



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Monday, January 29, 2018	
	TIME	10:00 AM	
	LOCATION	Division of Emergency Management State Emergency Operations Center 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, Nevada 89701	
	METHOD	Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Karen Burke	X
Joseph Lombardo	X	Caleb Cage	X
Chuck Allen	X	Gonzalo Cordova	
Gregory Cassell	X	Aaron Ford	X
Lisa Christensen	X	Chris Ipsen	X
Frank Gonzales	X	William McCurdy	
Mark Hutchison	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X
Ikram Khan	X	Aaron Rouse	
Tom Lozich	X		
William McDonald	X	Samantha Ladich – Sr. DAG	X
Charles Moore		Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis			
Troy Wade			
Bill Welch	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary. No commentary presented in either venue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Commission meeting held December 6, 2017. Motion to approve was presented by Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and a second was provided

by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval praised the Commission, first responders, and all affected by the difficult prior year for their professionalism, courage, and response to the events of 2017, and wished for all a safe new year.

5. BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) PROCESS, REVIEW OF COMMISSION PRIORITIES, AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2018 PRIORITIES

Chief Caleb Cage, DEM/HS briefed the Commission on the current status of the HSGP process, review of past priorities, and the development of FFY 2018 priorities. Highlights included:

- Overview of the 2017 HSGP process including assessments and meetings;
- Challenges due to the delay in HSGP funding guidance for 2017;
- 2017 Commission priorities;
- HSGP investment overview from 2015 to 2017;

Governor Sandoval inquired if there were any concerns regarding the level of balances shown in the various funding years, with Chief Cage indicating there were no concerns at this time with associated performance periods.

Additional highlights regarding this agenda item included:

- Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR) overview used to build capability;
- 2018 HSGP meeting cycle;
- Successful alignment with policy directives, preparedness goals, and establishment of priorities associated with HSGP grant application success;
- Working group process for both the Nevada Homeland Security Working Group (HSWG) and the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG); and
- Federal budget status to date regarding federal and state allocations;

Governor Sandoval inquired if there were any insights as to whether Nevada's funding is at risk, with Chief Cage indicating he has no indication of that at this time. Chief Cage will be meeting with national partners and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to try and get additional information on the release of grant funding. Kelli Anderson, DEM/HS, indicated that at this time there is no notification of funding opportunity, though legally, DHS must issue grant awards by September 2018. The further the delay by DHS in releasing guidance will result in a shortened time period for Nevada to move through its HSGP process. Governor Sandoval referenced the previous challenges associated with obtaining Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding, with Chief Cage indicating that efforts are underway to try and address that issue, and the Commission will hear from Deputy Chief Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department, on those efforts later in the meeting. The Governor expressed his hope that Nevada ranks higher this year as a result of recent events.

Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison inquired if Nevada's top threats have changed over recent years, with Chief Cage indicating that the only change has been the addition of cyber security due to the efforts of the Commission. Annual assessments continue to address

identified threats for the state, denoting factors that go into THIRA and SPR including After Action Reports (AARs) for exercises and actual events.

Governor Sandoval spoke to the active shooter threat, and whether the THIRA rankings were set prior to or after the 1-October event in Las Vegas. Per Chief Cage, the ranking was set prior to the event.

Karen Burke, Transportation Security Administration, spoke to a federal report related to threat assessments for cities and an airport indicating that as Nevada sees higher threat levels, funding will hopefully increase as a result. Ms. Burke will forward a copy of that report to Chief Cage.

6. DISCUSSION AND IDENTIFICATION OF COMMISSIONER CORE CAPABILITY PRIORITIES FOR FFY2018

Chief Cage introduced the FFY 2018 priority identification process whereby the Commission members discussed, selected, and rank-prioritized core capabilities for the upcoming HSGP process. Governor Sandoval called for a 10-minute break allowing Commissioners to individually rank-prioritize their selected core capabilities, and upon completion of that break, DEM support staff collected the attending Commissioner's HSGP Priority Indication Worksheets. Worksheet submissions were shared electronically between participating venues ensuring that a complete set of Commissioner's input was posted at each venue. DEM support staff then began the work of tabulating and finalizing the rank-ordered prioritizations for review during Agenda Item #10.

7. BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF THE STATE'S RESPONSE IN UPDATING RESORT EMERGENCY PLANS PER NRS 463.790.

