



# Meeting Minutes Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	November 30, 2020			
	<b>TIME</b>	1:30 p.m.			
	<b>METHOD</b>	Teleconference			
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Karen Hall			
<b>Appointed Voting Member Attendance</b>					
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
David Fogerson – Chair	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Tenielle Periera	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Andrea Esp	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Andy Ancho	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Matthew Petersen	X
Roy Anderson	X	Mike Heidemann	X	Misty Robinson	X
Travis Anderson	X	Eric Holt	X	Rachel Skidmore	Abs
Noah Boyer	X	David Hunkup	X	Corey Solferino	X
Elizabeth Breeden	X	Jeremy Hynds	Abs	Malinda Southard	X
James Chrisley	X	Graham Kent	Abs	Chris Tomaino	X
Jason Danen	X	Mary Ann Laffoon	X	Mike Wilson	X
Cassandra Darrough	Abs	Chris Lake	X	Stephanie Woodard	X
Craig dePolo	X	Carolyn Levering	X		
Bob Dehnhardt	X	Ryan Miller	X		
<b>Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	Abs	KC Casey	Abs
Rebecca Bodnar	X	Sheryl Gonzales	Abs	Aaron Kenneston	X
Kate Callaghan	Abs	Mojra Hauenstein	Abs	Selby Marks	X
Felix Castagnola	X	Jill Hemenway	X	Catherine Neilson	X
Mike Dyzak	X	Patricia Herzog	X		
<b>Legal/Administrative Support Attendance</b>					
<b>Representative</b>		<b>Entity</b>			<b>Present</b>
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General		Office of the Nevada Attorney General			X
Karen Hall – Management Analyst/Support		Nevada Division of Emergency Management			X

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chief David Fogerson, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS), called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, DEM/HS. Quorum was established for the meeting.

## 2. Public Comment

Chief Fogerson opened the first period of public comment for discussion. Dr. Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (WCOEM) announced he will be retiring in 2021, and asked for the support of Kelly Echeverria, WCOEM, as she takes the lead once he retires. Dr. Kenneston thanked the Committee for its support for both Washoe County and statewide initiatives throughout the years including projects addressing shelter trailers, mass fatality, emergency plans, emergency communication, and continuity of operations plans for 36 different jurisdictional agencies and tribes. Dr. Kenneston urged that efforts continue to support these important projects. Dr. Kenneston will be remembered for his work on regional plans, outreach to tribal and city jurisdictions, and efforts to support training. Chief Fogerson thanked Dr. Kenneston for his service and the legacy that he will leave behind. Battalion Chief Andy Ancho, Reno Fire Department, indicated

that he was present on the call. Chief Fogerson introduced himself to the Committee and spoke to 30 years of experience in local government, 15 years of which was with Douglas County where he ended his fire service career as a Deputy Chief with East Fork Fire Protection District. Chief Fogerson praised the Committee as the experts in emergency management throughout the state, and if there is a problem that needs to be addressed, this is the group of individuals that can do so. Chief Fogerson emphasized this Committee needs to move from being a reporting mechanism to promoting advisory initiatives. There are many areas within emergency management that can be addressed such as pre-disaster mitigation, wildland fire, and public health. Chief Fogerson stressed the importance of stewardship, collaboration, respect, and dignity moving forward to ensure resilience.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Chief Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the September 21, 2020, NRAC meeting. Dr. Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, and Andrea Esp, Washoe County District Health Department, indicated that they did not receive the minutes to review. It was confirmed in the meeting that the materials were sent to the existing distribution list. Mike Heidemann, Churchill County, motioned to approve the minutes as presented with no changes. Dr. Christopher Lake, Nevada Hospital Association, seconded the motion. All were in favor, except Dr. Freeman, to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Freeman abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

### **4. Request to Reallocate Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Funds**

Chief Fogerson opened discussion on the following project change request:

