

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held at Chief State's Attorney's Office, Rocky Hill

October 11, 2007

ATTENDEES: Cheryl Assis, CRCOG; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Sandra Brown, Hartford Hosp.; Dave Brown, DEMHS; Carmine Centrella, CRCOG; Arthur Davidson, Ireland; Doug Dortenzio, Wallingford; Mary Duley, DPH; Marion Evans, BHD; Tom Gavaghan, DEMHS; Libby Graham, DEMHS; Len Guercia, DPH; Bill Hackett, DEMHS; Bill Higgins, CFPC; Al Hoffman, USCG; Don Janelle, Manchester; Samantha Kopp, YNHHS; Bob Labanara, CCM; Mike Manglione, Waterbury; Peter Matos, DEMHS; Simone Maxwell, DEP; Katherine McCormack, Hartford; Phil Moberg, DOT; Betty Morris, Northcentral EMS; Jeff Morrissette, CFPC; Jim O'Leary, COST; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Doug Pesce, DHS; Gary Pescosolido, DEMHS; George Pohorilak, DPS; Susan Rainville, POSTC; Ken Rigney, DEMHS; Dave Rodriguez, TSA; Vito Savino, USAR; Tony Schirillo, DPS; Gary Stango, Hartford 911; James Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Michael Varney, DOIT; Steve Walsh, POSTC; Roy Walton, CTNG; Dan Warzoha, Greenwich; and Ed Wilds, DEP.

I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0910 hours, and Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of all present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Thomas introduced Mr. Arthur Davidson, Chief Inspector, visiting from Belfast, Ireland.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Motion made to accept the minutes of the September meeting by Gary Stango; second by Marion Evans; approved unanimously.

IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

- A. None.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Interoperability Committee – Handout by Michael Varney. See attached.
- B. Citizen Corps Advisory Council – Report by Katherine McCormack in Bill Austin's absence. Citizen Corps had a booth at the CCM Conference on 9-24-07. 2200 persons trained, 325 in training, and 635 waiting to begin training. There will be a seminar on November 20. Register online at www.crcog.org Next meeting to be held October 18th.
- C. Credentialing Committee – Commissioner Thomas reported in the absence of Mike Spera. The group is looking at the Salamander System and wants to start credentialing First Responders soon.
- D. Training/NIMS Committee – Jeff Morrissette advised that the group will meet on 9-25-07. They have elected to hold off on revisions to the NIMS Plan until after the National meeting. Comments have been received on the 5-year plan and will be submitted to Deputy Commissioner Sandford to compile and submit. There are concerns with the municipalities keeping formal records. DEMHS will send a compliance reminder as more people have received training than are accounted for. Resource typing is being discussed.

- E. Incident Management Teams – Gary Stango reported that Chief Mulhall of the CT Chief's of Police Assoc., Lt. Peter Wack of the CSP Traffic Unit, and Len Guercia, DPH have been invited to join the group. It is imperative that each discipline accept the criteria and include it in their training. They will attempt to get the criteria to the Council for the next meeting. Jim O'Leary asked that the State Police be more involved in regional activities. Discussion ensued.
- F. Child Safety & Crisis Response: Tom Gavaghan reported on the very successful school workshops that were held last month. Both classes were filled to capacity and it was asked that they be given twice a year in Spring and Fall. Formal evaluation will be presented to the Council as soon as it is available. Cheryl Assis advised that there will be two gentlemen who were part of the Pennsylvania shooting speaking at the Public Safety meeting on 12-6-07.
- G. Regional Collaboration Committee – Libby Graham reported that the last meeting was on October 2nd. There were presentations from DPH and IMT, and talk of leveraging funding with the monies coming from DPH. Talk of resource typing and guidance. DEMHS to conduct training in November for the RPO's and other interested parties. Conclusion of the meeting focused on the grants for the regions. RPO's coming forward as follows: Region 3 – CRCOG; Region 4 – WINCOG; and Region 5 _ COGCNV. DEMHS will administer for Regions 1 and 2 who have no lead RPO.
- H. Medical Reserve Corps –Mary Duley reported that the SOP's are in their final draft and they are working with Brenda Bergeron to review and finalize. The thirteen MRC unit leaders and Mary will be attending the Region 1 MMRC Conference on October 27th.

Motion to accept committee reports was made by Len Guercia, second by Jeff Morrissette, unanimously approved.

