

Regional Council Coordinating Committee/Senior Advisory Committee

March 16, 2016

Minutes

Attendees

Pat Collins (NE), Alan Radcliffe (NE), Sherry Angell (Fiscal), Doug McKinney (NCKRPC), Cathy Hernandez (SW), Dan Robeson (KC), Chuck Magaha (KC), Mickie Helberg (NW), Kathleen Fabrizius (NW), Bill Ring (NW), Dennis Colsdon (NC), Hannah Stambaugh (NC), Pam Kemp (NC), Josh Smith (SE), Kevin Jones (SC), Jim Leftwich (SC), Angee Morgan (KDEM), Terri Ploger (KDEM), Nathan Brown (KDEM), Brian Rogers (KDEM), Isabel Herrera (KDEM), Edna Cordner (KHP), Melanie Lawrence (KHP), Jason Leathers (KHP), Sandy Johnson (KDA), Jason Bryant (OEC), Hank DuPont (KSFMO), Jarrod Fell (Law Enforcement Working Group), Fred Rinne (Hospital Preparedness Program), Terry David (MERGe)

Welcome

- Chuck Magaha (Chair) called meeting to order. He shared the difficult decision of cancelling the January meeting due to severe weather conditions and appreciated everyone's commitment to re-schedule the date. Everyone present participated in introductions.
- Minutes from the September 25, 2015 meeting were reviewed; Pat Collins moved to approve and Kevin Jones seconded. All member approved.

Regional Council Highlights/Strategic Plan Implementation

Northeast Region

- Strategic Plan – run into the difficulty of getting people to share the information from the council meetings with the functional areas they represent; struggle within and outside of the region. Continue to emphasize the need to have people do that at every meeting.
- Investment updates – Notification system revised now, all counties in NE region have one. New bomb robot just received, demonstration in May. Several law enforcement teams have asked the council to support them; the region has a LEO Working Group and they will need to make the decision whether to support them. Light tower project has been finished. Message boards is next project of focus; working towards every county having one. Council supports a communications project every year, working on a deployable cache of radios. Supporting the RATT team and buying 3 new printers each year to replace what currently exists – reconditioned equipment being offered to other regions. Have 3 stop movement trailers in the region and putting together another project for a 4th trailer in support of county animal response teams. These trailers can be used for any kind of event – have practiced using them for parades and have functionally used them in exercises.
- New projects – working with the fire service to provide vests and helmets to help rescue teams that remove people from active shooter incidents; LEO has helped take that on. Animal health response training in Manhattan, fairly new bringing it as project. Anderson County – a power camera for special events surveillance, positioned in a tower with remote access to oversee large events, like high populated games or a fireworks display, and other events in the region.

Southeast Region

- Council met March 15, 2016 and developed projects with the FY16 money.
- Strategic Plan – Planning discussions haven't moved much. Working on getting buy-in from different representatives on the councils to share information within respective disciplines.
- Investment updates – For several years money in the SE region has been spent for sustainment, rather than new projects. Continue to support SAR, IMT and JTTF initiatives. Supported a large FSE in October 2015 for SAR FSE in Neodesha. The incident had cars thrown into houses, 3 or 4 houses demolished and efforts were focused on stabilizing structures. The SE IMT was involved. Plans are to stretch this exercise on into next year getting the healthcare side involved.
- Continuing work with state level GIS personnel on grid mapping all counties in SE region. Jesse Smith (KDEM) is working with KSFMO to implement those efforts state wide.

South Central Region

- The council meeting to define FY16 projects is scheduled for March 31, 2016.
- Recent events – Active shooter in Hesston presented county and emergency management program with an unusual event; many unforeseen issues they were not aware of. IMT deployed as mutual aid very quickly working and are pleased with how that part went; everyone was pleased with IMT performance. Have fielded questions about what is required of an EM during a LEO type event – Emgmt was mostly involved with recovery efforts afterwards. They had over 400 employees working on site that day - all of those people were quickly sent away leaving personal effects for days. EM coordinated efforts in helping to retrieve their cars and cell phones and all those personal items they had to come back for. Hordes of [national] media came in to cover the story. Efforts are underway to create an after action report to document all the lessons learned and ways to enhance plans. A medical response perspective on the Hesston response was provided at the CEPR meeting and validated the training conducted over past years. Also incident management information was shared at the IMT working group meeting.

