ILLINOIS TERRORISM TASK FORCE
Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting
February 24, 2021
ATTENDEES

Alicia Tate-Nadeau – Homeland Security Advisor
Don Kauerauf – **Illinois Terrorism Task Force- Chair**

Committee Chairs

Critical Infrastructure

Felchner, Gene - IL Dept. of Transportation
Juskelis, Vydas - Am. Public Works Association

Cyber Security

Sluga, Dan   - IL DoIT
Rominger, Jennifer   – IL DoIT

Emergency Management

Swinford, Scott - IL Emergency Management Agency
Snow, Murray   - DuPage County OEMC

Fire Mutual Aid

Lyons, Bernie   - Mutual Aid Box Alarm System
Mortenson, Royal   - IFSI

Law Enforcement Mutual Aid

Page, Jim   – IL Law Enforcement Alarm System
Sons, William   – IL State Police

Public Health

Friend, Andrew - IL Dept. of Public Health
Fox, Amy   - IL Association of Public Health Administrators

Urban Area

Guidice, Richard – City of Chicago OEMC
Barnes, William   – Cook County DEMRS

Staff/Members

Armstead, Alix – OSFM
Beamer-Pfeifer, Julie – WIU
Chiappini, Dominic – ISP
Clark, Deb – ILEAS
Corso, Joe - IEMA
Evans, Bob – IEMA
Findley, Liz – IEMA
Gray, Nick – ISP
Gutierrez, Natalie – City of Chicago
Hanneken, Michelle – IDPH
Harney, Tim – ISP
Holloway, Jennifer - IDPH
Kustermann, Aaron - ISP
Reichert, Ashley – ISP
Smith, Pete – ILEAS
Trame, Chris – ISP
Workman, Byron – ISP

Advisory Members

Other Attendees

Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) Council of Chairs Meeting – February 24, 2021, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 2200 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703 via WebEx

Call to Order

Chairman Don Kauerauf called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending via the WebEx meeting. A roll call was taken, and quorum was established.

Minutes

- *Motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020, Council of Chairs meetings.*

    Motion to Approve: Royal Mortenson, IFSI

    Seconded: Andrew Friend, IDPH

SFY 21 Preparedness and Response Grant (PAR) Funds and FFY 18 SHSP funds

Bob Evans, IEMA Preparedness Grants Section Manager, displayed and discussed the current status of the SFY 21 PAR projects spreadsheet. Funds are to be expended by June 30, 2021. He also discussed FFY 18 SHSP funds. Currently, there is $156,000 SHSP (local) and $399,000 UASI (state) unallocated funds available. A review of the December 9, 2020, full membership approved proposed project list will determine what projects will be funded with the available unallocated funds.

Special Teams Information Sharing Briefing

Aaron Kustermann, Chief, and Nick Gray, Disaster Intelligence Officer, Statewide Terrorism Intelligence Center (STIC), Illinois State Police, provided a briefing on special teams' information sharing. If any committee is interested in participating in future discussion on the special teams' information sharing, contact Chief Kustermann.

New Business

Discussion and development of homeland security capability gaps and priorities

Chairman Kauerauf and Bob Evans participated in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conference call last week and reported that the prior administration's proposed changes for the FFY 2021 Homeland Security Grants Program (HSGP) would not be implemented by the new administration. It was determined that the new administration would follow the FFY 2020 HSGP guidance. The anticipated release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will occur shortly, and IEMA will have 60 days to submit the application.

Chairman Kauerauf explained the timeline to develop homeland security priorities. He requested that each committee meet at least once (or more if needed) by March 19th to review the state priorities that were provided to the committees and report back on the investments/projects the committees propose to address those priorities. The committees' strategic priorities discussed today will be incorporated into one document and provided to the Chairs; in addition, guidance will be provided on how to develop the projects that support those priorities. Chairman Kauerauf will meet with Director Tate-Nadeau for her review and approval of the committees' strategic priorities for discussion at the March 24th Council of Chairs meeting.

Chairman Kauerauf noted that he and Director Tate-Nadeau discussed and identified the following draft homeland security priorities for the upcoming grant. These priorities include:

- **Critical Infrastructure Protection**
    - Implement activities to protect public and private critical infrastructure to include life-essential supply chains
- **Cyber Security**
    - Protect cyber infrastructure and respond to actual and potential threats and vulnerabilities
- **Domestic Terrorism/Countering Violent Extremists**
    - Implement broad spectrum of prevention and response programs to combat domestic threats

- **Intelligence Gathering and Distribution**
  - Implement data gathering, analysis, and distribution activities to prevent acts of terrorism
- **Emergent Threats (including Mass Vaccinations, School Safety, CBRNE Threats, Supply Chain, Unmanned Aircraft Systems)**
  - Implement preparedness, prevention, protection, and response activities to address current and emerging risks and threats to which Illinois is most vulnerable
- **Public Safety Mutual Aid**
  - Implement preparedness activities to maintain the nation's most robust mutual aid system
- **Risk Communications Messaging and Individual Preparedness**
  - Implement preparedness activities to increase effectiveness of risk communications messaging and individual preparedness for threats and risks to which Illinois is most vulnerable

Following is a summary of the committees' discussion regarding capability gaps and priorities.

