideration.

b. Other discussions:

- i.) CT Secure Website – HSIN – will probably be unveiled in May. Persons will be nominated, reviewed, and then accepted to be members. There would be different areas for the different disciplines (i.e. Emergency Management Directors, Law Enforcement, Superintendents of Schools, etc.) Education would be a key group. The system would perhaps be able to email all partners and advise them to check the web when new information is posted. Information would be password protected.
- ii.) Scott Newgass stated that back in December, NIMS training was discussed as being available to school administrators. Deputy Commissioner Sandford advised that schools can go through their Town Emergency Management Directors as training from a variety of sources is available at this time. Classes can be held or training can be done online. Training is also available for all State Agencies at this time.
- iii.) Tom Gavaghan handed out a proposal for Emergency Management Planning training conference for Schools that could be run for 6-7 districts. This would be multi-hazard training for internal and external hazards, and would be a two-day workshop for school administrators. Tom stated that it could be possible to split the program, to be given one day one month, and the second day the next month to facilitate attendance. Late fall appears to be the time to run this kind of seminar, as it would give the schools a chance to start the year and get into routines.

c. Goals for 2006 – based on comments from members.

- 1.) Get information out to schools – Public, Private and Day Care centers.
- 2.) Concentrate on training – drill and practice.
- 3.) Special Act 02-8, the mission of the original group. (see attached page)
- 4.) Emphasize Day Care workers.

6. Next Meeting: Moved from April 20th to May 1st.



Substitute House Bill No. 5424

Special Act No. 02-8

AN ACT CONCERNING CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AND THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 1, 2003, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on planning and activities for children and youth as part of homeland preparedness and emergency response planning to terrorism. The report shall include, where appropriate, provisions which address (1) the discrete health needs of children for purposes of bio-terrorism preparedness, (2) public education and communications for families on public safety issues relating to terrorism, (3) training in safety and security measures and multi-hazard response plans for child care workers, school personnel and personnel in before and after school programs, (4) coordination of school health and mental health strategies, and (5) opportunities for youth to engage in community service, civic activities and programs that provide cultural diversity experiences.