Chief Cage briefed the Commission on the current status of state response related to the update of resort emergency plans per statute. NRS 463.790 requires resorts of a certain size in Nevada to provide an emergency response plan to the state Division of Emergency Management and local first response agencies when initially created and within three days of updates. Chief Cage noted a deficiency of the State to receive updated plans, and as a result, has undertaken an aggressive plan ensuring the receipt of the most updated plans as possible from industry partners in the near term. Chief Cage also indicated that the State is working to provide recommendations to the legislature to update this statute, as well as to put systems in place to ensure the state plan repository is up-to-date with the latest plans.

Efforts applied to date have been successful including working with the State Gaming Control Board (GCB) which regulates this industry, obtaining a report listing resorts required to submit Emergency Response Plans, and outreach to individual resorts requesting updated plans. To date, the State has received 97% of the required plans, and will continue to work with the resorts and the GCB to ensure compliance. Chief Cage noted that if the remaining plans are not received by the second deadline established, there is the possibility of disciplinary action by the GCB.

Additionally, the State is currently in the process of establishing the Resort Planning Task Force to build intermediate and long-term measures to improve systems and policies. A collaborative meeting was held earlier this month with representatives from State DEM, Clark County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM), Washoe County Emergency Management, and security representatives from resort properties. Through this meeting, it was agreed upon to establish the Resort Planning Task Force as a limited term public body with the following four priorities:

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1. Identify contact information for the appropriate representative from properties meeting the resort definition, as well as emergency management and response organizations within the respective districts;
2. Peer-develop a template example for resort representatives to build on for their own properties, with support from Emergency Management best practices;
3. Identify options for digital submission for resort properties in order to facilitate security and ease; and
4. Identify recommendations to the legislature to improve upon this requirement in statute or code.

The first meeting of the Resort Planning Task Force will be held in the afternoon of February 5, 2018.

Governor Sandoval referenced Chief Cage's earlier recommendations for 2019 Legislative statutory amendments, and asked for specificity if possible. Chief Cage spoke to initial discussions on making the provision of plans an annual requirement, changing requirements within the plans to match federal guidelines, and giving DEM oversight capability to ensure the Division plays more than an outreach role. The Governor reiterated that DEM does not have discretion over enforcement of plan submission, with Chief Cage agreeing that DEM has no authority to require or review plans, only to act as a repository for such plans currently.

Governor Sandoval added that he understands the GCB does have the authority to enforce compliance regarding this issue, with Chief Cage indicating he has confirmed that understanding with the Administrator of the GCB Enforcement Division.

8. PRESENTATION BY THE NEVADA HOMELAND SECURITY WORKING GROUP (HSWG) CO-CHAIRS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY IN NEVADA.

Chief Cage and Deputy Chief Steinbeck co-presented an in-depth overview on recommendations for improving emergency management and homeland security in Nevada referencing the "Recommendations for the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security" document provided to the Commission and the public as part of the meeting material provided. Emphasized was the basic assumption that Nevadans are living in a New Nevada, and the New Nevada requires a fundamental shift in the way emergency management and homeland security is carried out in the state. Nevada is again among the fastest growing populations nationally. The New Nevada envisioned, championed, and delivered by Governor Sandoval has improved and diversified the economy in unimaginable ways, and, if 2017 is any indication, Nevada faces new and more intense threats and hazards. As professionals in this field, Chief Cage, and Deputy Chief Steinbeck believe that this New Nevada requires a paradigm shift for emergency management and homeland security, one that aligns efforts with a framework of resilience, one that is adaptable, strategic, and collaborative, and one that will require a deliberate process, leadership, and investment from every level of government.

It is the request of both Chief Cage and Deputy Chief Steinbeck that the Commission considers voting to provide them with the tools to carry out this high-level approach. This includes voting to approve these recommendations as presented or as modified through discussion, an executive order to allow them to quickly implement necessary changes, and the opportunity to provide updates on continued efforts and timelines in these meetings throughout 2018. This approval and support will allow ensuring Nevada is and remains ahead of the curve. Highlights of the overview included:

OFFICIAL MINUTES – Approved at the NCHS Meeting 2/28/18

1. Background and Framework information used in the development of recommendations to include:
 - Report on Initial lessons learned from the 2017 disasters in Nevada;
 - Governor Sandoval’s direction that DEM align its mission and vision with the “100 Resilient Cities” initiative as indicated in the 2016 Strategic Plan;
 - Focused efforts to align with the resilience framework as a paradigm shift for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in Nevada; and
 - Qualities of Resilient Systems as Reflective, Robust, Redundant, Flexible, Resourceful, Inclusive, and Integrated.
2. Recommendations associated with each of the Qualities of Resilient Systems accompanied by suggestions on how to best implement through directive, executive order, budgetary, or legislative action, or any combination of the aforementioned implementation strategies. *(Please refer to the document titled “Recommendations for the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security” within the meeting packet for specific recommendations)*
3. Next steps associated with carrying out recommendations upon the direction of the Commission.

