

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held at Office of the Chief State's Attorney, Rocky Hill CT
January 12, 2006

ATTENDEES: Cheryl Assis, CRCOG; William Austin, WHFD/CREPC; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Leonard Boyle, DPS; Peter Boynton, USCG; Sandra C. Brown, Hartford Hospital; Matt Bruns, CREPC; Andrew Burke, DEMHS/CI; Deanna Chaparro, DEMHS; Wayne Dailey, DMHAS; Thomas Davoren, DPS; Judy Dowd, OPM; Michael Edgerton, USCG; Marian Evans, BHD; Kerry Flaherty, DEMHS; Thomas Flaherty, POSTC; Doug Glowacki, DEMHS; Libby Graham, DEMHS; Leonard Guercia, DPH; William Hackett, DEMHS; Richard Kleindienst, YNHH; Bob Labanara, CCM; Jack Leonard, DEMHS; John Mancini, USAR; Thad Martin, CTMD; Virginia Mason, COGCNV; Katherine McCormack, Hartford; Jim Mona, DOT; Jeff Morrisette, CFPC; Michael Nockunas, USAR; Daniel O'Brien, AMR; Jim O'Leary, COST; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Doug Pesce, DHS; Susan Rainville, POSTC; Ken Rigney, DEMHS; Robert Ross, South Fire District; Wayne Sandford, DEMHS; John Shaw, MMRS; Michael Spera, Old Saybrook; Gary Stango, PSAP's; Roger Sylvestre, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; James Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Michael Varney, DOIT; Edward Wilds, DEP.

I. WELCOME

- A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0903 hours.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. None

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Motion made to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting.
Seconded by Gary Stango, approved unanimously.

IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

- A. Letter from the Town of Plymouth.
- B. Letter from Town of East Haddam.
Both held for discussion under Old Business.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Interoperability Committee – presented by Mike Varney. 1) The committee meeting minutes for December can be found online. 2) Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan for the Fairfield region is moving along. Currently importing data as part of the mapping tool, with training held at different locations. The State Agencies involved are starting to come online. This will be an online mapping and reference tool for radio locations/inventory, etc. with no

cost to the State. Workshops are planned for January 31st and February 1st for involved participants. Should have 80-85% of the plan completed at the end of this two day workshop. 3) The Governance subcommittee is to have a draft ready for the next Interoperability meeting. 4) STOC's system and RFI closing next week. There has been increased interest with the new posting. 5) Master Radio Catalog contract to be advertised and posted. Should be able to purchase items by February 23rd. Motion to accept by Gary Stango, seconded by Leonard Boyle, accepted unanimously.

- B. Citizen Corp Advisory Council – Chief Bill Austin reported that the council had a meeting on January 2nd. The first class has begun and a second class will be starting. The council has met with General Thad Martin and the Footguard and militia will be working with CERT. 2) Bristol CERT training is commencing. 3) Council members will be attending national Conference in LA. 4) There will be four (4) CERT units in CT each with their own mission, for example the capitol region group has two (2) 24 foot trailers with medical capabilities. Each unit has a clear mission evolving and will be trained. Motion to accept by Len Guercia, seconded by Ed Wilds, approved unanimously.
- C. Credentialing Committee – Mike Spera reported that the committee is still on pause but will meet in the next few weeks to review the national Incentives. Motion to accept by Leonard Boyle, seconded by Jim Mona, unanimously approved.
- D. Training Committee – Jeff Morrissette stated that once minor modifications with the NIMS class are approved, training will be made available to all who need it. The train the trainer classes for NIMS are moving along. Motion to accept by Mike Spera, second by Ed Wilds, unanimously approved.
- E. Incident Management Teams – Jim Mona stated the new subcommittee has made some progress as an established group meeting with Captain Boynton and expect to reach out to meet with the five Regional areas and learn more about their plans. Will try to get the information onto the web to make it readily available to the Council.
- F. Mutual Aid Legislative Subcommittee – Commissioner Thomas stated that Betsy Hard had advised him the committee was scheduled to meet in the near future.

VI. UPDATES

- A. Grant Program – presented by Libby Graham who reviewed standing of the State Homeland Security Grant program and introduced Bill Hackett, a new member of the Grants Unit.
 - 2003 - DEMHS is continuing to work with DPS and a draft grant application is in place that will move 1.7 million dollars to DEMHS for the purchase of cots, Mass Casualty Trailers and Shelter trailers, and NIMS training.
 - 2004 – Currently over \$9 million in requests have been processed. This is 2 million more than last month with \$800,000 of this amount set aside for the UASI and Yale initiatives.
 - 2005 – 2.3 million dollars in requests processed. Also the Buffer Zone monies have been received. They were on hold due to glitch in the initial award made by DHS.
 - 2006 – PowerPoint presentation to be presented under other Business.

Question was raised as to when the Emergency Notification System would be available for purchase. Mike Varney stated that there was still some work to be done on the proposal and Commissioner Thomas advised that it would be reviewed before the next Coordinating Council meeting.

