

ILLINOIS TERRORISM TASK FORCE
Minutes of the Full Membership Meeting
July 28, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Held via Webex and In Person

Call to Order

Chairman Kauerauf called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending via Webex and in person.

A verbal roll call of ITTF voting members (agencies/organizations) participating in the meeting and method of participation (Webex or in person) was as follows:

Ameren – (see list below)

American Public Works Association – Vydas Juskelis, Mike Millette; both Webex

American Water – Anthony Neal, Webex

American Red Cross – Scott Clarke, Webex

Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois – Charles Sullivan, Webex

Central Management Services – Brent Boesdorfer, Webex

City of Aurora –

Cities of Bloomington-Normal – Michael Humer, Douglas Barnett; both Webex

Cities of Champaign-Urbana – (see list below)

City of Chicago – Richard Guidice, Natalie Gutierrez; both Webex

City of Joliet – Greg Blaskey, Webex

City of Naperville – Dan Nelson, Webex

City of Peoria – Jim Bachman, Webex

City of Quincy – Bernie Vahlkamp, Webex

City of Rockford –

City of Springfield –

Collaborative Health Care Urgency Group – Connie Polke, Bill Pretzer; both Webex

Cook County DEMRS – Kim Hayward-Buys, Webex

DuPage County OHSEM – Murray Snow, Craig Dieckman; both Webex

Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police –

Illinois Association of County Engineers – Cliff Frye, Webex

Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators – (see list below)

Illinois Association of School Boards – Zach Messersmith, Webex

Illinois Board of Higher Education – Brook Stewart, Webex

Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators – Chris Ballard, Webex

Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers – Tara Matheson, Lee Milner; both Webex

Illinois College of Emergency Physicians –

Illinois Commerce Commission – Eric Lounsberry, Stephen Laffey; both Webex

Illinois Community College Board – Jeff Newell, Webex

Illinois Council of Code Administrators – Kathryn Gruber, Webex

Illinois Coroners Association –

Illinois Department of Agriculture – Sandy Gilmore, Webex

Illinois Department of Corrections – Mike Chappell, Webex

Illinois Department of Human Services –

Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology – Jennifer Rominger, in person

Illinois Department of Military Affairs – John Howard, Webex

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Stuart Fraser, Webex

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) – Andrew Friend, in person; Michelle Hanneken, Webex

Illinois Department of Transportation – Gene Felchner, in person

Illinois Department on Aging – Rollin Barton, Webex

Illinois Emergency Management Agency – Marc Sullivan, in person

Illinois Emergency Services Management Association – Rick Grah, Mick Fleming; both Webex

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Bobby Elzie, Webex

Illinois Firefighters Association – William Offerman, Webex

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) – Joseph Holomy, Webex

Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) – Jim Keiken, in person
Illinois Health and Hospital Association – Helga Brake, Webex
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm Systems (ILEAS) – Jim Page, in person
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) – Eric Arnold, Derek Carle; both Webex
Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team – Mary Connelly, Moses Lee; both Webex
Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System – Stephen Melega, Webex
Illinois Public Work Mutual Aid Network – Barb Stiehl, Webex
Illinois School Psychologists Association – Rosario Pesce, Webex
Illinois Sheriffs’ Association – John Sandage, Webex
Illinois State Board of Elections – Amy Kelly, Webex
Illinois State Police – Brendan Kelly, Chris Trame, both Webex; Aaron Kustermann, J.W. Price, both in person
Lake County Emergency Management Agency – Dan Eder, Rebecca Kumar; both Webex
Logan County EMA – Kendall Caruthers, Webex
McHenry County Emergency Management Agency – David Christensen, Webex
Metro-East (St. Clair – Madison Counties) – Bryan Whitaker, Webex
Mid-West Truckers Association – Don Schaefer, Webex
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Glenn Ericksen, Bernie Lyons; both Webex
Nicor Gas – Mark Guth, Webex
Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Alix Armstead, in person
Ogle County Emergency Management Agency – Brian VanVickle, Webex
People’s Gas – Charlie Graham, Webex
Quad Cities – Robert DeFrance, Jeff Yerkey; both Webex
Regional Superintendents of Schools – Jeff Vose, Webex
Secretary of State Police (SOS) – Jason Dunn, Webex
Will County – Allison Anderson, Webex

Chairman Kauerauf announced there was a quorum.