NCHS-166: Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) – Fusion Center SHSP Sustain - Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018. This is a PCR to move \$113,269.84 in remaining funding, due to cost savings from the Planning and Organization categories to the Equipment category for Fusion Watch computer hardware in the amount of \$100,115.62, Contract Cyber Analysis in the amount of \$12,750.00, and Utilities in the amount of \$404.22. Total Request is \$113,269.84.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- Kelli Anderson, DEM/HS, referred to the budget on the second page of the PCR summarizing the shift of funding. LVMPD realized cost savings which precipitated this request for the procurement of computer equipment/laptops. This request was sent to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for review, and DHS has indicated that the change is within the project scope. Currently, this request is informally approved, and awaiting final approval through the HSGP process. No questions were presented on Ms. Anderson's presentation.

Chief Fogerson called for a motion to approve NCHS-166. Bob Dehnhardt, Nevada Department of Administration, motioned to approve the PCR with no changes, and Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, seconded the motion asking for one correction to the spelling of the word "metropolitan" on the first page of the PCR indicated on the "Subgrantee Agency" field. Kelli Anderson, DEM/HS, indicated she will make that change. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. David Hunkup, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, indicated he had joined the call.

### **5. Mitigation Grant Program Update and Funding Opportunity**

Janell Woodward, DEM/HS, provided the Committee with an overview of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) mitigation grant program and the upcoming BRIC application funding opportunity. Highlights of the overview included:

- The BRIC is quickly coming to an end, with the Notice of Interest being due on September 11, 2020. The full application is due to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) GO System by December 11, 2020. On December 16, 2020, applications submitted will be reviewed by a team of mitigation professionals with significant experience with these types of grants. The final application is due to FEMA by January 29, 2021, by 12:00 p.m.
- The weekly BRIC technical assistance calls have been successful with good attendance.
- Application projects include:
  - Hobart Reservoir Dam Resilient Infrastructure Project - \$10,000,000; this project resembles the 2018 project for the Marlette Lake Dam. Currently, the Marlette project is in the environmental process with FEMA and should everything go well, commence in the spring of 2021.
  - Henderson Generator Project - \$2,839,735
  - Carson City Flood Mitigation Improvements - \$1,433,750.
  - City of Mesquite phased project for Virgin River Flood Wall and Detention Basin – \$14,122,211.68
- The next category of project scoping limited to being submitted within the \$600,000 set aside for states and tribes:
  - Carson City Public Works Sutro Terrace Storm Drain and Basin Scoping Project - \$125,628
- Under the \$300,000 planning cap set-aside:
  - Lincoln County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – \$21,059.19
  - Application for State Hazard Mitigation Plan update for \$278,940.81
- FEMA did put a cap on planning grants, and the State waited to see what was submitted before applying for the remainder of the funding.
- Project scoping submissions total \$424,628, which leaves \$174,372 that currently is not being applied for; although the Governor’s Office of Energy may put in a last-minute project. Ms. Woodward will get more information on this project and is hopeful that this is an eligible project.
- Chief Fogerson stressed the importance of focusing on mitigation projects and praised Ms. Woodward for her efforts.

## 6. Overview of Behavioral Health Resources

Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Senior Advisor on Behavioral Health, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), briefed the Committee on behavioral health resources available during the COVID-19 emergency to include the Nevada Resilience Project. Highlights of this overview included:

- Behavioral health impacts of Covid-19 are numerous with primary, secondary, and tertiary impacts. Increased stressors are emerging to front line responders and implementation of crisis standards of care in many healthcare facilities. Personal impacts are also being felt from change in work environment, loss of jobs, or personal illness and loss of significant people in their lives. Fatigue and stress continue to impact the population in Nevada.
- Per the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), a recent household survey indicates that in Nevada, there is a 3 to 4-fold increase in symptoms consistent with depression or anxiety. Nevada currently ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation with the number of adults experiencing these issues with 34% of respondents. Nevada is ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 39.9% reporting anxiety, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation with 47% endorsing both symptoms of depression and anxiety. The level of stress in the community is significant. This calls for a shift from addressing not just those with high level behavioral health issues to addressing promotion and prevention for early intervention in supporting individuals to improve resiliency.
- Nevada Resilience Project (NRP) – The NRP was established through a Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Grant from the Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an individual assistance program. Resilience ambassadors are embedded in specific agencies throughout the state in crisis centers, human service agencies, health districts, and Boys and Girls Clubs. The program has expanded