VI. UPDATES

A. Grant Program – Libby Graham reported that the FY04 grant is 98.6% expended with the primary focus on Interoperable Communications funds for targeted projects. The High band radio initiative is 74% complete. FY05 funding is 89.3% expended and FY06 funding is being used for train the trainer courses on the Mark 1 kits; refinements to the Mass casualty Trailers which are being loaded. DPH and DEMHS now host monthly meetings to coordinate programs, services, and planning. FY07 regional Collaboration process is complete. DEMHS is working in close collaboration with the PSIC steering committee as DEMHS is the SAA. This is a 13 million dollar grant for interoperable communications. The School security Grant program is under way and 160 schools have sent in a letter of intent to apply so far. The deadline is October 15th with the grant application being due on November 15th. This grant will have a peer review process.

B. CTIC – Commissioner Thomas advised that the National Guard and TSA have joined the CTIC. The last policy board meeting was held at Enfield Prison, and will take place in various locations throughout the State.

C. Urban Search & Rescue – Reported on by Sgt. Vito Savino.

September Component Drill:

- Rescue Component-Trench Rescue Technician
- All other components-Trench Rescue Awareness. Training conducted by the CT Fire Academy.
- Training conducted at the Operating Engineers Local 478 training facility in Meriden, CT.

October Training:

- Rescue and Medical Components: Trench Rescue Technician held at the Operating Engineers, Local 478 Training Facility, Meriden, CT. Training conducted by the CT Fire Academy.
 - Search and Planning: GPS and Tech Search training at the CT-USAR training pile in Windsor Locks.
 - Haz Mat: NFPA 472 refresher
 - Logistics: Equipment familiarization and support of component training operations.
- FEMA Equivalent USAR Training:
- Six members from the Medical Component recently completed a FEMA Equivalent Medical Technician course in New Jersey.
 - Six members from the Rescue Component will be attending a FEMA Equivalent Structural Collapse Technician course in Virginia Beach, VA. later this week
 - CT Fire Academy to host a FEMA Equivalent Search Canine Course in November. Opened to all regional, state and federal US&R Teams. CT-TF1 will be sending members to participate.
 - CT-TF1 personnel will attend the annual State Urban Search and Rescue Conference in Ocala, FL in November.
 - One CT-TF1 member will attend a FEMA Equivalent Riggers course in Ocala, FL in November.
 - Request to have CT-TF1 personnel attend a FEMA Logistics course in Ocala, FL in December.

All above training was financed by ODP funds.

Pub Ed Events:

- CT Hospital Association US&R presentation, November 07.

Equipment:

- We are waiting for medical equipment for our Medical Component. The Medical Component does not currently have the needed equipment to support a deployment.
- Three Roll-Off vehicles were completed four weeks ago and are in New Jersey. We are waiting to take delivery.

Budget:

- Plans have been completed for the Windsor Locks USAR Training Pile.
- Our attorney is in the process of developing a new MOU to address the 5 budgeted stipend positions. The following positions are still vacant:
 - 1-Assistant Administrative Coordinator (full time)
 - 1-Task Force Leader (part time)
 - 1-Rescue Manager (part time)
 - 1-Assistant Training Coordinator (part time)
 - 1-Logistic Technician-(part time)

D. Legislation – Scott Devico was absent but Commissioner Thomas advised that if anyone had questions regarding legislation to contact Scott. Len Guercia advised that they are working on two legislative drafts: 1) administration of the Mark 1 kits to the public in an emergency, and 2) USEERA protection extended to CT responders called up to assist in a natural disaster instate.

E. Other – none.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation by Mary Duley on the Medical Reserve Corp.
- B. Coordinating Council Report – Melanie Kerr advised that this will be the fourth report to the legislature for the DEMHS Coordinating Council. Page one of the packet handed out has the procedures and each chair needs to email their report to Melanie by November 15th at melanie.kerr@po.state.ct.us. Please highlight accomplishments from this past year and goals for next year. Congratulations to Mary Duley who has already submitted the MRC report.
- C. Chief Inspector Arthur Davidson from Ireland spoke about his experiences here in the United States, and the similarities and differences between the response/planning procedures in each country.
- D. Commissioner Thomas advised that he was notified by Dave Brown that a Mobil Education team from the Naval Post Graduate School will be coming to CT for a tabletop exercise at Camp Rell on April 10, 2008.
- E. Ed Wilds advised that the US Attorney General’s Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 15th at Camp Rell.
- F. George Pohorilak reported that the APCO Conference will be in Mystic 10-29 through 10-31. Also that CT is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Enhanced 911 service.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Citizens Corps Annual Meeting – Mohegan Sun – November 20
- B. Winter Storm Drill – EOC – November 20
- C. Millstone Exercise Rehearsal – February 13
- D. Millstone Federally Evaluated Exercise – March 19
- E. Millstone Public Meeting Conducted by FEMA and NRC – March 21
- F. CCM/DEMHS Conference – May 1, 2008

