

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND  
SECURITY  
COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Chief State's Attorney's Office, Rocky Hill  
**January 10, 2008**

**ATTENDEES:** Steve Alvey, DEMHS/DPS; Pablo Arroyo, DHS; Cheryl Assis, CRCOG; Bill Austin, CREPC; Tim Baldwin, Southbury; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; David Brown, DEMHS; Sandra Brown, Hartford Hospital; Andrew Burke, DEMHS/DPS; Ray Crowley, DEMHS; Wayne Dailey, DMHAS; Kristin Dean, CRCOG; Scott Devico, DEMHS; Douglas Dortenzio, Wallingford; Mary Duley, DPH; Robert Eddy, DEMHS/DPS; Gerard Goudreau, SERC; Libby Graham, DEMHS; Betsy Hard, Bloomfield; Gordon Harris, DEMHS; Bill Higgins, CFPC; Albert Hoffman, USCG; Don Janelle, Manchester; Bob Labanara, CCM; Mike Maglione, Waterbury; Katherine McCormack, Hartford; Phil Moberg, DOT; Ed Murray, DEMHS; Samantha Kopp, Yale New Haven; Jim O'Leary, COST; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Doug Pesce, DHS; Ray Philbrick, DPW; George Pohorilak, DPS; Joseph Portereiko, HH; Elizabeth Rivera Rodriguez, Bridgeport Hospital; Dave Rodriguez, TSA/CT; Tom Romano, DEMHS; Rob Ross, DPS; Gary Ruggiero, DEMHS; Vito Savino, USAR; Tony Schirillo, DPS; Terry Schnure, OPM; Mike Spera, Old Saybrook; Gary Stango, Hartford 911; Dan Stebbins, USAO; James Thomas, DEMHS; Roy Walton, CT National Guard; Daniel Warzoha, Greenwich; and Douglas Whalen, Bradley International Airport.

**I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0905 hours, and Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. None.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion made to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2007 meeting by Bill Palomba; seconded by Jim O'Leary; approved with one abstention by Doug Dortenzio.

**IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED**

A. None.

**V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Interoperability Committee – PSIC grant report by George Pohorilak: group is meeting regularly. Waiting for federal comments on PSIC and SCIP, which are expected by March 31, 2008. Steering Committee has a master meeting schedule.
- B. Citizen Corps Advisory Council – Report by Bill Austin. Handout presented to each attendee. There are now 2088 trained CERT personnel. Neighborhood Watch: first group approved in Willimantic. Next meeting will be held January 24, 2008 in West Hartford.
- C. Credentialing Committee – Chief Hard is now co-chair with Mike Spera. Don Moore of Bloomfield will lead group. Organizational meeting at DPS on January 18, 2008 at 10 a.m.
- D. Training/NIMS Committee – No report.
- E. Incident Management Teams – Tim Baldwin reported that the committee met on December 19<sup>th</sup> with individuals interested in joining the team. One issue is the cost of team development.

Committee is putting a communication together on this topic to share with Commissioner Thomas. Two members are going to Forest Service conference in Maine. Next meeting will be held January 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at Brainard. Commissioner Thomas indicated that two police chiefs have agreed to act as liaisons to the IMT Committee—Chiefs Mulhall and Fiore. Would like one for each DEMHS region.

F. Child Safety & Crisis Response: Next meeting is scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford. Several important initiatives are planned for the Spring.

G. Regional Collaboration Committee – Libby Graham reported that the Regional Collaboration Subcommittee’s next meeting is January 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford. The group will finalize the agenda for the February 7<sup>th</sup> Financial Resources seminar to be held in the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> at Rentschler Field. The purpose of the seminar is to share funding issues and information across regions, and to allow the regional emergency support function working groups from the different regions to meet together to share best practices and issues at separate networking tables. The seminar will feature presentations by OPM, DPH, DOT, Citizens Corps, and DEMHS regarding funding sources and procedures. An invitation will be sent to all Coordinating Council members. Each region now has an REPT or REPT Steering Committee which is meeting on a regular basis. In Regions 1 and 2, DEMHS staff members are performing the activities that are being performed by the Coordinating RPOs in the other regions.

H. Medical Reserve Corps – Mary Duley reported that the next meeting is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> at the CT Hospital Association in Wallingford from 9:30 to 11:00 am. There are two years of funding in place, combined DPH and DEMHS grant money, to promote local and regional MRC volunteerism: \$35,000 this year and \$40,000 next year.

