

Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee

Minutes – July 29, 2008

DEMHS, 25 Sigourney Street, 6th floor, Hartford, CT 06106

Attendees: Julie Bisi, DSS; Benjamin Davies, Save the Children; Patricia Estill, COC; Peggy Freidenfelt, DPH; Gary Lukasewski, OPM; Treena Mazzotta, DCF; Robin Montgomery, Brookfield PD; Vincent Mustaro, CAGE; Scott Newgass, DOE; Doug Pesce, DHS; Robert Rader, CAGE; Wayne Sandford, DEMHS; Sgt. James Thomas, CSP; James M. Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Tom Vannini, DEMHS; Barbara Wolf, OPM and Elaine Zimmerman, COC.

1. Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford at 1303 hours with introductions of new attendees.
2. Report from DEMHS:
 - A. School Security Grant Update – Tom Vannini reported that Round 1 of the program allowed 215 schools allocation coming in at just under \$5 millions. Site monitoring visits are being done now on those projects that have been completed. Round 2 application package is out and close to 300 school have returned a letter of intent to apply. Technical meetings will take place in September to help communities with the grant application which is due on October 1, 2008. Round 2 will also be just under \$5 million available.
 - B. STEP One Program – Wayne Sandford discussed the STEP One Pilot Program that is being sponsored by FEMA for Grade 4 students. Wilton, Avon, and Seymour will be participating. Contact has been made with each of the school systems and teacher training will be held in September. The program, which is 1 ½ hours long but can be extended up to three hours with the activities included, is slated to be given in May. Each child will be given a home emergency kit, courtesy of FEMA, at the finish of the program. Included for teachers are the Disaster Dudes program which we are using, the Masters of Disaster Program which Red Cross uses, and websites for reference. Robert Rader advised that he could do an article when the program ends. Discussion on the program ensued.
3. Sub-Committee for Day Care Centers & Pre-School and Child Care Provider Emergency Guide:
 - A. Peggy Freidenfelt reported that 4700 Emergency Guides were distributed to Child Care, Day Care and Youth Camps so far. These are all registered facilities. An addition 300 guides have been distributed to health departments. Eight forums will be given around the state and the guides will be distributed and reviewed at each one. Wayne advised that if given the dates someone from DEMHS (Regional Coordinator/Planner/Trainer) would attend to help with emergency management questions.
 - B. Wayne Sandford asked if any provisions were being made to address the heating issues that will be present this winter and what are the temperature standards for Day Care facilities. Peggy Freidenfelt advised that child care facilities are required to keep the heat at 68 degrees with no auxiliary heating allowed (wood stoves can be used only if they have a permanent barrier installed that has been inspected). Conversations are taking place on the possibility of decreasing the standard to 65 degrees.
 - C. Elaine Zimmerman commented on the fact that the group not being reached with information or training is the informal care giver. Is there any way to identify this group? Julie Bisi advised that some payments are made to some individuals through DSS and this may be a resource.

D. Peggy Freidenfelt advised that Scott Szalkiewicz has done a 15 minute segment for cable TV to review the Emergency Guide flip chart. Wayne asked if we could get a DVD copy of the taping as we can reproduce it in house and distribute it to all the other cable stations to show as a public service announcement. Peggy also advised that they will be attempting to get the guides out to summer camps over the summer. Tom Vannini advised that the Education Connection in Litchfield are will be sponsoring a training day with 1 ½ hours for dare care planning at the end of August in Region 5.

4. New Business:

- A. Commissioner Thomas advised that DEMHS is sponsoring a School safety Seminar for College level on September 23, 2008 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. Speaking will be Dr. Kadison of Harvard University whose topic will be the Campus Mental Health Crisis. Also presenting will be the Virginia State Police team who responded to the Virginia Tech incident. Registration will be through the DEMHS and DPS websites.
- B. Tom Vannini advised that a School Security Seminar for K-12 level will be held on September 12, 2008 at Southern CT State University. More information will be released when the speakers are finalized. Also upcoming are the Capitol Region Seminar in September and the OPM Youth and Police conference in November.
- C. Homeland Security Information Network – Wayne explained what the HSIN Education Section was and about the open source document available. He asked if the group would like to be nominated to review the site and advise on nominating the Superintendents in the future.
- D. FEMA meeting – July 2008 – Doug Pesce advised that he and Wayne along with Tom Gavaghan and Bruce Lockwood attended the FEMA School Meeting at UMASS in Boston. Presentations included the STEP One Program; AidMatrix; and information on new initiatives and curricular additions for the FEMA Region 1 Group on education.
- E. A discussion was had regarding the DARE program and its value. Commissioner Thomas advised that he would try to get a speaker to give more information at the next meeting.

5. Items from Members: Open Discussion

- A. Ready.gov – link will be added to the COC website and the HSIN site.
- B. Discussion on how to advise the Legislature that the school security grant would be better if the accepted projects list was expanded to include items such as emergency notification systems.
- C. Reverse 911 system was discussed and possible uses in education.
- D. 911 Volunteer-a-thon on CPTV was announced; is airing September 11, 2008 at 8pm.
- E. Discussion of adding a CERT segment to the Sept. 23rd seminar for college students.
- F. Public Safety magnet School opening in Hartford is only the second in the Nation.
- G. Elaine Zimmerman reported that she met with Jim Hackett of DMHAS and they discussed the needs of military children. Should he come to speak to the group for possible partnering of their efforts with us? Discussed.
- H. Sgt. Jim Thomas advised that the CSP Child Abduction Response Team will be up by October. They are currently looking for involvement from the local police departments.

6. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 1pm – Sigourney Street. Meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.