

Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee

Minutes – May 1, 2006

Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford

Attendees: Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Julie Bisi, DSS; Ellen Blaschinski, DPH; Michael Buckley, CASP; Pat Estill, COC; Thomas Gavaghan, DEMHS; Stan Kasanowski, DCF; Bruce Lockwood, CEMA; Vincent Mustaro, CABE; Scott Newgass, DOE; DeAnna Paugas-Lia, DCF; Robert Rader, CABE; Wayne Sandford, DEMHS; James Thomas, DEMHS; and Lee Toffey, DEMHS.

1. Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Commissioner James Thomas.
2. Report from SDE: Scott Newgass stated that 13 people have been trained with additional training to be offered in each of the RESC areas. Three regional training sessions are slated with one already begun. Discussion of Day Care issues. Ellen Blaschinski suggested providing training to Day Care Centers possibly through DPH, who could hand out facts sheets or information pages and possibly post information on the web. Pat Estill advised that it may also be possible through COC and the CT Child Daycare Council to spearhead training in conjunction with the others. Commission Thomas volunteered the use of the Emergency Operations Center if needed to run a tabletop drill. Julie Bisi passed around a letter received on the Pandemic Flu that may have portions usable to Day Care providers.
3. US Department of Education Grant: Scott Newgass discussed the federal grant and that two to four were given each year and run from one quarter to one half million dollars each to provide money for collaborative work between the first responder community and schools. The Town of Milford did a great job with the last grant. These grants can only be applied for by Towns, not by the State. Bruce Lockwood advised that the application may take an extensive time to prepare for, while a very short turnaround time is given to apply. Deputy Commissioner Sandford stated that when he met with the Hartford Area Superintendents, they offered to help any district in their area who wants to apply for the grant and/or will review their application.
4. Media Campaign: Deputy Commissioner Sandford stated that DEMHS has hired a contractor, Makiaris Media, who, in conjunction with CPTV, will be rolling out two media campaigns for the entire State. ‘See Something, Say Something’ is scheduled to be run the first week of September with radio and television spots, and bus posters, all featuring some of the artwork from the Commission on Children’s art campaign. The ‘Be Aware, Be Prepared’ campaign will be rolled out in June and feature TV and radio spots with meteorologist Art Horn. Both campaigns will feature a one-hour documentary and a one-hour town meeting.
5. Report on Meetings with Superintendents: Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford stated that he did meet with CAPC and subsequently met with the Hartford Area and SECASA Superintendents. There was overwhelming interest in the programs and in NIMS training. The Deputy Commissioner offered to set up training in each of the regions for their superintendents.
6. HSIN Portal Status: Commissioner Thomas distributed a sample of the unclassified information bulletins that come out on a daily basis from the Federal Government and talked about the weekly bulletins sent from the CT Intelligence Unit (CTIC) in New Haven. The proposed CT-

HSIN web site will be for people in the public and private sector including those involved in transportation, energy, schools, Postal Service, etc. to be able to access intelligence information pertinent to their discipline. Discussion on how the system works. Bruce Lockwood spoke about the training he just received on the system and what some of its capabilities will be. Deputy Commissioner Sandford stated that there will be a meeting next week to look at a training schedule.

7. TIPS Hotline: Bruce Lockwood advised that the Office of Legislative Research of the General Assembly had prepared a report examining the children's 1-800 hotlines in other states and that he would look into providing a copy of the report to Committee members.

8. Other:

a.) Tom Gavaghan spoke about the Emergency Management training session. Tentative dates are September 19 & 20 and September 26 & 27. The program should be kept to one day, not two and made available to 5 to 6 districts for a total of 50 people per class. Suggested locations included Waters Edge in Westbrook, the education training center in Cheshire and the Avon Senior Center (available Fridays only).

b.) Bruce Lockwood spoke about the AED program for getting defibrillators in schools. It is an open application process. For information go to www.keepthebeat.com

c.) CEMA – Bruce Lockwood advised that CEMA may or may not have a new person to take his place by the next meeting.

d.) Scott Newgass stated that there a new National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement to identify one more potential resource for information. Scott Newgass is a member of the professional advisory board.

The National Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools provides funding to each of the fifty states (last year \$3.2 million was provided to the Connecticut State Department of Education which was, in turn, forwarded to each of the individual school districts through measured entitlements. Additionally, approximately \$800,000 was given to OPM to support other prevention initiatives addressing school safety and substance-related issues.). There is increasing insistence on the part of the federal Office for Safe and Drug-free Schools that all supported programming be "science-based", that is, programs that have effectiveness proven through documented research protocols. Under the president's proposed budget, this money has been zeroed out. This funding represents the only significant cache of prevention dollars addressing school safety and substance use prevention that is consistently awarded.

According to recent survey results parental involvement (as represented by an affirmative response to the question "do your parents usually know where you are and who you are with) results in a 30% decrease in all major risk factors for youth.

Meeting adjourned at 1440 hours.

Next Meetings: July 17, 2006
October 16, 2006