1. Critical Infrastructure Protection

   - Critical Infrastructure (CI) Committee - MOU between IDOT and Midwest Truckers to move PPE, vaccines, freezers, etc.; medical and public health facilities staffing—remote workers using personal equipment
   - Public Health (PH) Committee – power supply sourcing in event of outages to maintain vaccine stock, freezers; security concerns regarding power supply infrastructure, wastewater facility backup generators; agriculture/food supply chain/animal diseases
   - Cyber Security (CS) Committee training – awareness, technical, response - working from home; assessments/lack of tools for risk assessments; incident response
   - Fire Mutual Aid (Fire) Committee - lack of knowledge at local level regarding what CI is; lack of funding to do anything about it; local roster shortfalls for response and mitigation measures; water supply issues at local/regional levels; need to raise awareness and understanding to help locals build response capabilities
   - Urban Area (UA) Committee- city has good relationship with private sector, county has hired a CI manager to oversee and build relationships; need better coordination between local government and private sector
   - Emergency Management (EM) Committee – general lack of understanding of what is defined as CI; need a statewide inventory accessible by emergency management, interdependence between counties.

2. Cybersecurity

   - CS Committee – gaps within training – awareness, technical, and response; contingency plans- what are essential business functions? What supports the critical business functions? Response plans to ransomware, etc.; importance of exercises; understanding risk/lack of risk assessments; monitoring and plans to respond (ID and protect); deficit in cybersecurity workforce.
   - CI Committee - adapt cyber navigator program so other entities can use
   - PH Committee - ransomware attacks at hospitals; smaller facilities and long-term care facilities are vulnerable
   - Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Committee (LEMAC) - training is somewhat scattered-many learning management systems—would be good to have a "center" for training

3. Domestic Terrorism/Countering Violent Extremists

   - Fire Committee - ITTF vetting of training/education opportunities for the state as it relates to homeland security is good; equipment and training gaps between local and state levels; importance of educating first responders on homegrown extremism

- UA Committee - support local SWAT teams with training and equipment, invest in the resident outreach program, providing information and guidance.
- PH Committee – elevated risk for public health facilities, officials, and functions due to anti-vaccine sentiment; risks regarding fake vaccines getting to the public and the need to educate providers, shippers, LTC facilities, and pharmacy providers

4. Intelligence Gathering and Distribution
   - LEMAC Committee – STIC identified gaps in agency understanding of what can and cannot be collected and disseminated, especially during protected activities. Gaps exist in training of local officials on what information can and cannot be part of the intelligence infrastructure.
   - EM Committee - "action" the info/intel received
   - CS Committee- info gets pushed down regarding cyber, hard time receiving info from the locals
   - Fire Committee - local participation in intel sharing

5. Emergent Threats

   - PH Committee - variants of COVID, tainted or "fake" vaccines
   - CI Committee – better coordination of the deployment of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), statewide policy
   - Fire Committee - response team equipment shortfalls and/or modernization

6. Public Safety Mutual Aid

   - Fire Committee - MABAS mutual aid effective; challenge in regrouping and responding to back-to-back events; lack of local and regional integrated team training, exercise and train regional and local levels to integrate to statewide event
   - CI Committee - no mutual aid capability with structural engineers to assess areas impacted by large-scale events; not being able to activate IPWMAN unless there is a state or federal disaster declaration.

7. Risk Communications Messaging and Individual Preparedness

   - UA Committee - Communications platforms, reaching specific communities with messaging
   - CI Committee - address rumors to prevent mass buying (e.g., toilet paper shortage)
   - Fire Committee - OSFM as a model for messaging, i.e., Fire service Community Risky Reduction (CRR)
   - PH Committee - encouraging individual preparedness, overcoming complacency regarding emergency preparedness, difficulties in communications with senior citizens and people without access to technology, persons with disabilities and language barriers
   - Overcoming distrust of government

OTHER

   - LEMAC Committee - interoperable communications—locals buy fixed public safety radio systems without capacity for interoperability and then expect state to supply radios during event; aging of the Unified Command Post (UCP); ITECS vehicles and cache radios; developing statewide standards for law enforcement for mutual aid interoperable communications processes

Upcoming Meeting

The next Council of Chairs meeting will be held March 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx.