



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Friday, February 28, 2014	
	TIME	9:30 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Nevada Division of Emergency Management Training Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89701	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Karen Burke	X
Michael Haley		Gonzalo Cordova	X
Laura Bucheit	X	James Healey – Assemblyman	X
Robert Fisher		Chris Ipsen	X
Adam Garcia	X	Christopher Smith	X
Dr. Warren Gilbert. M.D.		Pat Spearman - Senator	X
Doug Gillespie	X		
Frank Gonzales	X	Selby Marks (Staff)	X
Alfreida Jake	X	Samantha Ladich (AG Rep)	X
Dr. Ikram Khan	X		
Tom Lozich			
William McDonald	X		
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis			
Troy Wade	X		
Bertral Washington	X		
Bill Welch	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary in both the northern and southern venues. No public commentary in either location.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (NCHS) meeting held December 4, 2013. Motion to approve presented by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants with a second provided by Richard Perkins, the Perkins Company. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval welcomed back member Troy Wade, Chairman, Nevada Alliance of Defense, Business, and Energy in addition to welcoming new members Assemblyman James Healey, Senator Pat Spearman, and Chief William McDonald, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue. The Governor emphasized the importance of the new membership's presence moving forward. In addition, The Governor spoke to his meeting at the Council of Governors in Washington D.C, where he had an opportunity to speak with the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Jay Johnson and present a letter concerning the loss of funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

5. REQUEST TO REALLOCATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) FUNDS

Chief Christopher Smith, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS) briefed the Commission on relocation efforts put forth by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2014. Of the 8 projects reviewed, the Finance Committee moved to approve 7 projects, with denial of only one project NCHS-89, Nevada Department of Administration, Buildings and Grounds – Sawyer Office Building Force Protection. The Finance Committee felt there was not enough performance time to approve this request. Chief Smith put forth a request to Commissioners to approve the following projects:

NCHS-93 Re-Obligation: City of Reno - Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce Training.

NCHS-107 Re-Obligation: East Fork Fire and Paramedic District - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Hazmat-Fit Test Machine.

NCHS-108 De-Obligation: Clark County Fire Department - Fusion Center.

NCHS-108 Re-Obligation: Clark County Fire Department - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Southern Nevada Fire Use in Hostile Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs).

NCHS-109 Re-Obligation: Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITERC) - Tribal Threat, Hazard, Identification, and Risk Assessment (THIRA).

NCHS-110 Re-Obligation: Nevada Division of Emergency Management - Statewide Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

NCHS-111: City of Las Vegas: Southern Nevada Unified Command (SNUC) Incident Command.

Governor Sandoval inquired if all requests are compliant with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant requirements in addition to whether the decision to approve projects was unanimous. Per Chief Smith, the project requests are in compliance, but DHS approval is required for sub grantees to receive funding, Chief Smith also confirmed the vote by the Finance Committee was unanimous on all projects.

Dr. Khan inquired of NCHS-89 pertained to structural improvements. That was confirmed by Chief Smith.

Motion to approve all projects except NCHS-89 was presented by Sheriff Doug Gillespie, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). A second was provided by Dr. Khan. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Gillespie inquired how much funding is currently available for re-obligation that must be spent prior to June 30, 2014. Chief Smith indicated that approximately \$79,000 is available to the urban area initiatives, and another \$35,000 available for state homeland security program requests. There are some projects that fit into existing requirements which may be able to utilize this funding.

6. UPDATE ON THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP), REVIEW OF COMMISSION PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2014 PRIORITIES.

Chief Smith presented an detailed overview of the HSGP including an update on the FFY 2014 HSGP, a review of the FFY 2013 Commission priorities and HSGP investments, a summary of results from the State Preparedness Report (SPR) and the Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA), a summary of the State Homeland Security Strategy (SHSS), and a detailed presentation of information for the development of FFY 2014 priorities using results from the SPR, THIRA, and SHSS. The intent of this information is to assist Commissioners in their efforts to rank prioritize core capabilities. Topics discussion included:

Emphasis placed on defining the importance of the THIRA in preparing for the most consequential issues in Nevada. The most prominent threats are floods, earthquakes, and wildfire. Other challenges exist, particularly cyber security risks. There are 35 germane hazards or threats to Nevada. Nevada is one of 8 states with an enhanced hazard mitigation program.

Emphasis placed on the SPR annual process of measuring core capabilities. The top 5-6 events identified in the THIRA to which capabilities are measured against. Three years ago, the goal was to have a consistent process to evaluate how Nevada is progressing in capability. That tool has proven successful today showing growth in many capabilities in addition to identifying capability gaps, particularly in the mission area of Recovery. The goal is to move the heat-map to predominantly green, with no red areas. Governor Sandoval inquired if drought was ever considered to be a hazard. Chief Smith indicated he would investigate that issue. General Frank Gonzales, Nevada National Guard/NV Energy indicated drought may be a subset of one of the existing areas already. Discussion ensued about the importance of lifeline utilities, and that sector transcends many of the mission areas.

Discussion on the 2013 priorities established by the Commission to define each mission area and core capability. Visual graphs identified success of each area. Much progress has been seen in the exercise component of the Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercise (POETE) model. Visual models can help the Commission identify where gaps exist, and where funding may need to be applied for improvement. Discussion moved to recovery efforts that are both long term and expensive, and there is opportunity to improve this area greatly. Improvement on all mission areas is promising. Improvement in the POETE model shows that there is serious improvement in exercising efforts to prepare for threats and hazards. While not all areas of the POETE are at maximum level, the goal is continued progress in moving the state forward in its capabilities. Overall core capabilities have improved 2.1% over 2012, and 7.9% from 2011.

Richard Perkins inquired if this analysis is consistent with the THIRA and the priorities with Chief Smith indicating they are consistent. Mr. Perkins indicated that the heat-map should be the driver as to what the Commission uses to establish its priorities, particularly looking at the red areas for improvement. Chief Smith agreed with this assessment and the importance of looking at our overall capability gaps.

General Gonzales inquired about cyber threat workshops bringing in the public sector and Chief Information Officers. He would like to see some outcome of those workshops. Chief Smith indicated while some outreach has been done; now continued efforts need to be applied to identify action steps and recovery efforts. This is dependent upon funding, and the Commission can consider this. Gonzalo Cordova, Department of Homeland Security provided resource information to the Commission which is accessible through DHS.

Sheriff Doug Gillespie, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) emphasized that the Commission needs to focus on prevention and how threats can be prevented from occurring even in the wake of 9-11 events where focus is on response and recovery. Governor Sandoval asked Sheriff Gillespie where he thinks emphasis should be placed, with the Sheriff indicating that prevention and protection in addition to cybersecurity are his main areas of concern. Governor Sandoval indicated that with limited funding prohibits Nevada from being 100% effective in this effort in all areas, however this conversation is important to have in determining priorities for the state. Sheriff Gillespie added that LVMPD operates with less revenue currently in their peak capacity than they had in previous years. This is so across the board. The loss of UASI funding also has had a profound effect on these efforts as well. The Sheriff also spoke to the process of funding project requests, with particular emphasis on working group efforts which drive how projects are prioritized. He also encouraged Commissioners to attend cyber meetings to enhance their understanding of how affected they can be by cyber-crime.

Dr. Khan presented concern over the controls over interagency communication pertaining to sensitive information. Chris Ipsen, Nevada Department of Administration spoke to this concern noting that many communications have effective control and design. Other areas where ad-hoc communications are established, controls are not as well defined. This is the challenge for business and information technology. Key assets need to be identified along with best practices. Efforts to improve coordination between business and cyber efforts need to improve. DHS provides federal resources, but there are also local needs. A prioritization needs to occur to apply resources to the maximum good of the state.

Discussion focus changed to the Homeland Security Priorities Worksheet with instruction on how to fill out the form as a starting point for the Commission to establish 2014 priorities. At the March 21, 2014 meeting, Commissioners will present their initial rankings.

Karen Burke, Transportation Security Administration inquired if we prioritize differently than DHS, will it affect funding for Nevada? Chief Smith indicated that grant guidance is estimated to occur prior to the next Commission meeting, so the goal is that with that guidance, and through Commission discussion, Nevada will position itself well according to federal guidelines and state needs. Governor Sandoval asked that the grant guidance be distributed to the Commission once it's available. Discussion ensued on the best way to prioritize and schedule Commission meetings. Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District inquired if there's any rationale to establishing priorities based upon real risk frequency? Per Chief Smith, frequency is used to establish the threat matrix for the THIRA, but for Commissioners to please consider what Chief Moore has presented. If comprehensive capabilities are developed, they can be used in many types of events.

OFFICIAL MINUTES – Approved at the March 21, 2014 HSC Meeting.

Senator Pat Spearman spoke to Sheriff Gillespie's concern over prevention, and requested clarification if the Commission can do more to improve weak links in the areas of prevention or protection. Chief Smith indicated that as Commissioners, placing emphasis on perceived areas of need is very important. Governor Sandoval emphasized the absolute effect that the Commission's efforts have when individually ranking priorities. The Governor stressed that Commissioners take this seriously as ranking core capabilities high has a profound effect on the outcome of the final recommendations. Chief Smith indicated that the State stands ready to assist Commissioners with questions they have about establishing priorities.

Assemblyman James Healey asked for contact information in the event help is needed to complete the priorities worksheet. Per Samantha Ladich, Senior Deputy Attorney General, the Commissioners can reach out to other agencies as long as they don't establish quorum.

Senator Spearman presented concern over housing being ranked so low last year. Chief Smith indicated that there is not a lot of capability that the state has currently in this area. Governor Sandoval indicated that with such limited funding, it is hard to achieve goals in all areas. The Governor emphasized reaching out to the community to learn about the necessity for capabilities throughout the state. Sheriff Gillespie spoke to long-term displacement in the housing area, and Nevada can rely somewhat on federal assistance. For short term displacement, other avenues are open. Senator Spearman inquired if the Commission looks outside of traditional areas perhaps to the realtor community to see if there's opportunity to use inventory in the event displacement needs arise. There are many creative ideas that emergency management uses in displacement exercises. Governor Sandoval spoke to the urban wild land fires in Washoe County in where the community rallied for the displaced population. Chief Smith spoke to the Commission's previous funding of a model program to address sheltering needs of displaced citizens and visitors. Because of the relationships with the hotel industry, reduced rates were available to the public. The Commission made a difference then, and can continue to do so in the future.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval asked for public commentary in either venue. In the southern venue, the Governor thanked former Commission member Assemblyman William Horne for his service to the Commission. Angela Krutsinger, Nevada Hospital Association inquired on the meaning of double asterisks on the core capabilities presentation handouts, with confirmation from Chief Smith that those core capabilities were funded by the Commission. Gonzalo Cordova, Department of Homeland Security informed the Commission that he had asked NDEM to participate in an upcoming regional resiliency assessment project in addition to working with NDEM to bring active shooter training to Reno, Nevada. This training is open to all public and private sectors. DHS can also bring additional training such as improvised explosive device training. Governor Sandoval asked for assistance from Chief Smith to disseminate this information to the Commissioners. No public commentary noted in the northern venue.

8. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Dr. Khan, with a second from General Frank Gonzales, Nevada National Guard/NV Energy. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.