



# Meeting Minutes Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, January 23, 2024			
	<b>TIME</b>	9:00 AM			
	<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom			
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Sherrean K. Whipple			
<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	COL. Brett D. Compston	ABS	Aakin Patel	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Joe Colacurcio	X	Tennille Pereira	X
Taylor Allison	X	Bob Dehnhardt	X	Matthew Petersen	X
Andy Ancho	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Ken Quiner	X
Jayson Andrus	X	Andrea Esp	X	Misty Robinson	X
Roy Anderson	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Bill Savran	X
Travis Anderson	X	Eric Holt	X	Cary Underwood	ABS
Jon Bakkedahl	X	Timothy Hill	ABS		
Noah Boyer	X	Chris Lake	ABS		
Lee Cabaniss	ABS	Carolyn Levering	X		
James Chrisley	X	Rachel Marchetti	X		
Diana Clarkson	X	Ryan Miller	X		
<b>Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>					
Bunny Bishop	X	Melissa Friend	X	Kimberly Palma-Ortega	X
Heather Lafferty	X	Selby Marks	ABS		
<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
Sherrean K. Whipple – Administrative Assistant		Nevada Division of Emergency Management			X

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair, David Fogerson, State Administrative Agent (SAA) called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean K. Whipple. Quorum was established for the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

Chair David Fogerson opened the first period of public comment.

There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chair David Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the October 24, 2023 Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health & Human Services, motioned to approve the minutes.

Andrea Esp, Washoe County Public Health Preparedness, seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

All others were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed.

**4. Northern and Southern Center for Independent Living**

Heather Lafferty, DEM/HS explained that the Centers for Independent Living are community-based, cross-disability, nonprofit organizations designed and operated by people with disabilities. Ms. Lafferty discussed the services provided such as peer support, information and referral, individual and system advocacy, independent living skills, training and transition. Ms. Lafferty introduced the collaboration between the Centers for Independent Living, the Nevada Division of emergency Management, and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Lafferty further discussed the increasingly important role CILs across the country are playing in disasters.

Jackie Shelton, Jax Marketing indicated that her team has been working with Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living for many years to get their message out and is using a grant to create the website. Ms. Shelton explained that a lot of the grant was based around COVID education, but moving beyond that, the goal is to educate older adults and people with disabilities, and their caregivers, on all different types of emergencies and how they can respond to them specific to their disabilities. Ms. Shelton indicated the hope of partnering with all Health and Human Service agencies to distribute this information. Ms. Shelton explained that the theme is that you are your own first responder, and in order to be prepared for an emergency, you should ask the following questions: what's your plan; where's your bag; who's your buddy, with the goal being educating people ahead of an emergency and giving them the tools that they need to be prepared, as well as encouraging people to reach out to their neighbors to help each other. Ms. Shelton discussed the different categories of disabled deafness being addressed such as: visual impairment; deaf and hearing loss; cognitive; mental; emotional; physical; medical; age related. Ms. Shelton noted the big categories for preparation are as follows: pandemic; heat wave; flood; fire; earthquake; snow and blizzard; terrorism and shootings. Ms. Shelton explained that the solution to this challenge is working on creating a robust, statewide website. Ms. Shelton further noted that she and her colleagues will be reaching out to many of those in attendance at today's meeting for specific information to include on the website. Ms. Shelton explained that the website will be in English and Spanish, and noted the work being done with interpreters, as well as a transcription team to ensure sensitivity to culture. Ms. Shelton added that discussions are occurring with people across the state in hopes of being

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sensitive to demographics and people of different ethnicities, cultures, age, gender, and disability. Ms. Shelton next discussed the importance of outreach and noted that meetings are currently taking place with different social services agencies, and partner toolkits are in the process of creation. Ms. Shelton explained that once the website is complete, kits will be sent out to all NRAC agencies, as well as social services agencies, to provide the messaging that can be shared out on social platforms. Ms. Shelton further discussed holding trainings or curriculum for trainings to places like churches and indicated that once everything is done and in place, the information will be shared with media throughout the state. Ms. Shelton indicated that she welcomes input from the NRAC members regarding the most prevalent emergencies for each county. Ms. Shelton noted that research and outreach began in December and the hope is to complete the website by April.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels commended the presentation but raised concerns regarding the timeline, particularly regarding information being sent directly to the media rather than through the emergency managers' communication process first for approval and agreement. Vice Chair Samuels discussed the importance of having emergency managers see the curriculum going out to the different locations as these curricula will need to be different for different regions. The Vice Chair expressed concern that the April timeline is too aggressive and discussed the importance of a potential liaison. The Vice Chair further noted the inability of cities to take on a project like this with the expectation that all information can be met in a timely fashion for an April launch. As such, Vice Chair Samuels requested of Chief Fogerson that Heather Lafferty be named as the conduit for Clark County. Vice Chair Billy Samuels further noted the interest in discovering capabilities of the individual demographic areas to see where and in what areas preparedness can be improved.