North Central Region

- Investment updates – The focus of regional projects continue to support sustainment activities. Have been providing weeklong active shooter training for LEO; has been well received but have saturated the NC region and are now accepting students from outside the region. Have moved on to include post active shooter training with involvement from fire and EMS. The NC region has purchased a MILO system active shooter simulator and 2 portable units. Updates need to be done and need to train new personnel on building scenarios and troubleshooting the program. Supporting mass casualty trailers (2) in the region. Looking at a project to provide CO detectors for EMS in the region. Not so much focus on communication projects over the last couple of years – sensing some mixed feelings on that. Have completed the project to support Fire with infrared cameras, each county has 2 now – very successful project and everyone is very excited about it. A couple of counties are finding multiple uses for the cameras. Started working on a light tower project for this region as well. Continue to support IMT members; trying to figure out how to sustain accountability in the region.

Northwest Region

- Strategic plan – have same battles as the other regions, keep pushing for it but hit a brick wall most of the time.
- Investment updates – Just heard FY16 proposals on Monday [March 14] and probably will support 8 or 9 sustainment or enhancement projects. FY14 projects completed and working to finish FY15 projects.

Southwest Region

- Strategic plan – same challenges as the other regions.
- Investment updates – Had project discussions on March 9th. Continue to support IMT sustainment projects as well as the one regional HazMat team. Working on a project to add 3 more mobile message boards within the region – not possible to put one in each county. The Amtrak train derailment outside of Cimarron justified the need of having a one line message board. Light towers were purchased and have been strategic planned throughout the region in every other county. Have supported LEO with night vision equipment – have good LEO presence on the council this year. We can access stuff for LEO without having to guess.
- New projects – the region is looking at portable coolers for each health department. If their refrigerator fails they can keep vaccines and other medical stuff at the right temperature for up to 100 hours. Supporting the animal disease response training.
- Meeting with KHP on the March 28th, projects sheets have been submitted and will probably be agreed upon.

KC Metro Region

- Strategic planning – held a workshop on January 26; with 80 people involved, the group looked at some overarching issues, some structural organizational issues, and some governance structures to make sure they are aligned with guidance and requirements for both states. Reviewing what was done in the last year, projects and gaps identified in the SPR and THIRA, and held discussions on priorities.
- Investment updates – Projects remain focused on sustainment efforts and seem to be the same as in the past. Continue to support technical rescue and specialty teams, DMORT activities. Solidified plans for training over this next year.
- Held a meeting in the KC Metro area on the topic of resource sharing – examined some of the questions and issues related to a region that has a state line running through it. Discussed mechanisms and tools out there that might be utilized; specific questions were asked – started as a simple conversation on mutual aid (ie. who's liable, what's expected when you bring someone in, etc.) Validated that various disciplines had different support needs and expectations – hospitals need support for one week, law enforcement needs 8-12 hour support, and emergency management support spans over 72 hours. Looked at the issues from both Kansas and Missouri perspectives. A 40-page draft summary has been developed. Suggested that other regions may want to consider doing this. May want to avoid calling it a strategic planning session – just need to find someone to facilitate it in the region (helps to have outside

facilitators to get the information) – important to have the right people there to discuss the questions.

- The region hosted a 4 state Civil Support Team (CST) exercise at the Speedway with support from the KS State Fire Marshal's Office and HazMat teams.
- Held a critical infrastructure exercise with over 180 participants from across the region. Was an eye opener for participants as it examined disruptions to electrical and water systems and the effects on populations and day-to-day operations.
- Hosting the FY16 project discussions on April 1. FY14 projects are complete.