Chief Cage and Deputy Chief Steinbeck thanked the Commission, and welcomed questions or discussion regarding the proposed recommendations. Governor Sandoval applauded this effort, and spoke to needing more detail on the 100 Resilient Cities model adoption in other cities. Chief Cage indicated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has incorporated this initiative into grant requirements, in addition to the adoption of the model within the State Recovery Framework and Resiliency Framework. It is a global benchmark to ensure that no matter what happens, Nevada is prepared to respond and show resilience in recovery.

Sheriff Lombardo spoke to 100 Resilient Cities model and asked for clarification on what the Commission was being asked to vote on, with Chief Cage indicating it was the intention that the Commission vote to approve or modify the recommendations as presented, and at the next meeting, a timeline and update would be provided by the Co-Chairs of the HSWG to stay on track with what is proposed. Additional concern was presented on whether the Commission would have an opportunity to review proposed documents including any directives or executive orders prior to approval. Sheriff Lombardo presented concern that the Commission membership as a whole may not be informed of the activities, emergencies, and disasters that the state has engaged over the course of the past year, and how that may affect how core capabilities are defined. Chief Cage understood the suggestion as to provide an overview of the events that occurred the previous year prior to voting on priorities. Additional inquiry ensued regarding the Disaster Relief Account (DRA), the Emergency Assistance Account (EAA), and DEM funding movement requiring statutory statute changes through the bill draft process. With 26 committees currently overseen by DEM, the goal is to streamline some of them into a larger resiliency committee which would be a public body meeting to approve grants and develop strategy.

Governor Sandoval supported the idea of informing the Commission with the types of information provided here today prior to developing priorities in the future, and this can partially be done through expedient directive. The Governor indicated that he still has the responsibility for building the budget, and this additional information could be included in a budgetary submission by DEM. Budget submissions need to be provided by August 2018.

General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales, Nevada Selective Service, indicated that a good tool for reference in establishing core capabilities is the DEM Annual Report, and made the

suggestion that the report makeup include other state agencies. Chief Cage indicated that although that does not occur right now, the goal is to work with the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association (NEPA) in making the report a joint effort in the future.

Bill Welch, Nevada Hospital Association, encouraged the Commission to view the specific inputs discussed including any directives or executive orders prior to making a final decision on the recommendations presented. Under the reflective recommendation category, Mr. Welch spoke to federal guidance and the reconciliation of funding with the possible inclusion of the Interim Finance Committee, and that there is significant difficulty for organizations that are nearly 100% funded by grants. Additional discussion ensued regarding the robust recommendation category and tying objectives to the responsibilities of various licensing boards and licensees in addition to clarification on establishing an emergency operations center in southern Nevada modeled after Washoe County's regional emergency operations center to support neighboring counties. Additional emphasis by Mr. Welch included the need to broaden the recommendations under the flexibility category related to the definition of medical practitioners.

Lieutenant Governor Hutchison inquired on additional input on the robust recommendation category in addition to an update on the current status of the EAA and the DRA. Discussion ensued regarding federal assistance as it relates to individual (IA) versus public (PA) assistance, noting that the State no longer had a program to address individual assistance. Justin Luna, Administrative Services Officer for DEM provided an update on the EAA and DRA at the request of Chief Cage speaking to challenges with both accounts. Chief Cage addressed DEM's responsibility for Search and Rescue (SAR) responsibility within Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 414. Chief Cage addressed the additional inquiry by the Lieutenant Governor regarding the temporary reduction of the HSWG as a way to obtain a body familiar with the process in addition to reducing funding expense in bringing a larger group together. A permanent reduction would require socialization and support of the Commission, and this is a discussion to be had between this grant cycle and 2019's grant cycle.

Chris Ipsen, Desert Research Institute, presented inquiry on Recommendation #5a and #5b as to whether those items should be addressed on a one-time basis, or to be considered as proactive measures to address future emergencies as they evolve. Chief Cage indicated it is the goal to tie these recommendations to the resiliency principle as a whole.

Governor suggested that the next meeting documents are provided include directive, EO, budgetary items, and legislative items. Commissioners are encouraged to provide input as necessary.