Jackie Shelton indicated that the plan is to start with PIOs, with whom some contact has already been made in the counties, and then have the PIOs contact the correct people. Ms. Shelton further indicated that her team is willing to look at their timelines in the case that perhaps they are too ambitious.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels recommended that Ms. Shelton talk with Clark County PIO, Jen Cooper.

Heather Lafferty noted that one of the reasons this comes before NRAC is to introduce the project. Ms. Lafferty further noted that she will be doing trainings over the next couple of days in Carson City in coordination with the Centers for Independent Living and Jackie and her team so as to get a plan developed and in place.

Andrea Esp indicated that this is an idea about which public health has talked about for many years and has tried, unsuccessfully, to implement and push out to the community. Ms. Esp further indicated that she is looking forward to the partnership and to working more closely with the Center for Independent Living.

Jeanne Freeman noted that there are many emergency managers not on today's call and indicated it would be important to share this information with the Emergency Management Group. Ms. Freeman further noted that the emergency managers are also an excellent source for the research needed. Ms. Freeman further encouraged Ms. Shelton and her partners to keep in mind that the dynamic fits with the rural communities, as well. Ms. Freeman informed Ms. Shelton that emergency managers do try to take an all-hazards approach in many of the areas when it comes to response, which is why this could complicate trying to segregate information on the website by location. Ms. Freeman further indicated that there are places in the state that do not have reliable internet or even phone access.

Jackie Shelton indicated that the big message on the website is to be prepared, and then to cover how to be prepared for each emergency by disability, as well as specific county information. Ms. Shelton explained that the website will be updated as things change to keep it current. Ms. Shelton further indicated that there will

be a downloadable emergency plan as well as an emergency downloadable go-bag list that can be made specific to individual situations.

Jeanne Freeman reiterated the importance of universal aspects of preparedness being emphasized regardless of threat or hazard. Ms. Freeman concurred with Chief Samuels that April is a very aggressive timeline and suggested that Ms. Shelton and her partners gather feedback regarding this, as well as hold discussions with the emergency manager.

Jackie Shelton noted that she and her team will be meeting with Heather and Kimberly the following day and will add this to the agenda.

Bill Elliott, DEM/HS Preparedness Manager, discussed the importance of including outreach to the tribal nations.

Heather Lafferty thanked NRAC for their time as well as the Centers for Independent Living, who have traditionally not been included in the majority of the preparedness process, for using their grant money to help better prepare Nevadans for disasters and emergencies.

Chair David Fogerson echoed the concerns of Vice Chair Samuels and Ms. Freeman and added that the discussions also need to include public health preparedness professionals along with emergency managers. Chair Fogerson noted that Heather Lafferty would be the liaison and she would be the single point of contact to get information back and forth between emergency management, public health, and Ms. Shelton's organization. Chair Fogerson further noted his interest in seeing the research to date so as to share it to the county managers, and invited Ms. Shelton to attend the NTECC meeting to discuss this same subject. Chair Fogerson reiterated Ms. Freeman's point of including both tribal and rural needs.

## **5. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) in Nevada**

Chair David Fogerson indicated that when NRAC first came about, there was one USAR team in Nevada, and explained that he would like to now start the conversation about how to move USAR forward for other areas.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels discussed the capabilities of the task force, noting that all local fire departments, for the most part, and search and rescue teams have search and rescue. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that the USAR search and rescue team is a bit different in that it has four Jon boats and two IRBs, and that the boats come with personnel, along with a task force leader. Vice Chair Samuels next discussed the rubble pile that is used for break and breaking camera work, and the nine dogs on the team, seven live-find dogs, and two human-remain dogs. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that in the past, FEMA was not big on the human-remains side and preferred live-find during searches and rescue but noted that this mission is starting to change somewhat. The Vice Chair Samuels further noted that they have been against the drone components of unmanned aircraft in the past but are now beginning to see the benefits of that, as well. Vice Chair Samuels discussed the importance of technical information gathering, and processing, noted that USAR does bring plans, and does its own data collection and processing of data points. Vice Chair Samuels further noted the importance of structural specialists and heavy rigging, which is where crane work and operations are done, and the fact that there is hazmat monitoring with the use of a HEP trailer, which can be deployed as a single resource if needed. Vice Chair Samuels further noted that USAR brings its doctors with them and with redeployment. The Vice Chair Samuels indicated that two doctors would come with a Type 1 deployment, which equals about 70 people, and the doctors bring all the extra medications. Chief Samuels stressed that USAR is there to support operations, not to come in and take over, but does have the expectations that the Incident Management Team or some