Fiscal Agents

- Need to put a deadline on when projects need to be started. Waiting until February-March in the final performance year to get stated, puts a tremendous strain on fiscal people. The NE region has a policy that if project is not started by the end of December, the region can move that money somewhere else. Asking everyone to work within their regions to help push projects along and avoid short performance timelines.

Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) Charter

- Serving as the SAA, Lt Cordner reported there have been some organizational changes at KHP. Before Capt Sauer transitioned out of the grant program, he was working on changes with the SAC Charter. The revisions are still in the works, and will have more defined revisions at the next meeting.
- Discussions were held on what is the purpose of the SAC – is there a need to vote on projects and where in the calendar does that process need to take place. Not clear as to what responsibilities the SAC has – do they make recommendations and provide input or do they have the authority to approve/disapprove projects? Can the SAC override the council process if the projects don't address SPR gaps? Intentions are not to eliminate projects but to make projects stronger. Some of the regions have commented in the past that they needed to have some back up on addressing project proposals that weren't meeting sustainment or SPR identified gaps. There are people that are bringing projects to the table that have not read the state's THIRA or SPR. One viewpoint was shared that response partners need support from the regions – need more strike teams or task forces.
- As a requirement in grant guidance, the SAC has specific responsibilities and membership is defined on page 42. There is an expectation to maximize coordination and planning efforts and manage investments that are aligned to gaps identified in the THIRA and SPR; as monies dwindle there is a need to bring subject matter experts to the table and define directions – ensure projects are building capabilities. Need to examine past projects and evaluate their effectiveness. Also need to get more local involvement in the SPR process (the SPR is an annual requirement of all states nationwide).
- Group agreed to form a working group to examine the SAC Charter and bring revision(s) to the next meeting. Volunteers for the working group were: Angee Morgan, Melanie Lawrence, Kevin Jones, Pat Collins, Edna Cordner, Chuck Magaha, and Terri Ploger.

Office of Emergency Communications – Update

- Radio usage issues – have 2 full time staff members conducting training. If there are some defined training gaps in your area, let Jason Bryant know.
- Federal partnerships – have 28 agencies grandfathered under previous agreements. No new partnerships on KSICS – still working on it but as of right now lawyers have drawn the line.
- KSICS is still expanding with 3 areas coming on; almost 30k ID assignments set among 1300 agencies. Coverage gaps still exist but coverage is at 95% - 98% with mobile devices; more infrastructure is needed if want county/city coverage.
- No plan to expand any towers – can position one of the COWs into the impacted area if needed. No charges to deploy the COW – always a cost (personnel, fuel) but will do our best to recoup costs if funding is available through disaster monies. But if resources are available in your jurisdiction, use that first. Determine what is needed, and if the need is there, they will get it moving. We don't want the COWs to be a resource collecting dust but cannot be an ambulance chaser. It is very important to know what resources have been bought with HLS monies and where those are located.
- State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) update – going to have an update not a rewrite, doing an update in May, most of it is going to be broadband centric.
- FirstNet update – It's going to be the biggest project since 800. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is out on the street and closes in May. With more than 104 questions, Kansas submitted the plan Kansas wants and what we expect from the vendor. Open to having staff at any conferences and/or association meetings to discuss this initiative. Have maps on the website that display planned coverage of broadband. Phase 1 indicates 65% of all grid cells within Kansas will get coverage and moving to Phase 5 coverage will push to 100%. Kansas is very unique, we have a highly rural composition with towns/cities every 15 to 30 miles. Population centers will be the priority. At the same time they develop in the KC Metro and Wichita areas, they have to show coverage progression in the rural areas as much as the population centers.
- Fees for being on the system – primary approach is bring your own devices and work on their system, no matter the carrier (not sure Sprint will get it as Verizon and AT&T are main carriers). Kansas has extensive fiber networks across the state – great internet but no cell service. Not enough public safety users in the state to actually show any of cost advantage in KS but because of all the advantages from around the country, they can make money from the potential around the country by using Kansas. Band 14 will be added to new devices as we move forward. At the start of this system will be on a commercial network, not band 14. (closest band 14 equipment site is Texas and Colorado) Long term evolution (LTE) is cheaper than most equipment. Easier to manage and add more people, cell site can handle 800 users at full bandwidth. Companies are making lots more money, 5G is also coming and will make even more. To get into FirstNet will be the same or lower than what we already pay. There will not be any agencies that will get overloaded with cost. LTE is a design for the long term and, with technologies improving all the time, they can upgrade as they go without taking it out and revamping everything
- Have 15 months to present to the Governor. Have three options: 1) no option, 2) build it ourselves, 3) opt in and participate.