to include 38 resilience ambassadors. The [NevadaResilienceProject.com](http://NevadaResilienceProject.com) website was launched with useful information to help people recover and get back to pre-Covid conditions. Several methods of distributing information have been used including public service announcements. There is a behavioral health resource page on the website with organizations which we have formal relationships with, either through agreements or funding.

- Crisis Support Services of Nevada is one of seven crisis call centers in Nevada. If a call cannot be answered for an individual in crisis, that call will be immediately transferred to another center to help the individual. This service is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year, through call or text for anyone that is struggling or anyone that is struggling with a family or friend's behavioral health.
- Home but Not Alone Campaign – With increased isolation, this campaign is also available to those in need. There has been an increase in call volume and acuity of callers reaching out for this service over the past few months. Other hotlines are available which are listed on the website as well.
- Children's Mobile Crisis Teams – There has been a decrease in utilization of this program while families are staying at home initially; however, there has been an uptick in the number of calls, and September was the highest month this team has had over the past year. Now, people are aware of this service in Northern, Southern, and rural Nevada. In rural Nevada, there is a mobile crisis team that can be provided for adults as well. Through additional emergency response grant funding, the program has been expanded in Washoe County to 24 hours per day, seven days per week (24/7), and additional funding has been given to Desert Parkway Hospital and Reno's Behavioral Health Hospital to provide 24/7 walk-in crisis triage for behavioral health issues. The goal is to divert people that can be helped with this program away from the emergency rooms and provide an alternative to free up resources.
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers – There are multiple centers in the state located in Washoe County, Clark County, and rural communities.
- There is a healthcare hotline for first responders and emergency managers which can be used for emotional support and connection to resources.
- The [TreatmentConnection.com](http://TreatmentConnection.com) website can be used by anyone wanting to geographically identify behavioral health resources.
- Behavioral support for communities is important as is the support of responders. Mental health counselors and psychological first aid is available. If a local community identifies this need, resources can be requested through DEM.
- Volunteering has increased with psychological first aid training. Since March 2020, 700 individuals have been trained, and such training will continue through spring of 2021.

Chief Samuels inquired how anxiety and depression compares pre-Covid to current day. Dr. Woodard indicated that the national averages from January to June of 2019, for anxiety, were 8.2%. Nevada is currently at 39.9%. For depression, the national average was 6.6%, and Nevada is currently at 34%. Symptoms of anxiety/depression nationally during that time were 11%, and currently it is at 47.3%.

Dr. Freeman inquired if there was a way to connect the Resilience Project website information to the Nevada Health Response Website as the public is very familiar with that site. Dr. Woodard indicated if individuals go to the Nevada Health Response Website, there are resources listed under the coping and managing tab. Dr. Freeman inquired if the sites are cross-updated, and Dr. Woodard indicated that a link can be added to the Nevada Health Response Website to link to the Nevada Resilience Project.

David Hunkup inquired if outreach has been done to tribal nations on this important subject, and he is aware of some information being provided through the Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council (NTECC) informational pushes. Dr. Woodard spoke to presenting this information at the Tribal Consultation several months ago, and is working with Director Stacey Montooth, Nevada Indian Commission, to get information out as well, and is happy to provide more information as needed. On the Nevada Resilience Project website, individuals can request assistance to access resilience ambassadors as well as through the Nevada 211 call line.

