



# Meeting Minutes

## Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance		DATE	Monday, March 7, 2022			
		TIME	10:00 a.m.			
		METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 405 396 0059			
		RECORDER	Sherrean K. Whipple			
Appointed Voting Member Attendance						
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	
Governor Steve Sisolak	X	Joseph Lombardo	X	Darin Balaam	Abs	
Lisa Christensen	Abs	Todd Fasulo	X	Mitchell Fox	X	
Frank Gonzales	Abs	Ikram Khan, M.D.	X	Charles Moore	X	
Richard Perkins	X	John Steinbeck	X	Rosemary Vassiliadis	X	
Patricia Wade	Abs	Bill Welch	X			
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance						
Karen Burke	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X	Christopher Ipsen	X	
David Fogerson	X	Shaun Rahmeyer	X	Aaron Rouse	Abs	
Legal and Support Staff Attendance						
Samantha Ladich	X	Sherrean K. Whipple	X			

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Steve Sisolak called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean K. Whipple, 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 December 6, 2021, Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) meeting. Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care consultants, motioned to approve the minutes as presented. No discussion was presented. All were in favor with no opposition, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. NEVADA'S PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RISING GEOPLITICAL TENSIONS**

David Fogerson, Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS), explained that DEM/HS are watching the geopolitical tensions taking place across the world and their impact on Nevada. Mr. Fogerson described the establishment of a policy group that includes the Governor's Office and Directors of the main State Departments affected, and that this policy group is overseeing the State Emergency Operation Center. Mr. Fogerson explained that the group met last week at the State Emergency Operation Center to discuss possible scenarios and responses and intends to meet with local government emergency managers and major utility players to have these same discussions to ensure that the state is prepared rather than blindsided by any potential events moving forward.

#### **5. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) REPORTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS, 17, 18, 19, 20, AND 21**

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, informed the Commission that the packet includes reports from the grant program on the open grants for 2017, '18, '19, '20, and '21 to show how Homeland Security Enterprise dollars are being spent as well as the status of the different amounts. Mr. Fogerson explained that he and Chief Billy Samuels are working to ensure that two that are closing shortly are fully spent so that money does not remain on the table to be returned to the federal government. Mr. Fogerson further explained that no action is necessary but wanted to ensure transparency regarding the spending that is approved each year.

John Steinbeck commented that there are appeared to be some very low percentages back into the 2018 grants and asked if there are any concerns regarding that spending.

David Fogerson explained that the Division is not yet concerned, given that with the de-obligated funds, the money will likely get spent due to the August 31, 2022 extension.

John Steinbeck asked if there are funds that have been de-obligated off of that percentage already, or if the amount showing is prior to de-obligations.

David Fogerson indicated that this amount was prior to de-obligation and was effective December 31. Since that time, DEM/HS has been working with partners on getting some of that money that will likely not be spent reallocated to other programs in need of the money that can spend it within the required timeframe.

#### **6. REPORT ON THE STATEWIDE ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)**

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, informed the Commission that DEM/HS created a document the previous year that helped to focus everybody's efforts on what is being done at a statewide level with the Integrated Preparedness Plan and getting all the money guided and forwarded towards those support efforts. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that the bigger effort is actually on the Interstate Mutual Aid System (IMAS) with the tribal partners, who are allowed to opt into the system, four of whom have thus far: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Yerington Paiute Tribe; and Las

Vegas Paiute Tribe. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council (NTECC) employees are working with additional tribes to opt into the system for the benefit of all parties. Mr. Bakkedahl further explained that the Division is coordinating with Las Vegas Metro and other law-enforcement agencies for NIMS compliance to ensure eligibility for grant money moving forward. All of these efforts, Mr. Bakkedahl indicated, are continuing through the use of public information, technology, planning, training, and exercise.