Webex Attendance Report (No Verbal Response Heard During Verbal Roll Call)

Ameren – Larry Magelitz
American Public Works Association – Brian Goldman
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois – Jeffrey Maher
Cities of Champaign-Urbana – Charles Lauss
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators – Toni Corona, Amy Tippey-Fox
Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology – Adam Ford, Dan Sluga
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm Systems – Larry Evans
Regional Superintendents of Schools – Shannon Fehrholtz

Other Participants

Dan Bacon – U.S. DOJ*	John Howard – IEMA
Julie Beamer-Pfeifer – WIU	Steve Lyddon – DHS*
Troy Brewer – IEMA	Bradley Martin – ISP
Renysha Brown – IEMA	Courtney O’Malley – ISP
Dominic Chiappini – ISP	Matt Perez – OSFM
Deb Clark – ILEAS	Tammy Porter – IEMA
Rebecca Clark – IEMA	Nina Ricketts – IEMA
Joe Corso – DoIT	Gloria Savage – ILEAS
Jonathan Edwards – ISP	Laura Sedory - IEMA
Bob Evans – IEMA	Jay Stewart – ISP
James Harmening – IL Commerce Commission	Nichole Strayer – IEMA
Eric Hodges – State Universities in Illinois Emergency Management Coalition	Alicia Tate-Nadeau – IEMA

*Advisory

Minutes

Motion to approve the April 28, 2021, Full Membership Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Andrew Friend, IDPH

Seconded: Joseph Holomy, IFCA

Motion Carried

National and Illinois Homeland Security Updates

Director Tate-Nadeau, the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor, thanked members who participated in the Illinois Vision 2025 Public Safety Assessment survey. She relayed that most of the results closely align with federal government priorities, indicating that information from the national level is being communicated to the membership. The Assessment also revealed the need to define the intent and purpose of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF). She explained that the Assessment identified gaps that will need to be mitigated by the ITTF and stated the analytical work will be performed at the committee level. She reported that the Illinois Vision 2025 Homeland Security Strategy is close to completion and is the ITTF's version of a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Strategy will take the ITTF through 2025 and is designed to bridge election cycles. She elaborated with committee-level goals to execute the Strategy, specifically:

- 1) The development of a seven-year capital replacement plan for equipment and a three-year plan for training
- 2) The development and implementation of a communications and outreach plan
- 3) The statewide plan for voice and data communication interoperability to ensure continuity of operations
- 4) The development of a strategy and objectives for combatting domestic violent extremism – Illinois has applied for a technical grant to build Illinois' program to be used at the national level by other states
- 5) The comprehensive analysis of maintenance and continuation of homeland security funding for certain programs, i.e. determining other funding sources once a program is built to shift focus to emerging threats – she provided the example of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and the All-Hazards Approach, which has been de-emphasized at the federal level
- 6) Continued and improved committee reporting to develop the ITTF Annual Report – the ITTF is challenged with tightening up the reporting process and articulating how to close existing gaps

Chairman Kauerauf reiterated that work toward the goals outlined by the Director will begin at the next Council of Chairs meeting and they provide a roadmap for the ITTF going forward.

National and State Intelligence Briefing

Aaron Kustermann, Chief, Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC), Illinois State Police, provided a briefing on national and Illinois security issues (FOUO).

Chairman Kauerauf stated he'd have his assistant send out the U.S. National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism referenced by Aaron during his briefing. (This was sent out to the ITTF via email on July 29, 2021.)

Cyber Security Briefing

Dan Sluga, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), DoIT, provided the following updates:

Ransomware and Recent Developments

Background: Ransomware creators started out as a small group of unethical developers who utilized phishing methods to obtain bitcoin. Criminals saw this as a new business model and began buying the ransomware on the Dark Web. They learned that by closing and releasing master keys they could redistribute the codes among so many networks on the internet that tracing origins would become difficult for authorities. The tested and proven source code is out there for anyone to acquire, and with multiple layers of improvement collaboration, it becomes more effective.

Recent Ransomware Attacks:

- Babuk: Ransomware which attacked the Washington D.C. Police Department with its sophisticated decryption-resistant code
- REvil (Russian-based): Ransomware which attacked a meat plant using a non-traditional method of infiltrating side-channel server application vulnerabilities.

Developments:

- Ransomware is rapidly evolving as a vast and flourishing underground economy that is sold and traded.
- Phishing is still a key attack factor that must be protected through user training, end-point detection, etc.
- Preventing attacks of side-channel server application vulnerabilities needs in-depth, multiple-layer defensive measures to detect and respond to threats.
- These mitigation strategies, as well as a good vulnerability patching system, are necessary.
- As always, the last defense of critical business functions depends on effective backups...offline, segmented, ransomware-resilient backups. One solution includes offline Cloud backups/offsite disconnected storage.

He concluded by stating anyone may contact him to discuss the State's strategy for combatting ransomware.