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type of ICS structure is there. Vice Chair Samuels discussed the COWs, cellular on wheels, that also come with the USAR team so as to restore capabilities and communications for responders. Vice Chair Samuels noted that training is done for USAR monthly and annually, just like for everybody else. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that USAR would love to come and train with other jurisdictions or would welcome other jurisdictions to come down the Vegas Valley to train with them. Vice Chair Samuels informed the group that although USAR is housed under Clark County, it is Nevada Task Force 1 and so they serve the entire state. Vice Chair Samuels encouraged the group to remember that there is transition time needed for the team to arrive and that information regarding arrival ETA is communicated to DEM/HS. Vice Chair Samuels explained that once requested, the team has four hours to get out the door by ground, and six hours by air, and then also needs to account for drive time. Vice Chair Samuels noted that normal deployment is about 14 days, and sometimes it includes transition time, and other times does not, and that this depends on the needs of the jurisdiction.

Chair David Fogerson reiterated the importance of ensuring that Elko, Carson City, and other communities have resources in place, and noted his desire to hold this discussion with everyone in the group.

Matt Petersen indicated that between the city of Elko and all local agencies and Elko County Fire, there is basic Type 3 USAR capability. Mr. Petersen further noted that Elko County Fire has multiple pieces of heavy equipment that can be mobilized to areas for life rescue or stabilization and moreover, that Elko County Fire is available for neighbors who may need help and is looking to build that capability and the only things preventing Elko from utilizing the USAR team for training are time, capability, and capacity.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that it is exactly these types of things, how to get training to these locations, for example, he wishes to brainstorm with the group.

Andy Ancho noted that Reno runs very similar to Elko and recently got approval from the city to expand all special teams, including USAR members. Mr. Ancho indicated, however, that should one major call happen, Reno will be immediately overwhelmed resource wise, even with the help of partners. Mr. Ancho explained that definitely with the growth and expansion of Reno and the surrounding areas, and the threat of earthquake and building collapse, Reno is trying to expand as much as possible as well as take advantage of all training available to USAR members.

Chair David Fogerson reminded the group of the URMs (unreinforced masonry buildings) throughout the state that could be problematic.

Noah Boyer praised the help of Task Force 1 during the Argenta Hall incident and explained that more work is being done with the Triad Hazmat team to ensure interoperability when looking at some components and responsibilities with the presidential directive.

Jeanne Freeman questioned if the co-Chairs were able to get the information they were looking for from this agenda item.

Chair David Fogerson indicated his desire to have the discussion so that all emergency managers can see the resources that fire, and EMS professionals have, and as such, start locating the gaps so that they can be fixed.

Matt Petersen raised the theoretical potential of an issue at the casinos in Jackpot and noted that he would like to see some support from the state of a true exercise of mobilizing equipment to that site, and other more remote locations, to see what a true response would look like.

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Chair David Fogerson supported this idea, but noted that perhaps rather than a full-scale exercise, it should begin with a tabletop that could potentially be done through the IMAC system or the IMAS committee to determine what resources would actually be needed as well as the best location to access those resources.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels agreed and indicated that he would be emailing Members Ancho, Petersen, and Boyer, among others, regarding these types of exercises. Vice Chair Samuels indicated that he is trying to determine if there are any de-obligated funds that come through NRAC or the UAWG and whether or not the Task Force can use those funds and explained that he will look into this option.

Chair David Fogerson concurred and noted that there may be other creative ways to fund this, should grant funding is not an option, and cited the example of hiring Clark County Fire rather than USAR and paying the overtime as Clark County Fire employees rather than the USAR salary. Chair Fogerson further discussed the possibility of making this a multi-state exercise that includes not only Nevada Task Force 1 but also Salt Lake USAR and potentially others. Chair Fogerson further noted that the biggest parts to determine for this type of exercise are who will pay for them, and how will DEM/HS get reimbursed for them.

Jeanne Freeman suggested this as an opening exercise for next year's NEPA conference in the rural's, can involve all parties, and followed by a debriefing.

Chair David Fogerson indicated that he intends to have a conversation with DEM/HS's state exercise officer about moving this plan forward.

Jon Bakkedahl questioned if this is in the IPP.