**7. RECOMMENDATION ON THE HOMELAND SECURITY ENTERPRISE PRIORITIES FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2022 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM**

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, explained that starting in 2017, the Division has been using a list of strategic capabilities to be maintained, and that this list included all the items that required State Homeland Security funds to continue. Mr. Fogerson reminded the Commission of discussions that had taken place at the previous year's meeting regarding transparency of this process and the need to minimize the risks to the state. Mr. Fogerson informed the Commission that a proposal with some adjustments was brought forward to the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) and the Finance Committee, approved by both, and is now coming before this Commission for approval. Mr. Fogerson explained that the proposal is a true, enterprise-wide list of priorities rather than capabilities that includes unique Nevada programs such as the Nevada Threat Analysis Center and the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center, among others, that must be maintained by these grant dollars. Mr. Fogerson explained that these have been renamed from capabilities to programs and listed in the proposal. In addition, Mr. Fogerson explained that public health has been included in the proposal as well as Homeland Security.

John Steinbeck asked David Fogerson if he has any indication of a notice of funding.

David Fogerson explained that this has not yet been released and is due out 60 days after the passing of the federal budget.

John Steinbeck asked David Fogerson if there are some promising programs on-deck that DEM/HS is looking to possibly fund this cycle that address some of the areas Mr. Fogerson identified.

David Fogerson explained that DEM/HS looks predominately to local government partners to bring forth programs that solve the problem on a local level as DEM/HS is limited to a number of investment justifications. Mr. Fogerson further explained that one of the big parts of this is that Homeland Security is in the state warehouse, storing the PPE stock for the next potential pandemic.

John Steinbeck discussed his belief that these are excellent ways to utilize some of this funding and indicated that when trying to address the risks of cyber and health, the magnitudes far exceed the available funding. As such, Mr. Steinbeck explained the need of the Commission to look at this as a crossover and requested that Chiefs Fogerson and Samuels continue to consult the Commission for assistance.

David Fogerson mentioned the new cybersecurity grant, informing the Commission that details at this time are scarce but forthcoming. Mr. Fogerson did indicate that there is \$220 million allocated for the first year among the 50 states, but it is not yet clear how much money will go to Nevada.

John Steinbeck indicated that throughout the pandemic, one of the biggest problems involved lack of personnel, particularly nurses, and as such, if there is a way to address some of those shortcomings as a state, a strategy is needed for that.

David Fogerson explained that some of this discussion gets into the point of policy dollars versus grant dollars, and that's where he'd like to see the document evolve in the future in order to fix some concerns with policy money going forward and save the grant money for other projects.

Charles Moore inquired about the fixes to harden the infrastructure in IT in terms of where the dollars should be assigned.

David Fogerson indicated that Shaun Rahmeyer, Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, could likely follow up next meeting on this inquiry.

Charles Moore indicated his support for this, explaining that he is interested in knowing what is lacking and what the fix would be.

Shaun Rahmeyer explained that there are certainly funding streams of which IT is aware and would like to take advantage but indicated that these are not going to be one-time fixes and as such, the state really should focus on a culture change and an increase in education across the boards: at the state level; at the local level; in the private sectors; and within communities across the state. Mr. Rahmeyer explained that there is much work going on behind the scenes to focus on efforts and programs to address these gaps and to find the funding to appropriately address them. Mr. Rahmeyer further indicated that his department will be working with DEM/HS and Chief Fogerson regarding the policy committee that will be stood up to further address the geopolitical tensions.

David Fogerson called for a motion to approve the recommendation on the Homeland Security Enterprise Priorities for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Homeland Security Grant Program. John Steinbeck motioned to approve. No discussion was presented. All were in favor with no opposition, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **8. REVIEW OF THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE NEVADA RESILIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NRAC)**

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, informed the Committee that their packet includes the 2021 NRAC report. Mr. Fogerson explained that NRS requires an annual report be created, submitted to legislature, submitted to the governor, and then submitted to the Homeland Security Commission. Mr. Fogerson then opened the floor to questions.

## **9. REVIEW OF THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, explained that DEM/HS is required under NRS to produce a report on the activities of Homeland Security Commission, submit it to the legislature, submit it to the governor's office, and that the report has been included here for the Commission's review and questions.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **11. ADJOURN**

Governor Steve Sisolak adjourned the meeting.