If there are additional opportunities to get this information out, Dr. Woodard is happy to assist with that effort. Chief Fogerson asked if the NTECC agenda had not been finalized, that Dr. Woodard present this information to the NTECC at their next meeting. Chief Fogerson emphasized the impact of what Dr. Woodard is doing, and more discussion must come to light on this topic. During his career, he has dealt with behavioral health issues including multiple suicides of those he worked with. Chief Fogerson would like to work together to amplify this message, and Dr. Woodard indicated she is using DHHS Facebook page for social media outreach, and the message could benefit from additional public service announcements. If Covid has taught us anything, no one is exempt from experiencing distress in the current environment. It is normal and expected that people will struggle during crisis. The more we can normalize this experience, the stigma of mental health issues can be addressed in a more positive manner. Dr. Freeman encourages those that are willing to share their struggles do so. The long-term effects are taking a toll, and she is willing to put her face out there to be seen in hopes it may help someone else. Dr. Woodard indicated she had partnered with DEM/HS on programming for emergency management workers, and this programming could be shared statewide. Chief Fogerson indicated his support of sharing the programming, as necessary.

Noah Boyer, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, inquired if Dr. Woodard had spoken to anyone with the Northern Nevada Pier Support Network. Dr Woodward indicated that she had in fact reached out earlier in the year to that organization. Mr. Boyer indicated that there are representatives from the public safety, law enforcement, and emergency medical services in the network, and because local peer support groups have been pushing this resource, the network may be getting inundated. Dr. Woodard will reach out to Mr. Boyer to see if she can assist.

## **7. Nevada State Citizen Corps Program Update**

Mary Ann Laffoon, Northeast Nevada Citizen Corps/Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator began her update by thanking all those involved in keeping Nevada safe throughout the current pandemic, including the Nevada National Guard and DEM/HS for their efforts. Highlights of the update included:

- CERT personnel from the programs in Carson City, Douglas County, Elko, Washoe County, and Clark County have been heavily involved in support of numerous Covid related efforts including hotlines, community based testing, health screenings, emergency operations center support, call centers, partnerships with other voluntary organizations, and even face mask production early in the Covid-19 response. Current activities also involve assistance with influenza vaccine Points of Distribution (POD) as well as supporting upcoming Covid vaccination PODs.
- Nevada is well represented on national CERT organizational committees and does participate in national level exercises. Ms. Laffoon spoke to the efforts CERT organizations put towards, and the participation in, the America Shakeout.
- Challenges are being met to continue CERT programs statewide with additional efforts put towards data mining, documentation, logging, and planning while adapting to new social distancing guidelines. The Southern Nevada CERT program has entered this new era with a new online virtual course. Each CERT course has five online classes, with one running for five weeks, and then culminating in one, in-person, skill session via a Cisco Webex instruction platform. Live instructors begin the class and show a pre-recorded lecture/PowerPoint while monitoring the programs chat feature. Interaction is performed live via a question and answer segment. At the Las Vegas Emergency Operation Center, students complete the course by participating in an in-person skill session. To date, the program has provided four virtual courses, and more are scheduled. Washoe County CERT is working towards a similar format as the pandemic continues.
- Overall, the CERT program is adapting to exercising in new ways, continuing training, building relationships with partner agencies, and finding new ways to enhance CERT membership.

Chief Fogerson opened discussion for any questions on this agenda item, noting that diversification of the current CERT volunteer resource is necessary as many CERT volunteers can be in the most vulnerable of

populations. Starting to recruit membership from high schools and colleges may be beneficial. Ms. Laffoon spoke to working with multiple agencies in trying to diversify and gain new membership including ongoing work with cadet programs associated with the Sheriff's Office, Battle Mountain High School's curriculum that includes CERT training, and increased efforts applied to gain interest through other volunteer agencies. Nevada Gold Mines, and many of its employees, have contacted Ms. Laffoon regarding training opportunities, and Ms. Laffoon is interested in whether there could be other large businesses that would want CERT involvement. Chief Fogerson would like to see diversification in these teams to address gaps with volunteer participation. Many Citizen Corps and CERT volunteers are retiring, and its important to replace that valuable resource.

