Meeting Minutes
Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Monday, June 3, 2022
	TIME	10:00 a.m.
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 405 396 0059
	RECORDER	Shari Grennan

Appointed Voting Member Attendance						
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Governor Steve Sisolak	X	Joseph Lombardo	X	Darin Balaam	X
Todd Fasulo	X	Mitchell Fox	X	Frank Gonzales	X
Ikram Khan, M.D.	Abs	Charles Moore	X	Richard Perkins	X
John Steinbeck	X	Rosemary Vassiliadis	X	Patricia Wade	X
Bill Welch	X				
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Karen Burke	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X	Christopher Ipsen	Abs
David Fogerson	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X	Spencer Evans	Abs
Legal and Support Staff Attendance					
Samantha Ladich	X	Shari Grennan	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Steve Sisolak called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Shari Grennan, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Steve Sisolak opened the first period of public comment for discussion. No public comment was presented in written or verbal form during this agenda item.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Steve Sisolak called for a motion to amend or amend and approve the draft minutes from the March 7, 2022, Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) meeting. Mitchell Fox, Nevada Broadcasters Association, motioned to approve the minutes as presented. No discussion was presented. All were in favor with no opposition, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. REPORT ON THE OFFICE OF CYBER DEFENSE COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

Shaun Rahmeyer, Nevada Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, informed the Commission that the Office of Cyber Defense Coordination Activities (OCDC) was established by Nevada legislature in 2017 with additional responsibilities added during the 2019 session. Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that OCDC is housed under the Department of Public Safety, is comprised of four staff members, and has an annual budget of approximately $500,000. Mr. Rahmeyer further indicated that OCDC's responsibilities are defined in NRS 480.900 through 480.950, with the core responsibilities including: developing risk-based assessments of information systems maintained by state agencies; developing best practices to mitigate risk to state systems; and establishing partnerships with local governments, the Nevada System of Higher Education, and the private sector. Mr. Rahmeyer explained that through these partnerships, OCDC is responsible for providing strategies to mitigate risk and otherwise protect information systems operated by public and private sector entities.

In addition, Shaun Rahmeyer informed the Commission that OCDC focuses on coordinating assistance between the federal government and local government agencies. Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that OCDC consults with DEM/HS, the Office of the Military, and Enterprise IT services regarding the protection of information systems in the state. Mr. Rahmeyer explained that OCDC focuses on coordinating cybersecurity related intelligence and investigation with the Nevada Division of Investigation in addition to appointing incident response teams; establish policies and procedures for incidence response and notification; coordinate incident response with local, state, and federal stakeholders; and support private sector organizations as requested for instant response. Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that OCDC is responsible for the creation of a statewide cybersecurity strategic plan that is updated every two years and also provides quarterly and annual cybersecurity reports.

Shaun Rahmeyer further indicated that OCDC is responsible for regulating all Nevada cities and counties as it relates to incident response plans and prescribes the contents of cybersecurity incident response plans that are required to be submitted to OCDC offices annually. Mr. Rahmeyer explained that OCDC then reviews these plans and provides any necessary feedback. Mr. Rahmeyer further explained that OCDC has the authority to adopt any necessary regulation to carry out the provisions outlined in NRS 480.900 to 950. Mr. Rahmeyer informed the Commission that OCDC supports a diverse array of organizations throughout the state by regularly engaging with cities and counties as well as maintaining extensive partnerships with critical infrastructure organizations.

Shaun Rahmeyer indicated that OCDC regularly communicates with law enforcement and other entities, as well as NSHE organizations. Mr. Rahmeyer explained that OCDC regularly attends quarterly meetings with security professionals who represent all the major gaming hospitality organizations in Las Vegas and also works closely with the Nevada National Guard, with whom OCDC has recently developed a pilot project to help certify National Guard personnel on cybersecurity assessments while supporting local government and the private sector. Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that as required by NRS, OCDC advances the cybersecurity mission in the following ways: providing consulting and advising to state and local government and private sector entities in cybersecurity frameworks; providing cybersecurity best practices and risk management; directing organizations to resources to include no-cost

and low-cost industry tools and technology; providing cybersecurity program evaluation, incident response plans, and templates as well was polices and procedure development; supporting organizations by providing guidance and strategic goals and objectives; road mapping and addressing security path and security gaps; focusing on trends in cybersecurity threats and industry challenges as a whole; workforce development; training and education; cybersecurity insurance; funding support, grants, and an array of additional topics.

Shaun Rahmeyer informed the Commission that OCDC is also currently working with Nevada Small Business Development Centers to help develop better access to cybersecurity education and awareness resources for small businesses. Mr. Rahmeyer further explained that over the last several months, OCDC has focused heavily on the development of a statewide cybersecurity operations center that will directly support every county, city, and several general recruitment district in the state for a total of 40 organizations, an initiative that was designed to dramatically improve cybersecurity statewide, most notably in rural areas that would otherwise lack the necessary funding. Mr. Rahmeyer informed the Commission that this project has, unfortunately, lost its funding.

