

Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee

Minutes – July 24, 2007

Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford

Attendees: David Brown, DEMHS; Patricia Estill, COC; Peggy Freidenfelt, DPH; Thomas Gavaghan, DEMHS; Dave Larson, CAPSS; Scott Newgass, DOE; Doug Pesce, DHS; Robert Rader, CABE; Wayne Sandford, DEMHS; James Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; and Barbara Wolf, OPM and COC Intern Ashlynn Backiman.

1. Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford at 1305 hours.
2. Report from DEMHS: reported by Deputy Commissioner Sandford.
 - A. FY07 HLS funding – Connecticut has been allocated \$10,001,000 dollars, a 23% reduction from last year. Commissioner Thomas advised that we did well compared to the other New England states and that CT received a score of 92.
 - B. Communications Grant – CT has been allocated \$12,999,898 for Interoperable Communications and addition of the 700 MHz system.
3. Sub-Committee for Day Care Centers: reported on by Deputy Commissioner Sandford and Pat Estill in Elaine Zimmerman's absence.
 - A. DC Sandford discussed the mailing to all licensed Day care centers and advised that DEMHS is looking to fund the \$20,000 needed to mail to the remaining exempt facilities. Dave Larson asked if it was possible to partner with private companies such as Pratt & Whitney or UTC to help fund the cost of the mailing. Tom Gavaghan suggested The Hartford who might be interested in participating.
 - B. Pat Estill spoke on Elaine Zimmerman's concern that there was no money for training and exercising to help educate the Day Care providers. Dave Larson asked if there was a way to encourage the local trainers to help as many communities have trainers already in their towns. Tom Gavaghan advised that Hartford has run two pilot training sessions a few months ago for the Day Care providers that included fire, police and emergency management directors. These were very well received. Discussion ensued.
4. School Safety Seminar:
 - A. Bruce Lockwood was absent so no report was available on the status of the survey for Superintendents of Schools.
 - B. Tom Gavaghan gave an update on the Emergency Planning for Schools workshop. Two will be held: Sept. 26 in Education Connection in Litchfield and Sept. 27th at Mohegan Sun Public Safety building. This will be targeted at Administrators. Dave Larson suggested possibly doing more workshops in January.

5. Legislative Grant Program:

- A. Public Act 07-208 – Review of the Public Act which is a \$10 million dollar grant (\$5 million for two years) from the State of Connecticut. Discussion ensued. Dave Larson suggested a meeting (co-hosted with DOE) for the superintendents or one of their representatives around the third week of Sept. to give them the grant application and explain how the grant will work. Bob Rader suggested DEMHS write an article about the grant to help stem the number of phone calls coming in to the office requesting information. Doug Pesce informed that the Secret Service does work in school safety and that their technical consultants may be willing to help advise towns on cost estimates.

Dave Larson offered to give DEMHS a booth at their Seminar in Groton on November 16th. CT American Institute on Architects could be brought on board to advise schools about design and re-vamping for security. Discussion on school safety issues.

6. Items from Members:

- A. Dave Larson spoke regarding a meeting he attended on Pandemic Flu and the projection that the strain expected in Spring 08 may have increased impact on younger people due to the way their immune systems work. He wondered what planning or information schools are doing to prepare for pandemic flu. Commissioner Thomas advised that perhaps Public Health would address the group so as to increase their knowledge and comfort level. DC Sandford advised that Ready.gov has an entire section on school preparedness that the group should take a look at.
- B. Scott Newgass advised that the New Canaan school system is looking at ways to identify youngsters who may pose problems down the line without impacting the civil rights of the individuals. On a second topic, he suggested that something be given out regarding what is expected in the grant application for PA 07-208, such as budgetary requirements, etc. CT Educations Laws only suggest a school safety team. Can this be a requirement that gets tied in with the grant? He also suggested creating a menu of opportunities for the schools so they have increased knowledge of what they may be eligible for in terms of grants, and the impact of applying for one grant over another.
- C. Pat Estill spoke on the Commission on Children presentation and this year's Art Work and Poetry. The consensus was that the presentation went much smoother this year and the tribute to Virginia Tech was poignant but not overdone.
- D. Doug Pesce advised that LLIS.gov has a lessons learned area on the Virginia Tech incident.

7. Next Meeting: September 20, 2007 at 1pm, Brainard Field

The meeting was adjourned at 1425 hours.