## **8. Overview of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Process**

Kelli Anderson, DEM/HS, presented an overview of the FFY 2021 HSGP, with the following highlights:

- The timeline for the FFY 2020 HSGP process was distributed in February, and a similar timeline will be distributed for the FFY 2021 HSGP process.
- The timeline begins with the identification of gaps and vulnerabilities that should be considered when developing SCTBM.
- The release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released anywhere from February to May annually which is a tough timeline to predict. Some visibility is gained through partnerships with DHS, but currently there is no insight on what will happen with the HSGP NOFO in FFY 2021. Based on other election years, it is estimated that the NOFO may come out in mid-March of 2021.
- In FFY 2020, the HSGP application process was released in Zoom Grants prior to the receipt of the NOFO, and that presented some challenges due to the add-on of the unforeseen priority requirements put into place by DHS. There are two separate funding streams within the HSGP, the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The UASI is part of the state's grant. Together, the SHSP and UASI are one grant, with timelines falling into similar patterns.
- In a series of public meetings, the Committee meets twice to vet then rank prioritize submitted HSGP projects, and those recommendations are given to the Committee on Finance for review. Once reviewed, the Committee on Finance makes the final recommendation to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security where the recommendations are reviewed and approved allowing DEM/HS to submit the final grant application to DHS.
- The Metropolitan Statistical Analysis (MSA) rankings have not yet been received, and where Nevada falls on that ranking for the Las Vegas Urban Area, and statewide, can affect the funding allocation received for the HSGP.

Chief Fogerson called for any questions on the presentation, and no questions were presented.

## **9. Determine Recommendations for the Strategic Capacities to be Maintained for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**

Chief Fogerson opened discussion on this agenda item noting that it may be the wish of the Committee to not formulate a recommendation at this meeting, but to postpone that recommendation to allow further review of the current Strategic Capacities to be Maintained (SCTBM). The current SCTBM for FFY 2020 are as follows:

- Fusion Centers
- Citizen Corps
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE)
- Operational Communications
- Public Information and Warning
- Recovery
- Cybersecurity

- **Planning**

Each of these SCTBM contains programs supporting specific core capabilities, and the Committee is tasked with reviewing the existing priorities and putting forth recommendations to enhance the SCTBM. Chief Samuels inquired when the next meeting of the Committee will be, and if that would allow more time to review the SCTBM. Chief Fogerson indicated that the Committee will have to meet in December per current statutory requirements, and that information will go out to the Committee members soon. Chief Fogerson asked if there were any concerns in delaying this meeting, with Karen Hall, DEM/HS, indicating concern only if the delay goes into FFY 2021 due to the stacking of public meetings that has to occur once the Committee makes its formal recommendation to the Committee on Finance, and then the Committee on Finance's recommendation to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security for final approval. If the SCTBM are not set prior to the kickoff of the HSGP process, it could be problematic. Kelli Anderson, DEM/HS, indicated no concern on her part in a delay other than it affects the layup of the Zoom Grants launch for FFY 2021. Applications can be handled more easily now from lessons learned, and improvements made, to the Zoom grants process. Ms. Anderson indicated that it is important to get DEM/HS a well thought out list of SCTBM, as FEMA most likely will continue the priority investment justifications again in FFY 2021. Chief Fogerson is looking at the second week of December for the next Committee meeting and instructed the Committee members to think about these capabilities between now and then to be prepared to form recommendations in December.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Chief Fogerson opened discussion on the second period of public comment. Dr. Freeman asked if future meetings could include video conferencing in addition to just teleconference. Chief Fogerson indicated that DEM/HS was in the process of obtaining newer technology to allow for a better virtual meeting experience.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Chief Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was presented by Kelly Echeverria, and a second was presented by Chief Samuels. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.