Chair David Fogerson explained that the IPP is still a work in progress but believes that there is enough stuff under USAR for statewide issues. Chair Fogerson also fits under organizational coordination, and there are also NRS requirements that need to be met, which is also outside the whole FEMA IPP process.

### **6. Clark County Impacted Person Database**

Misty Richardson, Clark County Assistant Emergency Manager, Misty Robins, Southern Nevada Health District, Tennille Pereira, Legal Aid Center of South Nevada/Vegas Strong Resiliency Center, and Adam Turner.

Misty Richardson explained that for approximately the past five years, her office has been working to develop a patient tracking mechanism and that this has been done with the cooperation and partnership of the Southern Nevada Health District through a product in which time energy and money have been invested. Misty Richardson further noted that this product did not quite hit the mark on patient tracking. As such, Ms. Richardson indicated that as of spring, a multi-agency collaboration was sponsored to develop a mass casualty incident system that could not only track patients but help serve as a conduit into long-term recovery. Ms. Richardson noted that today will include a brief, high-level demonstration of the case management system and some of the features that were deployed prior to Formula One. Ms. Richardson continued on to say that this was built on in the scope of work in preparation for the Super Bowl. Ms. Richardson further noted that this system was successfully able to be used for the UNLV shooting, and worked exactly as hoped and also provided an opportunity to review how the system was put in place, the different pieces that could be enhanced, and that some of the fixes that were found would be helpful.



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Misty Richardson discussed how the bifurcation of the current system left gaps in communication and explained the importance of systems being trauma informed. As such, Ms. Richardson discussed the importance of ensuring that all parties are working together in a collaborative way, taking multi-systems, and being able to track victim services from start to finish. Ms. Richardson further stressed the importance of not re-traumatizing people with all the outreach, and instead using an approach that is time-efficient, able to deliver services consecutively, and to hand off seamlessly from one agency to the other. Ms. Richardson indicated that the reunification process and missing person search was manual at the time of 1 October and as such, there were more than 4,000 missing persons reports filed, a number that was too labor-intensive for detectives and others to follow up and as such, people did fall through the cracks based on just the sheer volumes involved. Ms. Richardson discussed the sunset of CiviCore, the primary resiliency and justice center case management system, at the end of September of 2023, thus precipitating the need for a new case management system. Ms. Richardson explained that United Victim Information System (UVIS), is the system that was in place on 1 October and noted that while this was not perfect, it was at least a system that could collect the information, but for the past three years, the system has been gone and no longer supported. Ms. Richardson explained that post 1 October, the system in place was not trauma informed and as such, there was no cohesive method of communication and no capacity for patient tracking. Ms. Richardson next played a video in support of efforts to utilize the impacted person database to enhance ability to provide service to the community in the case of a disaster. Ms. Richardson explained that the collaboration between the advocates across agencies is one of the most important things determined to be trauma-informed to fill that gap, and that the Impacted Persons Database and case management system allows for that trauma-informed care. In addition, Ms. Richardson indicated that reunification times are reduced through this system. Ms. Richardson further noted the MOU established in partnership between the Resiliency Center and the Justice Center with UMC and their social workers, and that the advocate working for mass victimization is the county representative embedded within the Resiliency Center, who is the primary person working with UMC on that piece.

Misty Robinson discussed that the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee (SDICC) that has been identified through NRS 414.280, as well as the identification for hospitals of the minimal information for hospitals to report during a declared emergency under NRS 629.043. Ms. Robinson noted that there are issues with these statutes that float by NRAC but do, in fact, require NRAC's help, citing the example of there being no stipulation for use of the information requested from hospitals for the use of patient ID and victim reunification to provide victim services. Ms. Robinson indicated that an emergency has to be declared in order for hospitals to be required to provide this information, and the NRS does not stipulate if this can be a local emergency or a local public health emergency and as such, this needs to be clarified in the statutes. As such, Ms. Robinson explained that a potential meeting with all of the attorneys, SNHD, Clark County, the Resiliency and Justice Center, and DEM/HS is in the works to try and improve these statutes so that hospitals can comfortably include information and ultimately push it to the database. Ms. Robinson indicated that currently there are four disparate systems in terms of medical record systems and as such, something needs to be created to pull that information from the four disparate systems and integrated into one.

Misty Richardson reiterated that after 1 October, this issue was recognized but no tool was in place to manage the process. Ms. Richardson further noted that now that there is a tool in place, the legislation that will mandate the use of it and the parameters in which it can be used needs to be refined.

Andrea Esp asked on what platform this is living.

Adam Turner indicated that this is a custom application that is developed and is living inside of the Clark County AWS account.

