



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Friday, August 28, 2015	
	TIME	9:30 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Legislative Counsel Bureau Grant Sawyer Building – Room 4401 555 E. Washington Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Laura Bucheit	
Chuck Allen		Karen Burke	X
Gregory Cassell		Caleb Cage	X
Lisa Christensen	X	Gonzalo Cordova	
Robert Fisher	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia	X	Pat Spearman – Senator	X
Warren Gilbert			
Frank Gonzales	X	Mike Jensen (AG Rep)	X
Ikram Khan	X	Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
Joseph Lombardo	X		
Tom Lozich	X		
William McDonald			
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade			
Bill Welch			

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security called meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary in both the northern and southern venues. No commentary was presented in either venue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) meeting held May 15, 2015. Motion presented by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, with a second provided by Tom Lozich, MGM Resorts, International. All were in favor with no opposition.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval introduced Chief Caleb Cage, Nevada Division of Emergency Management, as a new Chief of Emergency Management as well as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor. Chief Cage thanked the Governor for the opportunity to continue serving the citizens of Nevada.

5. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) OVERVIEW FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2015

Chief Cage provided an overview of the FFY15 HSGP process, and spoke to the complexity of the federally funded program administered by the State in which \$6.7 Million was allocated to Nevada between State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding. As part of the process, the Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) approved a total of 22 projects based on the Commission's established priorities. Additionally, the UASI approved 11 projects. A breakdown of the project awards was read into record. Approval of the grant allocation was granted on July 28, 2015, and officially accepted on August 19, 2015. As a result of the efforts of the NDEM Grant staff, sub-grantee awards were mailed out on August 31, 2015. This was reported as the fastest turnaround recorded to date for this process, and will prove beneficial to the communities that are receiving the monetary awards. There is a two-year performance period associated with these awards, with a potential extension of one year under specific circumstances. Governor Sandoval complimented Chief Cage, and his staff, for the outstanding effort.

Concern was presented by Robert Fisher concerning the process involved with regard to recent grant awards provided to Jewish congregations. Referencing a list of 73 congregations, schools, and other organizations, Mr. Fisher indicated that only five congregations applied for the grant funding; however only one received all \$75,000 awarded. Mr. Fisher indicated his strong concerns that the grant funding be divided between the congregations to more effectively serve the community in addition to making use of the money more accountable. Chief Cage indicated that these specific awards originated from the FFY 2013 Nonprofit Security Grant Program, and the Nevada Fusion Centers input included the provision of rank-ordered lists based on federal government requirements, evidence of substantiation, site symbolism, and previous vulnerability assessments. Governor Sandoval inquired where the decision point lies with regard to fund dispersal, with Chief Cage indicating it is a federal decision based on the criteria presented earlier in the discussion. Inquiry was made by the Governor on when the first opportunity the Commission would have to review approved project allocations, with Chief Cage indicating that information could be provided at the next Commission meeting.

Dr. Khan inquired on the availability of funding available for threat concerns that could be applicable to other minority communities in addition as to how those communities could go about qualifying for those funds. Dr. Khan requested that there be an outreach effort to address this issue, Chief Cage spoke to performing an assessment to retrieve this information for Dr. Khan.

Additional commentary on the complexity of the grant process was provided by General Frank Gonzales, NV Energy and Senator Pat Spearman. A request was made to outline the grant process and place it on an easy to find location on the NDEM website,

6. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BRIEFING: OFFICE OF SAFE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, SENATE BILL 205, AND SCHOOL EMERGENCY CAPABILITIES

Dale Erquiaga, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke to recent legislative efforts supported by the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Respectful Learning Environment pertaining to bullying and cyber bullying. Additional emphasis was placed on the new Safe to Tell Program which works with private call centers and law enforcement to handle tips and safety issues. Regulations will need to be adopted in addition to developing the process for accepting complaints prior to launching the program. Mr. Erquiaga stressed how the bullying phenomenon has changed, speaking to the Sparks shooting and increase in suicide rates. Bullying follows children everywhere now via phone and social media.

Governor Sandoval inquired on the funding and installation of social workers in Nevada public schools, with Superintendent Erquiaga indicating that the budget has allowed several million dollars to be applied to both social worker and behavioral health programs to assist Nevada's public school system. In the first year, a grant will be issued to small districts participating in a screener survey to identify hotspots where students may be considering acts of violence. The money will be released for the provision of these workers during the first year. Pervasive challenges are increasing, and these resources will provide what is hoped to be a national model for dealing with bullying and cyber bullying.

Chris Ipsen, Desert Research Institute, inquired who would be administering this program, with Superintendent Erquiaga indicating that the Office of Safe and Respectful Learning, under the Department of Education will be the administrator.

Senator Spearman spoke to engaging constituents through social media and celebrity voice-overs. Mr. Erquiaga welcomed these suggestions, suggesting there have been celebrity offers of support, in particular from a celebrity who was bullied himself.

Dr. Khan spoke to the differentiation between social workers, specifically in that there is no program currently supporting the pediatric sector with regards to social work training.

Mr. Erquiaga spoke to the formation of Senate Bill (SB) 205, and the ease in which that work, in combination with previous NDEM input on emergency plan

management. In final form, the legislation yielded the requirement for the Department of Education, in consultation with NDEM and the Department of Public Safety, to prepare a model plan for schools and school districts.

Governor Sandoval inquired on how law enforcement can assist in achieving the goals presented, with Mr. Erquiaga indicating that outreach for appointments would be done in both the law enforcement and social services communities. The Governor indicated he will appoint the committee quickly. As the plan moves forward, Chief Cage will draw information from the Commission. Mr. Erquiaga indicated his expectation is to have the plan out in the spring of 2016, so that the model, if necessary, can be revised as necessary for adaptability.

Chris Ipsen applauded the substantive efforts in legislation and leadership provided by Mr. Erquiaga and the Governor, thanking each for leaning forward in this process. Mr. Erquiaga thanked the Governor for the opportunities afforded to him in this process, as well as thanking the Commission for their support. Robert Fisher also congratulated Mr. Erquiaga on his new position. Governor Sandoval indicated that Mr. Erquiaga was the architect in strengthening schools from kindergarten through grade 12, and the Governor was most appreciative of that effort and wants this message to get out. The Governor will be touring the Valley school system to see what this program implementation looks like in the real world.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Fisher acknowledged the camera crews in the meeting room, speaking to the statement provided by Mary Beth Sewald, Nevada Broadcasters Association (NBA) in relation to the recent murder of a Virginia television crew. He indicated that he hoped to learn from that experience, and thanked the NBA for their efforts.

Dr. Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County, spoke to comments made earlier by Chief Cage referencing Washoe County's grant award for public warning. Dr. Kenneston stressed that this award was not only for Washoe County, but for all 17 counties, and Washoe County acts as the team leader for this statewide project. Dr. Kenneston also referenced an upcoming School Safety summit in conjunction with NDEM and emergency managers to ensure emergency planning for schools stays out front. The summit will be a springboard for the initiatives spoken about earlier in the meeting. The summit meeting will be on September 16, 2015, at the Peppermill Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

8. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Dr. Khan, with a second provided by Director Adam Garcia, University of Nevada Reno Police Services. All were in favor with no opposition, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.