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Gary Stango; second by Jim O’Leary; Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 1019 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

XI. NEXT MEETING – November 8, 2007 at 9 am, at the Chief State’s Attorney’s Office, Rocky Hill.

TO: James Thomas, Commissioner DEMHS
FROM: Michael D. Varney, DOIT
RE: State of Connecticut, Interoperability Working Group Activities
DATE: October 11, 2007

Significant Points of update:

Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee:

- Held monthly meeting September 18th at DOT Research lab in Rocky Hill. Regular business was conducted as well as presentations regarding PSIC program, CS-PERN, and STOCS programs. Additional detail available at www.ct.gov/demhs - communications.
- Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program:
 - Progress update presentations made to several groups during last month.
 - DEMHS Received grant award of \$12,999,879.00 from DHS for PSIC Grant Program.
 - State Communications Interoperable Plan (SCIP) workshop held Sept 27-28 at Brainard Airport, over 20 participants attended for both bays along with representatives from ICTAP. Preliminary SCIP submitted for DHS review.
 - Several meetings of the PSIC Steering Group were held regarding the project.
 - Investment Justification kick-off workshop was held Oct. 10 at DOT. Teams were developed from state and regional representatives to further develop detailed investment justifications.
 - Request for Information (RFI) has been developed to assist with the investment justification process and will be posted this week.
- Connecticut State Police Emergency Radio Network (CS-PERN): A presentation and explanation of the program was provided by Chief Jakubson to full interoperability committee at the Sept. meeting.
- State Tactical on Scene Communications System (STOCS) equipment has been received and is being tested by sub-committee. Grant notices will be sent out this month for agencies to apply for units.
- Next Regular meeting is scheduled for October 16th 1PM at DOT Research lab in Rocky Hill.

Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps Strategic Plan

*DEMHS Coordinating Council Meeting
October 11, 2007*

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

MRC Regionalization

- A collaborative effort between DPH, DEMHS, the Citizen Corps Advisory Council, and the DHHS Region 1 Office.
- Plan modeled after the five DEMHS regions for organization, planning and regional capacity building.
- Financially supported with federal dollars (both DHS & DHHS).

Outcome Objectives

- Assure Connecticut has a sustainable medical resource during times of need.
- Local MRC units to be part of a DEMHS Regional Response Team, while maintaining a local identity.
- Regionalization of MRCs will enhance each DEMHS region's collective capacity to share resources, and to respond to public health threats, including terrorism.

Current Composition MRC Units

DEMHS Region 1	DEMHS Region 2	DEMHS Region 3	DEMHS Region 4	DEMHS Region 5
1. Bridgeport HD MRC 2. Fairfield-Easton HD MRC 3. Stratford-Trumbull-Monroe HD MRC 4. Westport-Weston-Wilton HD MRC	1. YNH OEP MRC 2. NVHD MRC 3. West Haven HD MRC 4. Milford HD MRC 5. Middletown HD MRC	1. Capitol Region MRC 2. Middletown HD MRC - overlap with DEMHS Region 2	1. Uncas HD MRC 2. LedgeLight HD MRC	1. NVHD MRC - overlap with DEMHS Region 2 2. TAHD MRC

CT MRC Mission

“Dedicated to establishing teams of local medical and public health professionals and lay volunteers to contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need”

Administrative & Organizational Accomplishments to Date

- June 2007 the CT MRC Advisory Committee of the State DEMHS Coordinating Council was formed. First meeting held on June 29, 2007.
- Committee By-laws completed, and approved July 2007.
- MRC SOPs in final draft, currently being reviewed by DEMHS legal counsel.

Activities in Process

- Formation of Regional MRC Councils
- Development of funding recommendations to support the five Regional MRC teams
- Development of mutual aid agreement template for local and regional team use.
- Currently participating in a 6 month National Core Competency Pilot Project w February 2008 end date.

CT MRC Primary Contact:

- Further Questions?
- Mary Grace Duley, MA, RN
Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator
State ESAR-VHP/MRC Coordinator
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