- B. NIMS – reported on by Deputy Commissioner Sandford who stated that the committee had met earlier in the week and they were seeing great accomplishments on this level. Free NIMS training is available to all Fire Depts., Police Depts. and 3 seminars will be offered to Municipal CEO's only on February 15 in Uncasville, February 16th in Danbury and February 21st in Meriden. The CEO's will be NIMS compliant after attending one of these sessions, and they will be given an implementation plan and a model for their Town to follow. Communities are beginning to request training and one Town will be receiving a certificate from the Department for 100% compliance for self certification. Possibly put a list on the website to list those communities who reach 100% compliance. Per Commissioner Thomas all employees of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security are currently 100% compliant and offered to assist any other State Agency if they need help.
- 2) The Natural Response Plan and the Consequence Management Plan have been sent to all named agencies. The Plan is to send each plan to the governor for signature.
- C. CTIC – Commissioner Thomas thanked the members for all their hard work and stated they are looking for ways to expand the information sharing through the CTIC bulletins, which are sent at least once a week. Have met with people from DC, the Coast Guard, FBI, etc. to look at ways to expand the information base both inside and out of state. Attended Homeland Security Information network (HSIN) meeting, Connecticut would be one of 7 states sharing information online. Policy Board will meet in early February and appear to be moving towards all five local officers' slots being filled.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Pandemic Flu and Avian Flu Update – presented by Commissioner Thomas. Four agencies are working together on these plans – DPH, DEP, Agriculture and DEMHS. They have split into two groups and currently have draft documents. A State conference is anticipated with 300-500 people in attendance to look at flu epidemic scenarios. The groups are making significant progress in all areas.
- B. Mobile Field Hospital Update – PowerPoint presentation by Len Guercia of Department of Public Health. The first 25 bed unit arrived at Camp Hartell last Friday (January 6, 2006). It is a fully functional unit – water, electric, heat/air conditioning and is nearly 70 feet long when assembled. Awaiting the latrine/shower trailers. The remainder of the 100 bed unit is anticipated for arrival over the next few months. The hospital is completely mobile and bonding has been requested for the medical equipment needed.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Evacuation Planning - PowerPoint presented by Director Kerry Flaherty. Much work has been done on the Statewide Evacuation and Sheltering Plans. DHS expects a statewide review on or before January 17th and this review will be shared. DOT, DEMHS, and DPS are all working together on the plan. Sheltering requirements are approx. 20% of the State population or 600,000 people. The Red Cross and the Military are involved to identify current sheltering capabilities that are ADA compliant. The subcommittee is looking at deficiencies and looking to the private sector to make space available if necessary for long term sheltering (Hotels, etc.) A database will be built for sheltering locations and capacities. The Regional Coordinators are reviewing all local plans; most large cities have evacuation plans, and they are working with the smaller Towns. Also looking to local private transportation providers to become involved. Phase 1 will be complete by January 17, 2006. Discussion of issues ensued.
- B. Discuss Regional Boundaries – Cheshire; Plymouth; East Haddam
Temporarily held to the end of the meeting for discussion after the FY2006 Grant presentation. By presentation/discussion end there was no longer a quorum present and discussion was tabled until the next council meeting.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. FY06 Grant Planning Process (Preparedness Directive #199) – PowerPoint by Libby Graham and discussion of FY2006 grant application requirements, ideas, and State of Connecticut Strengths and Weaknesses.
- B. Other - Addressed by Commissioner Thomas. 1) Attended Persons With Disabilities Conference. The state's Evacuation and Sheltering Plans need to be aware of the fact that many disabled people live on their own and not in group facilities. A stronger job needs to be done to coordinate their needs in an emergency. 2) Per DHS Today newsletter - ABC World News Tonight chose the U.S. Coast Guard as "People of the Year." A story highlighting the Coast Guard's response to Hurricane Katrina aired on World News Tonight's evening broadcast Dec. 28, 2005. Petty Officer Joel Sayers, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, was interviewed for the story that also featured dramatic video footage of rescue operations following the hurricane. 3) A program justification has been completed for the Bond Commission requesting equipment, especially trucks, for the USAR Team so it can get supplies and equipment to the scene when activated. The Team currently has no transport vehicles of its own. Per Deputy Commissioner Sandford, a suggestion that the USAR advisory council be re-activated as a smaller group to stay on top of these issues and that equipment has been ordered from a FY2003 set aside. They have also completed train the trainer courses. Chief Austin inquired as to whether the radio issue was resolved. Advised by Deputy Commissioner that they have a temporary fix with the ITAC/ICALL radios that belong to the Decon trailers, but that this will disappear when the trailers are delivered. 4) Chief Austin advised of a meeting with Congressman Larson, these occur every 8-9 months to keep everyone updated. The congressman has been very supportive of the region. Congressman responded regarding risk based funding from DHS, and pressure is already starting from those areas not getting what they expected (example – UASI areas). There is a

continuing national debate about what is considered a risk and political pressure will mount.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1202 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

IX. NEXT MEETING – February 9, 2006, Office of the Chief State’s Attorney, Rocky Hill.