



**Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC)
May 4, 2010
Meeting Summary**

Members Present

Rich Noll, City of Kansas City Missouri, (Co-chair, RHSCC)
Hannes Zacharias, Johnson County, (Co-chair, RHSCC)
Rex Archer, KCMO Health Department, (Co-chair, Policy Subcommittee)
Steve Bean, KCMO Emergency Management
Kent Cantrell, Excelsior Springs Fire Department, (Chair, MARCER)
Nick Crossley, Johnson County Emergency Management
Richard (Smokey) Dyer, KCMO Fire Department, (Co-chair, Policy Subcommittee)
Bob Evans, Unified Government of Wyandotte County
Rita Hoffman, City of Olathe
Larry Jones, Independence Public Health Department (Co-chair, Public Health Subcommittee)
Betty Knight, Platte County Commissioner
Tim Lynch, alternate for John Douglass, City of Overland Park (Co-chair, Plans Subcommittee)
Ted McFarlane, Johnson County Med-Act
Jess McLendon, North Kansas City Police Department
Robert Rocha, Kansas City, KS Fire Department (Co-Chair, Program/Project Measurement Task Force)
D.C. Rogers, Clay County Emergency Management

Chairs/Co-Chairs

John Callahan, Smithville Fire Protection District, (Co-chair, Training & Exercise Subcommittee)
Adam Crowe, Johnson County Emergency Management, (Co-chair, RAPIO Subcommittee)
Mike Curry, Jackson County Emergency Management, (Co-chair, Program/Project Measurement Task Force)
John Neeley, Kansas City Fire Department, (Co-chair, PASS/MEIS Subcommittee)
Mike O'Neal, Platte County Sheriff's Department, (Chair, MEMC Subcommittee)
Nancy Tausz, Johnson County Health Department, (Co-chair Public Health Subcommittee)
Carolyn Wells, Liberty Hospital, (Co-chair, Hospital Subcommittee)
H. David Williams, North Kansas City Fire Department, (Chair, LEPC Committee)
Randy Wilson, Mission Police Department, (Co-chair, Law Enforcement Subcommittee)

Guests

Leslie Ensign, Clay County Missouri Government
Rick Danner, DHS
Jeff DeGraffenreid, Olathe Fire Department
Gay Hall, KCK/Wyandotte Health Department
Phil Kirk, FEMA Region VII
Bob Kolenda, KC TEW
Mark James, Metropolitan Community College
Rick Jordan, FEMA Region VII
Mike Latta, KCFD Mast Ambulance
Bonnie Martin, Kansas City, KCMO Public Health Department
Beth Neland, Platte County Health Department
Norman Onnen, Infragard
John Pittman, Kansas City Missouri Water
Joe Reed, Clay County Public Health
Sandra K. Schiess, Independence Fire Department
Chuck Thacker, Grandview Fire Department, (Co-chair, Plans Subcommittee)
Liz Ticer, Johnson County Health Department

Excused

Mark Owen, Platte County Sheriff's Department

Matthew Soule, Children's Mercy, (Co-chair, Hospital Subcommittee)

Betsy VanderVelde, The Family Conservancy, (Co-chair, Mental Health Subcommittee)

Carolyn Wells, Liberty Hospital, (Co-chair, Hospital Subcommittee)

MARC Staff

Bill McCabe, Emergency Services

Christine Allen, Emergency Services

Mike Hicks, Emergency Services

Erin Lynch, Emergency Services

Keith Faddis, Public Safety

Kristine Martin, Emergency Services

Justin Sorg, Emergency Services

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Chair Noll and self introductions were made. He reported that RHSCC's Kent Cantrell will be recognized and receive one of the Mid-America Regional Council Leadership Awards later this month at the MARC Annual Assembly.

- 2. TEW Threat Update – Captain Kolenda** – The New York (NY) bombing incident seems to be a trend that started in 2009 and is carrying over to 2010. These single person incidents are being seen across the country by people that may be tied to a group. These individuals are acting alone and not in cell groups as in the past. He shared that quite a few of the ingredients that were used in the attempted car bombing in NY were items that they have been reporting over the last few months such as thefts of propane tanks. These type of thefts need to be reported. It is believed that these are precursors of things that are going to occur. He shared that the suspect in the NY attempted bombing has been linked to a Pakistani group.

3. Recent Program Activities

- a. Interoperability – Demonstrating achievement of National Emergency Communications Plan Goal 1 – Snake Saturday** – Mr. Faddis reported that the National Emergency Communication Plan has a goal that by 2010 90% of all high risk urban areas are able to demonstrate a response level of interoperable emergency communication within 1 hour of a routine event involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies. With this goal, a demonstration project was set up on March 13 at the Snake Parade; four representatives from the Office of Emergency Communications were there to observe. He shared that they had received a report back and he had gotten an email today from the Director of the Office of Emergency Communications saying the Kansas City Urban Area had met their goal. A draft report has been shared for review and the final report will be sent out soon. He shared that some of the key findings were:

- The KC area does have a Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan which contains the information on ComC regional coordinators.
- They also observed that the radio traffic was plain language and used identifiers.
- Recognized the urban area for making progress with RAMBIS as a regional radio asset.
- Recognized the three communication trailers; 1 that was in place with N. Kansas City Police Department.

DHS noted:

- Communication during future events and incidents will be improved by using a single incident action plan that crosses all disciplines and jurisdictions. He felt that in this case because N. Kansas City had done this so many times there were certain things they just assumed were in place such as Fire & EMS response. The dispatchers and everyone else knew the plan, but the Fire & EMS were not represented at the meeting prior to the event to discuss the plan. They want to make sure that all jurisdictions are involved in that planning.
- The incorporation of common radios channel names for mutual aid channels – Some people called their mutual aid channels one thing and others called them something else. As RAMBIS becomes more prevalent in the region that will take care of this since all the RAMBIS channels are called the same thing. The interoperable capability was demonstrated. Chair Zacharias felt that this was great recognition.

Chair Noll asked Captain Tim Lynch to report on the Perfect Storm Regional Exercise. Captain Lynch gave a few highlights such as: the mass casualty incident exercise took place on April 7, 2010 with 6 venues and several jurisdictions and was one of the larger exercise activities this region has participated in. There were 32 area hospitals that participated as part of their annual spring exercise. The exercise was supported through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with funding to help support the exercise, along with the APRS program and Wyandotte County MMRS grant funds. Some exercise documents such as a resource tracking system, Goggle Docs, and other project management tools were created specifically for this exercise and are now available for future exercises.

Exercise Objectives (regional in scope): Test and validate regional plans, test technology such as WebEOC, Patient Training and EMS system and Resources, testing radio interoperability and doing things in real time. The Resource Tracking System was developed in house by Justin Sorg and allowed the genie effect to be eliminated (i.e. where a request is made for a resource and it just appears). In this exercise, they made a real effort to not allow this to happen. If a resource was requested, almost on time (real time) information was able to be sent back: was it available, if it was not available, when it would be available, if it was available, how long it would take to travel to the scene. Thanks were given to Overland Park Fire Department for putting together the video that was shown. The scenario was a tornado strike in the Gardner, Kansas and Johnson County areas creating damages and injuries to a portion of the Gardner community and hitting Johnson County Detention Center damaging and destroyed a large portion of that building causing a relocation issue for prisoners and injured people that were being treated and transported to the hospital. A short time later, this cell also has spun off a number of tornados with one coming down in the area of the Kansas Speedway where there are over 100,000 people. Work with these injured individuals began with identifying how to address those not injured and where and how to evacuate them. Next, there was a strike in Waldon, MO in Platte County. This event also created injuries and concern regarding a rail line that goes through this town that has a train on it with hazardous chemicals. So, Platte County officials were not only facing patients with injuries, but also had to deal with a hazardous material incident.

Captain Lynch shared that while the exercise was done there was still work that remained:

- Receiving the first draft of the formal after-action report (which was expected the next day).
- 5/12 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm the Exercise Design Team would be meeting with contractors support. He invited anyone that wanted to attend to join them.
- 5/26 – Formal after-action conference at Overland Park Conference Center, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Final opportunity to submit formal report and review where gaps are and who will be responsible for filling in that gap for the future and bringing that back to this body.
- 6/7 – Deadline to receive final regional after-action report. After it has been reviewed by the region. Then, it will be submitted to our state and federal partners.
- 6/7 – 7/1 – Beginning work with jurisdictions to develop specific after-action reports for the 3 venues that were involved.

- b. DHS 2010 Monitoring Visit RHSCC – Ms. Lynch shared that DHS personnel will be here for 2 – 3 days. Ms. Lynch shared that in the past, a static display has been done. Mr. James has offered the Community College as a location for this visit. Dates are being reviewed and the Policy Committee is looking at the first week in August with the idea that we could invite our DHS analyst to attend the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee; then begin the monitoring visit. To prepare for the monitoring visit, the region will need to rate its progress on '06, '07, '08 & '09, investments and goals/objectives in our strategy plan. In '07, '08, & '09, the region did not know how much they could apply for so, the request was for what the region needed, a portion of that would be received, and then, the region would have to adjust their expectations around the funding. The region is waiting for the DHS report that needs to be completed, but have started to think about which investments are they. Ms. Lynch reminded the committee that progress is in relationship to milestones in the application, but only a portion of the amount requested in the application was

awarded; so some milestones may not have been funded. She asked members to starting thinking about the progress that had been made in the last several years. Additional information will be sent out before the visit.

- c. Governance Transition – The transition date will be this July. Jurisdictional appointments are due by June 4, recommendations in July. Nominations are welcomed. Chair Noll asked Chief Dyer if he had any comments and Chief Dyer shared that the jurisdictional letters would be going out shortly. The letters were going to: Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Overland Park, Olathe, KS, Independence & Lee’s Summit, MO, Jackson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, Cass, Clay, Platte and Ray counties. The government of each of these has the opportunity to appoint their individual to represent their jurisdiction on the Coordinating Committee. In addition, to the governmental entities, the following organizations will be contacted to see if they want their present representative to continue or if they have a different designated representative for the Coordinating Committee. This group includes: The Heart of America Fire Chiefs (HOAFC), Mid-America Regional Committee Emergency Rescue Committee (MARCER) , The Mid- America Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Metropolitan Official Heath Agencies of the Kansas City Area (MOHAKCA), Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee (MEMC), The Public Safety Communications Board (PSC Board), The American Public Works Assn. (APWA) & The Metro Police Chiefs & Sheriffs Association (HOAFC) and Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC). The governmental representatives are to ensure that all of our major governmental entities in the 9 county region are at the table. The service organizations are to ensure that all of the expertises of the various disciplines are at the table. Thirdly, the MARC Board Chair will have 9 members to appoint from the general metropolitan area. This agreement was passed in October 2008 and came about because of the original appointments and others asking if the appointments were lifetime appointments. This is addressing these issues and reconstituting the Coordinating Committee. The primary elected official of each of the counties or cities he shared would receive a letter. Then, it is up to that elected official to respond back to the MARC staff as to who will be their representative.

4. **Briefing from RHSCC Member Nick Crossley on Secretary Napolitano’s National Preparedness Task Force.** This Task Force is charged with accessing the state of the nation’s disaster preparedness and making recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Mr. Crossley shared that he had been appointed to the National Emergency Committee Task Force. He noted that this task force has been charged to make recommendations for all levels of government regarding: disaster and emergency guidance and policy, federal grants and federal requirements including measuring efforts. Congress especially wants the Task Force to: identify which policies and guidance needs updating, most appropriate process by which to update them, which grant programs work the most efficiently and where programs can be improved; and the most appropriate way to collectively assess our capabilities and our capability gaps. They recently met and have started to review everything. As for the program itself, he is trying to gather, as they go through the process, feedback from the different groups he is associated with such as NACo, IEM and RHSCC. His focus is to suggest a new paradigm for the federal government. He is encouraging the federal government to listen to local government and look upward on integrating the federal systems. The federal government is still struggling with issues that are not covered under the Stafford Act.

Representation on the National Task Force consists of firefighters, law enforcement, emergency management, healthcare, public works, development organizations, mitigation representatives, information technology, elected officials and private sectors. It should also included: local, state, tribal, territorial, regional and federal levels of government, all homeland security emergency management and disciplines, graphic regions including urban, suburban, rural communities and experienced countering the range of all-hazard risks. They are dealing with interdependencies and looking at building from the past and he named of few of these events.

The Task Force has shared with Congress that a problem for them is that their timeline came out in September last year, they were not established until April of this year, and their 1st report is due to Congress in September or October of this year. They will not be able to do a full report, but will be focused on what they do work on, how it is done and if they can provide any guidelines. The Task Force consists of 3 staff and 35 individuals. They are organized into 3 working groups: Policy & Guidance in which Mr. Crossley is a co-lead, Grant Programs and Capabilities & Assessments. Our region has done extensive work in these areas, but he believes nationally, there is more work to be done. The work groups will investigate preparedness-related issues relevant to each of the topics, develop draft recommendations to address those issues, and present their findings to the larger Task Force membership at subsequent meetings. He would like to send out information to key individuals in the metro area to get some feedback on where the Task Forces is headed and see if he can incorporate this information in their final report.