Motion to accept committee reports was made by Chief Dortenzio, seconded by Chief Hard, unanimously approved.

## **VI. UPDATES**

A. Grant Program – Libby Graham reported that the State Preparedness Report was submitted in draft form to DHS for comments on January 4, 2008. The final version is due March 31, 2008. Hopefully, DEMHS will receive the 2008 grant guidance before that date.

With regard to the School Security Grant, DEMHS, in conjunction with DPS and the state Department of Education, has completed its staff review of the applications. The review results have been sent to Commissioner Thomas, and grant awards are anticipated to be made later this month. Commissioner Thomas urged towns that did not apply this year to encourage their school superintendents to apply next year, because this is currently a two-year grant program. Libby Graham indicated that, because matching funds are required from the towns, this is a perfect time for the town budget process to include this program as an item.

B. CTIC – Commissioner Thomas advised that the next policy board meeting will take place tomorrow, January 11, 2008, in room 410 at the State Capitol at 10 a.m.

C. Urban Search & Rescue – Reported on by Sgt. Vito Savino. See attached full report. The Team has been invited to a forum co-sponsored by the legislative Public Safety and Public Health Committees on January 28, 2008 at the State Capitol. A final meeting on the mezzanine construction is scheduled for today. A meeting was held this week with Concentra, the company that will act as the gatekeeper for the team’s physical exams. Finally, the Team is working with DEMHS on MOUs and positions.

D. Legislation – Scott Devico advised that the legislative package is awaiting final approval.

E. Other – The Commissioner stated that approximately 30 individuals have passed the initial application process at DAS for the vacant regional coordinator position. DAS is currently scoring

the applications. The three durational planner positions should be posted this week, which will give DEMHS a planner for each region. Ray Crowley joined DEMHS this week as the fifth DEMHS regional trainer. Region 3 secretary Jean Terwilliger has retired.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Annual Coordinating Council Report – The report has been filed, and the Commissioner thanked Melanie Kerr for her work on it. The report is available on line.
- B. The Commissioner stated that the April Coordinating Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at Camp Rell in Niantic. It will be an all-day functional exercise. General Martin has agreed to set aside a block of rooms at a very reasonable price for the night of April 9<sup>th</sup>. A team building exercise will be held the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by a cookout. A sign-up sheet went around for Coordinating Council members to sign up for rooms if they are interested in coming down the night of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Dave Rodriguez and Pablo Arroyo of the CT TSA made a presentation on the VIPR program, Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response, which is coming to CT. TSA is involved in the security of all modes of transportation—in addition to air, they are involved with Coast Guard, bus, rail, and pipeline. The VIPR program is the DHS's premier anti-terrorism program. CT will be involved in a two-day exercise at Bradley Airport to test use of VIPR in CT. Dave Rodriguez has briefed DPS Troop W, who will be participating.

## **IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Commissioner Thomas presented the following items:

- A. Article: Dodd, Lieberman Announce First Responder CT Grants—This is a DHS initiative with local fire departments—does not directly involve the State.
- B. National Governors Association Pandemic Influenza Workshop – January 11-12, 2008. Bill Hackett from DEMHS and an entire multi-agency CT team are attending this two-day event.
- C. WMD Threat and Risk Assessment Course—Brainard Field, Hartford—January 16-17, 2008.
- D. Simulation-based Critical incident Training for Emergency Response Dispatchers—January 22-25, 2008.
- E. Intelligence Liaison Officers Conference—CCSU—January 23, 2008—Lt. Alvey and the Critical Infrastructure Unit and CTIC are presenting.
- F. Millstone Exercise Rehearsal – February 13, 2008.
- G. Millstone Federally Evaluated Exercise – March 18, 2008.
- H. Millstone Public Meeting Conducted by FEMA and NRC – March 24, 2008 (PLEASE NOTE: This is a corrected date from the original agenda.)
- I. Naval Post Graduate School TTX – April 10, 2008.
- J. CCM/DEMHS Conference – May 15, 2008—DPH may co-sponsor.

Commissioner Thomas also asked for guest authors to provide articles for the DEMHS newsletter, since there are so many subject matter experts on the Coordinating Council.

## **X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made to adjourn by Chief Dortenzio; seconded by Chief Hard; Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 0950 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

## **XI. NEXT MEETING** – February 14, 2008 at 9 am, at the Chief State's Attorney's Office, Rocky Hill.