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Andrea Esp noted that her group has been looking at doing the same things with hospitals being able to automatically upload their data with an MCI into the WebEOC platform so as to allow people to login through WebEOC and questioned if this is a possibility.

Misty Richardson noted that this is something that was investigated post 10October but is something that will not ultimately do what is needed, which is why this home-grown system was created.

Andrea Esp questioned if when tracking from the field, scanners are being used.

Misty Richardson explained that this would not work in their community as the volume is too great.

Adam Turner presented a brief, high-level overview of the new system for the group that walked through the process of sample case files in the case of a big incident, discussed the public portal created for those with missing loved ones post-incident, and presented the group with an overview of search options within the system. Mr. Turner further discussed the development of a future AI powered model that will allow for filtering through all the data for the closest matches.

Misty Richardson indicated that while this Impacted Persons Database was born in southern Nevada, it can also be used by the northern Nevada partners when it comes to providing those services at a statewide level. Ms. Richardson next discussed the maintenance long term regarding this project and noted that up to this point, Clark County has invested or committed to investing close to \$1.6 million to the development of this project and added that there will be about a \$200,000 per year cost sharing piece that is still in the works.

Jeanne Freeman questioned if individuals/events are archived in the system and asked about the FIP compliance.

Adam Turner noted that to date, the security measures taken have met the requirements and there are not security concerns regarding the contacts being kept in the long term, but rather is advantageous in that should someone be re-victimized, a record already exists of that person's history. Mr. Turner said at this time, there is no plan yet to archive as a need has not yet been identified for these, and that for the time being, the cases and records will serve as a historical record.

Tennille Pereira indicated that one of the important features is the firewall with the case-management side that lies with the Resiliency and Justice Center apart from the other community partners that are inputting data and noted that because the case system keeps all the information, services are able to be more holistically provided to those that need them.

Adam Turner discussed the permissions, noting that what a case manager would see in these files is different and more in-depth than what someone with basic access would see, which would be different than from what, for example, the coroner would see.

Misty Richardson indicated that her group would be happy to offer participation in another meeting after Super Bowl to discuss any lessons learned from that event.

Misty Robinson added that the group will also be presenting at NEPA.

Aakin Patel discussed the fact that a lot of data is being collected in public interest but even so, other countries and even states have different data-compliance regulations and asked for the plan to address this potential issue for those in the system who are not from Nevada.



Tennille Pereira noted that in order for these victims to exist in the system, they would have had to be in Nevada at the time of an incident, and that could uncomplicate these regulations a bit in that the data is not being collected unless the non-resident of the state specifically reaches out for victim services after the fact.

Patrick Lazenby asked if this system could be shared with the north.

Misty Richardson indicated that it absolutely was, and again suggested meeting with all partners after the Super Bowl.

Adam Turner added that the program was built in such a way that the door was left open to use this as a case management system for another stream.

Chair David Fogerson thanked Misty Richardson, Misty Robertson, Adam Turner, and Tennille Pereira for the presentation and for the work that they've done in creating this system.

## **7. Public Comment**

Chair David Fogerson opened the second period of public comment.

Jon Bakkedahl requested that if anyone have job openings in their jurisdiction that they send them either via email or the NEPA webpage so that Mr. Bakkedahl could post them on the NEPA website with a link directly back to the jurisdiction's webpage.

Chair David Fogerson reminded the group that the next meeting will be about grants and because the federal government has not yet passed the budget, this meeting has not yet been scheduled. Chair Fogerson reminded the group that this year all grants are competitive and indicated that the grant meeting will likely be an all-day event. Chair Fogerson next indicated that the emergency managers all received a note from DEM/HS about the continuing bomb threats going on in public buildings and educational facilities. On behalf of Noah Boyer, Chair Fogerson reminded the group that there are four EOD teams in the state: Tahoe-Douglas Consolidated, Elko, and Las Vegas Fire Rescue, all four of whom are willing and active participants to assist with education and/or training. The Chair encouraged anyone wishing to connect with these teams to reach out to DEM/HS if they do not have direct contact information.

Bob Dehnhardt added that other states are also reporting fake bomb threats that are not limited to schools or school districts only, but also legislative buildings and other types of state, county, and/or government buildings. Mr. Dehnhardt noted that these threats are taken seriously as a default, but in the case of a fake threat, are also tracked down to try and identify the source.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair David Fogerson called for a motion to adjourn.

Andrea Esp, Washoe County Public Health Preparedness, motioned to adjourn.

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Jon Bakkedahl, Carson City Deputy Emergency Manager, seconded the motion.

All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

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