- Working with FirstNet there is great news for partners – state will determine where to place the resources.

Accountability – Update

- Brian Rogers reported that CRMCS trainings are being scheduled across the state – scheduling at least one per region per year. Want to make it available for everyone and will conduct another round of trainings later.
- Last year the decision was made to drop the hospital Asset Inventory Management System (AIMS) and migrate into the CRMCS. New fields need to be developed in the system to track equipment, consumables, quantities, calibration expirations, etc. Working on the information transfer so upload process is seamless without any ‘manual’ inputs.
- Accountability working group has been organized to develop standard operating guidelines for accountability and functional accountability software. Assessments on usage is ongoing and affects the needs and levels of sustainment costs.
- Mobile Express is no longer being supported by Salamander Midwest Card. Sustainment life ends in August 2016. If Mobile Express is not working in your region they can get you back up and running until August. Even after August software will still function, they are just not updating software or equipment after that. It will still function for an undetermined amount of time. Mobile Express should function the same way it did when it came out, it should be able to link to rapid tag and everything else; if it’s not we need to get the problem(s) resolved (contact Brian Rogers so they can follow up on this) If suggestions from the vendor are being made to convert Mobile Express to Command please let Brian Rogers know; not going to support any new Commands – only supporting what is currently in place. Kansas has a lot of Mobile Express in the state, but not everyone uses it, so we probably need to reallocate them in better locations so they are where they really need to be. Need to meet with each region to make sure that Mobile Express works well. Suggesting against changing to Command because that will incur a cost.
- Future improvements: inventory for trailers and equipment, we don’t have that capability but want to talk to Salamander and try to work that out. We do see a need for it. Want separate education and qualifications in the card, two different things, need to tie education to qualifications. Making the credentials more standardized in the future.
- Several issues discussed about K-Serve verification and where hospitals fall into the system. Minimum of 5 app purchase – at least one parent organization (not a state project currently). Have been told in the beginning that K-Serve is reaching back to these databases – not happening; need to find a work around. Need to get K-Serve fixed if not working – taking volunteer box out of it.
- Update on CRMCS Charter: the group needs to go back and review the charter.

State Preparedness Report

- Lt Edna Corder reported changes in the SAA program: Karen Schultz is retiring on March 30 and Capt Sauer is not the Unit Commander of the HLS grant program – the grant program will move under the management of the KHP fiscal and accounting department. Melanie Lawrence will still be with the program. All fiscal agents will now send reimbursements to Edna but nothing else will change about their process.