Shaun Rahmeyer next discussed the challenges faced by OCDC, beginning with limited operating capacity, the result of which is that on occasion, organizations have been turned away due to the lack of necessary capability to support a request. Mr. Rahmeyer further indicated that OCDC is only scratching the surface of cybersecurity support in the state and is operating a reduced budget due to COVID-19 pandemic budget cuts that forced OCDC to close its office space and give up its state vehicles, impacting OCDC's ability to establish new partnerships and provide support. Mr. Rahmeyer explained that OCDC's IT Professional 3 position was vacant for nearly 18 months prior to finally being staffed within the past weeks, and the analyst position was vacant for approximately a five-month period the year prior. In addition, Mr. Rahmeyer indicated that since the inception of the office, OCDC has never been staffed or resourced to conduct state agency risk assessments or field and incident response team efforts to correct these shortfalls, and legislation sessions since inception have fallen short. As such, Mr. Rahmeyer explained that addressing cybersecurity threats will continue to be a challenge not just for OCDC, but for government and private sector organizations for the foreseeable future.

5. **REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2022 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP) AND THE URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, informed the Commission that due to the continuing budget resolution, the federal government is only able to give DEM/HS 30 days to complete the process. As such, Mr. Fogerson indicated that grant applications were left open for seven days in both the urban areas and the additional counties in the state. Mr. Fogerson explained that once the grant applications were received, Chief Samuels and Mr. Fogerson met with the urban area working group and NRAC, respectively, to rank the grant applications provided to the Commission. Mr. Fogerson explained that last year, the UAG and the UASI were able to keep the same funding amount of just over $5 million from last yea to this year but that the state Homeland Security funds did decrease some from last year to this year because of the increase to the nonprofit Homeland Security grant, which took some of the money from the state process. Mr. Fogerson indicated that following those meetings, the

grant requests were brought in front of the Homeland Security Commission's Committee on Finance where the recommended grants were approved to come before the Homeland Security Commission.

Sheriff Joseph Lombard added that 12 new projects were approved via the UASI and nine out of the state Homeland, which shows the change of the core capabilities the nation and state are addressing in the homeland security space to include environment and the increase in domestic terrorism. Sheriff Lombardo further indicated that the community resilience and mass care had risen on the needs of priorities and explained that the working groups had de-obligated funds on existing IJs where guidelines/benchmarks were not met, and the money was then moved over to different priorities. Sheriff Lombardo commended the efforts put forth by the groups to make this a simple task for the finance committee, enabling the committee to approve each item individually.

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo asked Shaun Rahmeyer if he felt that the Office of Cyber Defense Coordination was not appropriately funded via the UASI and state homeland in the assistance of personnel efforts.

Shaun Rahmeyer indicated that the need for resources really is a need to improve addressing statutory requirements.

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo indicated that this would be taken under consideration in future meetings of the finance committee.

Governor Steve Sisolak called for a motion. Todd Fasulo, Security and Crisis Management, Wynn Resorts, motioned to approve the FFY 2-22 Sate Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Program recommendations. No discussion was presented. All were in favor with no opposition, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **STATUS OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS PROGRAM (HSGP) FUNDS**

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, informed the Commission that each member has a list of each grant in the packet provided from FFY 2017 through the present. Mr. Fogerson indicated that the entire process was transparent, including the dollar amounts requested, the dollar amounts spent, and the remainder. Mr. Fogerson further indicated that once the grant staff has finished the application process, DEM/HS will look at de-obligations and see how additional projects can be funded using those de-obligated funds.

John Steinbeck, Fire Chief for Clark County, asked if DEM/HS had found and/or was looking to address any significant gaps throughout this process.

David Fogerson indicated the importance of the cyber side given that it has become an emerging threat. In addition, Mr. Fogerson indicated that active assailant is one that has come up in the past and again this year, and DEM/HS was able to fund one of those projects on a statewide level. Mr. Fogerson explained that the next step in the process is to connect and collaborate with partners so that going forward, money can be spent for larger groups as opposed to individual agencies.

7. **NOTIFICATION OF REALLOCATION OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) FUNDS**

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, explained that all project change requests, de-obligation, and re-obligation projects from the past have been provided to the Commission for the sake of transparency. Mr. Fogerson indicated that the process is a public one, with three to four public meetings regarding the grant requests, and following award of the grants, project change requests are then handled by staff. As such, Mr. Fogerson explained that DEM/HS is working on implementing some internal controls to ensure transparency to the Commission, the Committee on Finance, NRAC, and UAG with the hopes of potentially tightening up some of the de-obligation requests and making some of the projects more robust while still ensuring the same public viewing process that is used in approval of the grant is in place for grant change requests.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Governor Steve Sisolak opened the second period of public comment for discussion.   There was no public comment.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Governor Steve Sisolak adjourned the meeting.