9. PRESENTATION BY THE LAS VEGAS URBAN AREA WORKING GROUP CHAIR ON THE POTENTIAL FOR COMMISSION SUPPORT FOR THE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA) RANKING AND URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE.

Deputy Chief Steinbeck briefed the Commission on concerns related to past and ongoing MSA ranking profiles affecting Nevada. Though the state did move up in ranking to position 22 in 2017, the formula is in no way a guarantee that Nevada will remain at that ranking to ensure funding. Considerable effort has been applied to retain urban area funding including providing valuable feedback to DHS through consistent messaging. There are several factors that are problematic with the development of MSA rankings to include:

- Non-inclusion of special event rankings for as consideration in the funding formula. Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) establishes the need for federal support due to risk associated with a specific event. It's a direct correlation to targets with the capacity for terror-related events;

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- Clustering of assets that affect the ability of critical infrastructure to be recognized on a single asset basis. This affects the ability of the Las Vegas Strip to be recognized as having multiple large scale infrastructure assets as opposed to a single cluster of assets which skews the formula at a disadvantage to the state; and
- The percentages associated with the risk formula are concerning, with consequence weighted at the highest level of 50% instead of the threat level currently tied to 30%. This can be seen with the example of Orlando, Florida, not receiving urban area funding since 2014 even with what is now recorded as the second worst mass shooting in United States history.

Deputy Chief Steinbeck stressed the importance of more funding for urban areas, not less, and the necessity of sustaining vital programs for the safety of residents and visitors. Nevada's delegation has been extremely active in communicating requested changes to DHS.

Governor Sandoval spoke to his upcoming National Governor's Association meeting in Washington, D.C., and the opportunity he has to meet personally with the Secretary of Homeland Security. The Governor requested a copy of the documentation provided by Chief Steinbeck to relay the importance of the issues regarding MSA rankings directly to the Secretary. Additionally commentary was provided by Sheriff Lombardo on the lack of transparency for continued MSA rankings which often duplicate high amounts of funding year after year to areas such as New York City with no evidence to show that funding has reduced risk in that area. The Sheriff indicated that if risk reduction was shown, the amount of funding could be reduced to those areas that have achieved the reduction, and funding left over could be more fairly distributed to other urban areas in need of risk funding. The results of risk reduction in funded areas are not readily provided by DHS.

A motion was provided by Sheriff Lombardo directing Chief Cage and DEM to prepare a letter to be sent to the Governor to include the suggestions concurrent with Sheriff Lombardo's and Deputy Chief Steinbeck's earlier recommendations for delivery to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Sheriff Allen seconded the motion. Chief Gregory Cassell, Clark County Fire Department, requested that this information be shared with the Commission, and the Governor requested Commissioners be copied on the letter. The Governor asked that any further suggestions be presented to Chief Cage quickly to be incorporated into the letter. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously. Deputy Chief Steinbeck thanked the Governor for his personal delivery of this information to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

10. PRESENTATION OF SUMMARIZED AND RANK-ORDERED CORE CAPABILITIES FOR FFY 2018

Governor Sandoval spoke to the summarized and rank-ordered core capability documents provided to the Commission and the public attendees by DEM support staff as a result of input received in Agenda Item #6. Chief Cage provided a brief overview of the result documents detailing noted rankings and scoring method used to obtain the rankings. The results of the Commission's preliminary FFY 2018 HSGP core capability rankings were read into record as follows:

- #1: Intelligence and Information Sharing
- #2: Cybersecurity
- #3: Operational Coordination
- #4: Public Information and Warning
- #5: Operational Communications

OFFICIAL MINUTES – Approved at the NCHS Meeting 2/28/18

The Governor spoke to the historical usage of the top five core capabilities in establishing priorities for the HSGP process in Nevada, noting that these ranking documents serve as recommendation only, and are not binding. The Governor opened discussion on the priority findings as presented, and there was no further commentary on any amendments to the documents.

A motion to approve the FFY 2018 HSGP core capabilities as presented was put forth by Lieutenant Governor Hutchison, and a second was provided by General Gonzales. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

The Governor, and Chief Cage, thanked the Commission and support staff for their efforts put forth on establishing the priorities for 2018 as a decisive measure to drive the grant process moving forward. An additional request was made by the Governor that should there be any update on HSGP grant guidance, that this information is shared with the Commission immediately.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

12. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was presented by Chief Cassell, and a second was provided by Tom Lozich, MGM Resorts, International. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.