- 2015 SPR Advancements – more local units of government provided input into the preparation of the State Preparedness Report. Exposed opportunities for conversation, opened the door for expanded networking and problem solving. Moved closer to goals and objectives of efficiency by identifying existing/underutilized resources such as working groups, private partners, and faith based organizations. Want all of the regions to participate in next year’s SPR process; this will help to reach closer to some of the true issues and gaps – the process will not just be a reliance on the subject matter experts. In August we will begin trying to reach out more.
- Lt Corder provided a status report on FY14 and FY15 grants.
- FY16 HSGP grant rollout has occurred and project meetings have already been scheduled. No major changes with the funding but it is always important to note that the involvement of whole community get mentioned several times in the grant NOFO. It is a 3-year performance period with an 80%/20% split – law enforcement benefits from 25% of the grant. What’s new with the grant: expanded allowable costs for general purpose equipment. LEO vehicles, EMS equipment and vehicles, fire service equipment and vehicles, office equipment for staff engaged in homeland security program activity. Equipment allow ability is based on the Authorized Equipment List (AEL) but exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if the equipment identified to be purchased directly maps to a core capability contained within the Goal 3, and the equipment’s purpose fall into the permitted use of funds in the 9/11 act. Controlled equipment lists need to be deployable, not just sharable. Must be in place before possession of equipment occurs.
- Audit: now need to implement risk assessments. They reach out to program managers and now need to implement the risk assessments to better prepare the councils by showing their history and improve their future monitoring. Revised their policy and procedures with their realignment. Changes really shouldn’t affect any of the project managers. Making sure that regions don’t use any resources that they don’t need to use if something better or lower cost is available to them.
- Deadline to submit the grant application: April 25, 2016

Training Updates

- Regional trainings can be added on KDEM website calendar. No problem as long as they have a Point of Contact (POC).

Exercise Updates

- Junction City to Salina Fire exercise in the plans. Counties will actually put out the right equipment and run accountability and play together for a day or two.
- KC Metro will do a mass care exercise in mid-August – each county will be supporting each other, only in the planning stage. Three (3) counties on the KS side and (5) counties from MO will be participating.
- SE: mass care exercise in region involving mass care, winter storm with a viral issue too. Involve all hospitals and public health
- SW: healthcare coalition functional exercises throughout the counties.
- NC: a regional public health exercise dealing with infectious disease.
- KDA: December FSE, 4-day exercise plan have been working fine. Planning exercises the week before Christmas through 2018. Zoo exercise, animal disease TTX planning, functional in

December. FDA is sponsoring a 4 state food safety exercise in KC. Completed the 2015 full-scale exercise and will complete AAR by the end of the month. Have committed to putting a KDA liaison in county EOCs now – not guaranteeing the level of knowledge.

State Reports

KS Dept of Agriculture

- Feedlot outreach projects working well, involving KCA and KLA members west of Salina – involving 19 of the larger feedlots and slaughter plants. Cattle market project going really well. Working in Salina with a company that has tag readers that automatically collects the information on each animal and traces them from place to place. [Ongoing project that began in 2014]. If it works out well other markets would purchase equipment from the vendor. Border state check points – workshops have been completed. Last workshop was in Bonner Springs meeting went really well. Kansas is the only state that has all its identified checkpoint covered and is covering traffic coming into the state only; there is still a reliance on Border States to get their checkpoints done. Animal disease response training – KSU revised the training. Two classes scheduled in Manhattan May 18-19; 2 classes in two days.

KS Division of Emergency Management

- Kansas Response Plan – conducting a revision of the state plan. KDA is making changes to food and agricultural annex of the state plan; taking out components that don't apply, such as Area and Unified Command – updating information regarding branches, strike teams, and task forces.
- Grant investments - FY15 projects are the same as FY14 projects and will be the same for FY16. We only have four projects now: 1) preparedness, 2) accountability, 3) Citizen Corps, and 4) regional support. Combining some of our projects have helped in being more flexible with moving money because it will stay within the same projects. Same amount will be requested and are all sustainment projects. State partners will participate in their project meeting on March 21st. KDEM is also working with the KSFMO to complete a mapping grid project; framework is done, it's just plugging in the information. Statewide project will probably start in the middle of May 2016.