ITTF Chair Report

- Unmet Needs Lists: Chairman Kauerauf thanked Dan for the informative report. He stated committees will be working on their Unmet Needs lists just like those approved by the ITTF last year. These are projects for which committees have not previously requested funding and involve short-term expenditures consistent with the Homeland Security Strategy.
- Capital Replacement Plans: He alluded to the Director's earlier report and reiterated that committees will also be working on their Capital Replacement Plans. He commended the Director on her ability to secure \$5 million in the past and said that going forward funding needs may increase to replace worn-out equipment and continue training. The Capital Replacement Plans will provide the Director the information she needs to approach the legislature for more funding.

Old Business

Suspicious Mail and Packages – Indicators and Threat Checklist Focus Group

Lieutenant Jason Dunn, Illinois Secretary of Police

Motion to approve the Suspicious Mail and Packages – Indicators and Threat Checklist and the Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED) document.

Motion to Approve: Jim Page, ILEAS

Seconded: Joseph Holomy, IFCA

Motion Carried Per Chairman Kauerauf: The documents may be distributed among the committee members and shared broadly. They were reviewed by technical subject matter experts including those at Critical Incident Response Command (CIRCOM), SOS Bomb Squad, STIC, and the local EMA level.

ITTF Policy Development for School and Public Safety Training Focus Group

Jim Keiken, Director IFSI

Motion to approve the ITTF Policy on Incident Management Programs – IFSI Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) and School Safety and Violent Event Incident Management (SSAVEIM) Reunification Programs. Per Jim Keiken, law enforcement, emergency management, school officials, and fire service members collaborated in the approval of these programs and take part in administering them through the IFSI. Per Chairman Kauerauf, schools pay for the programs currently, but payment for participation in these programs may be funded in the future per ITTF approval (possibly an Unmet Needs item?).

Motion to Approve: Alix Armstead, OSFM

Seconded: Eric Arnold, ILETSB

Discussion ensued regarding changes needed to the document, specifically: under "Policy Statement," adding "when using homeland security funds to...". Chairman Kauerauf stated the changes will be made and the revised document will be emailed to the membership after the meeting. The last motion is recalled.

Motion to Approve the policy with revision noted above: Jim Page, ILEAS
Seconded: Jim Keiken, IFSI
Motion Carried

Eric Arnold, ILETSB, interjected that his organization has an interest, through the Illinois School and Campus Safety Program, in vetting a couple of programs through the same ITTF approval process in the future; Chairman Kauerauf acknowledged his request.

New Business

Chairman Kauerauf noted a change in the agenda to address the Vision 2025 Homeland Security Strategy Focus Group and Assessment prior to the Committee Reports.

Vision 2025 Homeland Security Strategy Focus Group and Assessment

Chairman Kauerauf thanked the Vision 2025 Homeland Security Strategy Focus Group, which met every Friday to complete the Strategy. The group included law enforcement, public health, hospitals, fire, emergency management, agriculture, private sector, public works, and environmental protection. He reported by the next ITTF meeting they'll have adopted the Strategy for Illinois.

Initially the goal was to mimic the process used to develop Vision 2020 (i.e., townhall meetings which provided the forum for open and thorough communication exchange). Due to COVID-19 precautions, an online survey was sent out statewide through which public safety organizations provided 400 responses. Chairman Kauerauf displayed some of the results: the indicators of progress over the past five years, strengths and weaknesses, participation data per county and per discipline, etc. He noted this survey will likely be sent out annually to continue to measure success and capability gaps, and that there are tools to create specific data queries to generate ad hoc reports. Discussion ensued regarding the usefulness of this survey periodically to justify the Director's funding requests presented to the legislature, and the surprising conclusion that many don't know the purpose of the ITTF. A goal for the 70 organizations that comprise the ITTF going forward will be to improve relevant communication sharing across jurisdictions, horizontally and vertically, as well as communicate the role of the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor. The Strategy will serve as a tool to clarify how these all work together. Chairman Kauerauf concluded these survey results would be emailed to the membership after the meeting and that he would inquire how to get data files out to the membership to customize reports, query specific data, etc.

Committee Reports

Chairman Kauerauf stated committee reports submitted prior to the meeting, per his request, would be kept on file, and that going forward they would be necessary to provide updates on work being performed at the committee meetings. The reports need to be a review of the discussions taking place within the committees.

Special Recognition

Chairman Kauerauf, Director Tate-Nadeau, Jim, Page, and Mike Chamness offered their warmest wishes to Deb Clark and thanked her for her many years of dedication, professionalism, and outstanding administrative support to the ITTF, the Preparedness and Grants Administration Bureau, and ILEAS. Director Tate-Nadeau presented her with a plaque commemorating her 13+ years of service to Public Safety and homeland security preparedness in Illinois.

Upcoming ITTF Meeting

- ITTF Full Membership Meeting – October 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx

Adjournment