



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Wednesday, December 4, 2013	
	TIME	9:00 a.m.	
	LOCATION	Legislative Counsel Bureau Legislative Building – Room 3138 401 S. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Karen Burke	X
Michael Haley	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Laura Bucheit	X	William C. Horne – Assemblyman	
Robert Fisher		Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia	X	Christopher Smith	X
Dr. Warren Gilbert. M.D.	X		
Doug Gillespie			
Frank Gonzales	X	Selby Marks (Staff)	X
Alfreida Jake	X	Samantha Ladich (AG Rep)	X
Dr. Ikram Khan	X		
Tom Lozich			
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Pat Spearman			
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade			
Bertral Washington			
Bill Welch	X		

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 and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS). 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 in either location.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS) meeting held October 4, 2013. Request to amend Page 2 notation to reflect Karen Wong instead of Karen Long presented by Sheriff

Michael Haley, Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Motion to approve with stated correction presented by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants with a second from General Frank Gonzales, NV Energy and Nevada National Guard. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval presented the Commission and public attendees with his wish for all to have a happy holiday season and fruitful new year. The Governor, due to the size of the agenda had no further comments.

5. REPORT ON THE NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM (CST) POSSIBLE RELOCATION

Chief Christopher Smith, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS) briefed the Commission on relocation discussions pertaining to the Nevada National Guard CST, noting that decision rests with the Adjutant General. Factors affecting this decision are overall support, the greatest good to the entire state, and the ability to support and respond by local first responders. CST acts as a second responder augmenting response effort. Regardless, however this turns out, the CST is a resource that will continue to support NV wherever it resides. Governor Sandoval inquired what prompted this action, with Chief Smith indicating the initial push was to address where the CST currently resides and overall deployment capability. The federal government has indicated that the CST is not being used as many times as needed. In the Las Vegas area, there is already quite a bit of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive capability (CBRNE). Because of this, the CST has not been utilized a great deal to respond to events. Of 9 real-world scenarios, 5 have been in the northern part of the state, and 4 in the southern part of the state. The last deployment of the CST was in 2008 in Nevada.

Discussion ensued between Governor Sandoval, General Gonzales, and Chief Smith as to the vulnerabilities in the state other than southern Nevada which the CST could assist with. The CST would deploy once local resources are tapped out. The northern part of the state and rural areas outside Las Vegas do not have the CBRNE capability that Las Vegas currently has. Having the CST closer would benefit those areas without CBRNE. Dr. Khan, inquired if there would be any fiscal impact due to this request. Chief Smith indicated that as a federal support team, the budget comes from the federal government and Nevada does not pay for the service.

Commissioner Richard Perkins inquired on how many members comprised the CST and whether that team can split to increase response times. Chief Smith indicated the team consists of 22 members, and as a specialized team, cannot be split up. The team works in exercise and deployment together. Response time from northern Nevada is approximately 3-4 hours. If the CST resides in southern Nevada without air wing support, deployments are land based and team must drive incurring a longer response time. Northern Nevada also has helicopters which can assist. Tying resources to transportation capabilities is expensive. Governor Sandoval inquired if Nevada jeopardizes its federal funding if the CST isn't utilized appropriately, with Chief Smith indicating lack of deployment does put the team in jeopardy. Nevada would then be reliant on other CST's in the region to support state events. Governor Sandoval inquired if there have been any events that the CST has not been able to get to, with Chief Smith indicating he is not aware of any event where the team could not respond at all, but recent events in Carlin resulted in a long response time from the CST. There are relationships with border state CST's which are exercised regularly, and both Utah and Idaho helped with the Carlin incident. Governor Sandoval also inquired if CST members reside in Nevada, and currently most reside in southern Nevada. As part of the military, they move where they are assigned. General Gonzales indicated that southern

Nevada wouldn't lose resources if CST moves due to regional resources. Having the assets for quick deployment is helpful from operational aspect.

Governor Sandoval inquired if a recommendation for the CST move would come back to the Commission for consideration, with Chief Smith indicating that the Adjutant General would work with the Governor directly and the resulting decision would be reported to the Commission only. Governor Sandoval indicated that his preference would be for the Commission membership to give input into this process prior to recommendation.

Karen Burke, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) presented concern that much of the allocated CBRNE response is affected by reduced funding. Ms. Burke does not want jeopardize those resources in the event CST is relocated. Chief Smith indicated that the recommendation information can be added to a future Commission meeting.

Dr. Warren Gilbert, M.D. expressed his recommendation that the CST be situated as close to aviation assets as possible, with Commissioner Chris Ipsen agreeing.

Governor Sandoval inquired if Nevada will still have use of C-130 assets in the future, with General Gonzales indicating that the Adjutant General is pushing to keep those assets in Nevada for the region. Other aircraft are also available. The General also indicated that the CERFP would still be in southern Nevada. There is a substantial unit there who would report to incident commanders.

6. REQUEST TO REALLOCATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) FUNDS.

Finance Committee Vice-Chair Chief Stacey Giomi, Carson City Fire Department opened discussion on requests to reallocate HSGP funds with emphasis on efforts to pare down monetary requests to match allocated funding. The Finance Committee agreed to take continuing projects first which were vetted and approved by the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security previously. Projects requesting reassignment of funding were considered next and lastly new project requests. One project was not recommended for funding as the result of no presenter available to answer questions pertaining to the project. A total of six projects were not heard as a result of inadequate funding remaining. Governor Sandoval inquired if all projects were in compliance with grant requirements, with Vice-Chair Giomi indicating that NDEM/HS had made exceptional effort in ensuring that was the case. Clarification was sought by Governor Sandoval that should he not agree with the Committee's findings, the Commission can change the outcome of approval. Vice-Chair Giomi agreed that was the case.

Projects approved by the Commission as recommended by the Finance Committee findings on November 20, 2014:

NCHS-90 Re-Obligation: Nevada Dispatch Interconnect Project.

NCHS-91 Re-Obligation: Tribal NIMS

NCHS-92 Re-Obligation: Statewide Continuity of Operations and Government

NCHS-96 Re-Obligation: Operational Coordination of Hazard Identification

NCHS-97 Re-Obligation: All Risk Workshop

NCHS-100 Re-Obligation: Citizen Corps Project

NCHS-102 Re-Obligation: Clark County School District

NCHS-104: Fusion Center

NCHS-105: Fusion Center

NCHS-106: Resource Management and Credentialing

Official Minutes – Approved at the February 28, 2014 HSC Meeting

Projects not approved by the Commission as recommended by the Finance Committee findings on November 20, 2014:

NCHS-89 Re-Obligation: Sawyer Office Building Force Protection (Not heard)
NCHS-93 Re-Obligation: Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce Training
NCHS-94 Re-Obligation: Dispatch Center Upgrade
NCHS-95 Re-Obligation: Communication
NCHS-98 Re-Obligation: Dispatch Center Equipment
NCHS-99 Re-Obligation: Mobile Network Capability Upgrade
NCHS-103: Operational Communication Radio Project

Motion to approve projects as presented was made by Dr. Khan, with a second provided by Director Adam Garcia, University of Nevada Reno Police Department. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. Governor Sandoval thanked Chief Giomi for the Finance Committee's work on this process.

7. REQUEST TO ALLOW A CLOSED SESSION OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2013 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE (CIC) MEETING.

At the direction of Governor Sandoval, Robert Dorsey, Northern Nevada Regional Information Center presented the request to allow a closed session of the December 16, 2013 CIC meeting, putting on record why the request was being made. Discussion ensued with Mr. Dorsey indicating that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) presented concern that subject matter at this proposed meeting may not be appropriate for the general public and could compromise the safety of general public due to cyber security issues. General Frank Gonzales, NV Energy questioned if there would be a level of security clearance required for members to hear this information, with confirmation from the FBI that this was not the case for this meeting. Gonzalo Cordova, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) indicated that in the future this may be something that we pre-emptively get committee members clearance for moving forward. Mr. Cordova also indicated said that DHS does sponsor and nominate individuals from the private sector when needed. Others requiring this effort from the government sector would have to go through NDEM/HS. General Gonzales asked if the meeting was not classified in nature, why would there be the necessity to hold a closed meeting. With the Governor also presenting concern on that same question, Mr. Ipsen clarified several instances where vulnerabilities currently lie. There is infrastructure outside of that scope that could potentially be vulnerable, and the challenge is how to talk about sensitive issues in a confidential matter with those that can affect the outcome directly. Governor Sandoval presented concern in presenting vulnerability to the public sector which may have individuals who could take advantage of knowing that information. Mr. Dorsey confirmed the Governor's concern.

Rosemary Vassiliadis, Clark County shared concerns surrounding the aviation industry and the importance of being able to discuss security information in a private forum to ensure no misinterpretation occurs. Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) asked Mr. Dorsey if there's anything coming out of a CIC meeting from this briefing that would come to his attention. Mr. Dorsey indicated he could not speak to that directly as he had yet to receive the briefing. Samantha Ladich, Senior Deputy Attorney General indicated that the Commission or its committees can close meetings as long as they are in compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes.

Motion to approve a closed meeting of the CIC on December 16, 2013 under NRS 239C.140 was presented by Adam Garcia, with a second provided by Dr. Gilbert. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

8. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA NETWORK (SONNet) COMMITTEE

Commission Vice-Chair Sheriff Michael Haley, Washoe County Sheriff's Office briefed the Commission on the status of SONNet speaking to a letter his office presented to Governor Sandoval on October 8, 2013 identifying the next steps for SONNet including governance, phase management, and First Responders Network (FirstNet) consultation regarding the opt-in or opt-out of the Public Safety Broadband Network initiative.

Vice-Chair Haley also thanked Chief Christopher Smith and others for their assistance in nurturing these discussions. The Vice Chair presented concern that SONNet was challenged in moving forward with its current structure. As a result, considerable work has been done with constructing language, should it meet with the Governor's approval, asking that SONNet be dissolved and empowered under a different structure moving forward.

Governor Sandoval thanked Vice-Chair Haley for his commitment to this effort noting confidence that this goal can be reached by the December 19, 2013 timeline. Vice-Chair Haley also indicated that additional letters of recommendation have been given to the Governor's office to repopulate SONNet membership. Any additional recommendations will also be forwarded to the Governor's office as well.

9. REPORT ON SURGE CAPACITY MEASURES CURRENTLY IN PLACE FOR NEVADA HOSPITALS

Angela Krutsinger, Nevada Hospital Association briefed the Commission on surge capacity measures currently in place for Nevada Hospitals including review of what a medical surge plan consists of, Nevada's hospital bed capacity, major accomplishments to date, and medical surge issues and barriers affecting Nevada.

Considerable discussion ensued to include clarification from Chief Christopher Smith, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS) that NDEM/HS would work through the Governor's office in requesting federal assistance for military resources if warranted. Dr. Khan spoke to capacity during seasonal change in addition to nursing shortages and discharge capability prohibitions affecting acute care bed availability. Bill Welch, Nevada Hospital Association commended Ms. Krutsinger and her staff in addition to local and state agencies for efforts applied to the surge capacity. Efforts to date have made Nevada very responsive to catastrophic events. Mr. Welch also spoke to Legal 2000 and the significant challenge for hospitals. Patients are the responsibility of the hospital until the patients' needs can be met elsewhere. Without alternative resources, this is a huge problem. Healthcare workforce is a problem, and there's a lot of effort in identifying more pools of talent for this area.

Chris Ipsen, Nevada Department of Administration echoed compliments to Ms. Krutsinger's team effort indicating the need for a tool to visualize bed capacity. Ms. Krutsinger spoke to the HavBed tracking system currently in place, offering that Mr. John Flamm could demonstrate this for the Commission at a later date. Dr. Warren Gilbert, M.D. also said the military can set up field hospitals upon notice as well for acute issues and triage efforts. Dr. Gilbert requested a copy of the surge plan, and Ms. Krutsinger will get that to all Commissioners.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval called for public commentary in both venues. No public commentary noted in either venue.

11. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Adam Garcia, with a second from Dr. Khan. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.