Working Group Updates

- MERGe – Resources went to Hesston, 16 ambulances that responded directly along with assistant directors. All the training done over the years has proven successful as patient movement worked like it was supposed to. Fourteen patients were gone within 38 minutes – everyone was gone within 50 minutes. Diverted command people to the hospitals to help manage hospital care and transports to Level 1 facilities. Have seen a number of shootings over the years but the use of military grade weapons creates massive injuries for everyone. Tourniquets is a standard issuance of equipment - needs to be on their belts for their own use but to help put it on as going by. Surprisingly a lot of people coming out had tourniquets that were done by other employees themselves. The system worked very well, Sedgwick County has a new medical director and oversees all these hospitals and medical departments and gave really good updates on patient conditions. He was able to tell them they were all going to live.

Held a MERGe meeting the next week; application process from SW and SE; providing candidates to regional councils.

- FORCE: this group is struggling with the lead person potentially retiring soon; not sure where this group is going.
- SAR: in the process of doing EMAP workshops, training people to build their plan around the process. Since storm season is coming up they want to know that they are already planning and they can practice their plans. Structural collapse SAR teams are involved in this process too. EF5 haven't done anything yet. Sandy will help with assets and K9 out for EMAP office. Been in contact with engineers and ER doctors that want to participate.
- Law Enforcement working group: Since Capt Sauer has made the transition, he probably won't continue with the LEO working group. Have presented on the State Preparedness Report (SPR) in front of the working group – talked about gaps and low ratings in the SPR – the group is interested in the cyber security gap and wanted to look at options for trying to decrease that gap by offering a training on security awareness.
- IMT: held a conference in February. Handout is the review of what happened and served as a way to enhance what they do. Due to the weather, 30 individuals had to cancel; still had 70 participants. Working groups have had discussions – instead of working by regions they took them and mixed everyone up. Everybody liked it and they were productive. Motion was made at the last meeting to combine the teams into one team by the end of the year and to support it in one project. The NE region has volunteered to be project manager this year. Already doing a TEPW for training and exercises and the only thing that's really changing is the deployment and notification process for teams. Not relinquishing any control from the regions. NE will make sure the quarterly report gets done, project comes in, and they should still put a project in to each region. Hoping there has been the discussion to streamline the funding for training and exercise planning in the state. Position specific class averages are very low, need to hold that to bring for lower cost. Discussion at April meeting for a fall workshop, a week long national HIMTA conference is also available, discussion about a Region 7 IMT conference with the region state's – definitely meeting with the other 3 states to see if they can or if they even want to do that. We've had MO and NE come to the KS IMT conference; OK was there last year too. OK has reached out to ask for the National conference to be held in Oklahoma. The April 5-6 exercise is designed for 30 continuous hours, have set some challenges. But we'll be able to pull it off. Offsite EOC will also be used which will make this unique from past exercises.

Old Business/Announcements/Questions

- Strategic plan discussions, talking about developing a 10 year report of what the State of Kansas has done and show our progress. Looking more into the fall to begin discussions especially if we're going to have the SAC approving projects. KDEM has an intern on board to help with this project. This report may provide an opportunity to share with elected and appointed officials about what capabilities have been developed and how investments have been utilized in real events. Input from the regions is necessary to ensure an accurate representation of what has been accomplished over the past 10 years of homeland security funding and will be supported with pictures and success stories. A motion was made and seconded to accept this project, and all voted in favor.

- The Kansas Senate Bill 316 has been introduced this legislative session to repeal some existing sections in the property taxation process. It would force a property tax limits a year earlier than anticipated; instead of limiting the tax levy, the bill calls for limiting the assessed valuation. They believe this tax bill is going to pass.

Summary

- Fiscal agent requested support in setting a standard or policy for getting projects started in a timely manner.
- Datacounts – FY12 and FY13 not linked
- If anyone identifies communications training needs, contact Jason Bryant.
- Mobile Express sustainment ends August, 2016 and is tied to only current units. If units are not working, need to problems identified and fixed prior to August.
- Encourage regions to conduct a strategic planning conference; similar to the efforts in the KC Metro region
- Challenge this group to get the regions involved with the 2016 SPR process.

Next Meeting

- *Based on meeting room availability at the KHP Training Academy, May 19th was chosen as the next meeting date.*

Adjourn