Areas of concentration within the working groups are:

- Interagency coordination - Up and down. State and local governments are saying we really need increased coordination with the federal government rather than the federal government continually telling us downward what we need to be doing. Perhaps there should be more 2-way communication; with more integration of our needs, desires, and our analyses; then the other way down.
- Role of citizen/community preparedness
- Risk/priority setting – They are looking at a national risk assessment model & target and capabilities list.
- Systems and standards – EMAP and other NFPA 1600 and new private industry standards
- Role of the military – There is concern from a state level as to once the military comes in; who is in charge.

They are working on: proposed changes to HSPD 8 (National Scenarios), Target Capabilities (how in-depth should they be?), and Grant Guidance review (impact on local governments) – if we have identified something as a priority, how come it does not fit in the grant guidance. He wants to try to impact the grant guidance and how it can work better with the priorities identified at a local level. Right now, there are three meeting dates set for the Task Force. Between now and then, as he gets information, he will send it out. He did suggest that the funds left over from the pandemic response stay in the local areas to assist them with future response or inoculation campaigns.

Those interested in reviewing information were asked to let Ms. Lynch know.

5. Upcoming Activities

- a. MARC Annual Meeting, June 25, 2010 – static display of select regional assets – Chair Noll shared that there had been an extensive discussion in the Policy Committee meeting regarding having a static display or not and it was agreed upon not to have one at this setting. Their thoughts were to do a static display at another event.

6. Subcommittee/Regional Committee Reports

Chief Thacker – HSIN Project – He shared that HSIN is a document library and as of tomorrow the Kansas City RHSCC Community of Interest would be set to go online. The Plans Subcommittee approved the site layout at the end of April and the MARC staff has been testing it to customize it for our region. The next step is that once the customization is complete, the Plans Subcommittee members will test it and try to work out any system issues. During the testing phase, all of the committee co-chairs will be provided with committee rosters and asked to verify their roster. Those on the rosters will act as the initial users for verification of the program. Once the test phase is complete, all the verified committee members will be granted access to the system. The Plans Subcommittee has started to draft protocols to gain access to the system and expect to finalize it and forward for approval following their May 17th committee meeting. DHS holds weekly user trainings via webinar and the dates/times/access information will be shared in the future. Additionally, DHS has self-paced online trainings programs accessible through KCRHSCC CO1 homepage. Other training options are being explored. The tentative timeline is:

- May 17 demo for the Plans Subcommittee
- June 1 – July 30 – Pilot time for the Plans Subcommittee to get all the issues worked out

MEIS/PASS – Chief Dehner – He and Chief Neeley had a meeting yesterday with Chuck Magaha, Dave Finch from MO and Bill Brubaker from KS. It looks promising that they are going to be able to identify a way to verify credentials where one badge could get you in to an incident (i.e. no matter what side of the state you are from). There is follow up information and another meeting set for June to bring the vendors into the meeting and work out details. This will not delay their extractions. June 1 information will be extracted and personnel information uploaded into the system so the badges can be printed. They are going discipline specific starting with the fire service and a goal of having everyone badged by August 31st. He shared that the Technology Group from MARC may be calling (John Hwang or Bill McCabe) to verify names and logos because some badge layouts may require different sizes.

He also noted that this Committee is looking to rebrand themselves and are leaning towards renaming themselves: TEAM (Tracking of Emergency Access and Members). They have also been looking at a few other names and the new name will be announced shortly. The goal is to produce badges this summer.

Policy – Chief Dyer – He introduced Mark James a Policy Committee member that was attending RHSCC for the first time. He is the former Director of Public Safety for the State of Missouri, presently Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services for Metropolitan Community College system

Interoperability – Mr. Faddis shared that the metropolitan area regional radio system MOU between Johnson County, Independence, Kansas City and MARC has been finalized. Their first meeting will take place on May 17th. Earlier today, they kicked off the Independence microwave upgrade using the PSIC Grant funding. This will allow the Independence microwave to be upgraded to OC3 and connect to the Johnson County and the Kansas City system. The Missouri Highway Patrol used RAMBIS last week on an aggressive driving program and it worked but an interference issue limited its use. The vendor is still working to address some interference issues.

Public Health – Mr. Jones – For sometime there has been a need on the environment health side and on Monday, the different departmental health units across the area met and they are now getting something started in this area. This is for the matrix diagram.

RAPIO – Mr. Crowe – RAPIO will meet tomorrow to lay out something as a group for Mr. Sorg on the Emergency Information piece and then, bring it back to members of this group for feedback.

Training & Exercise – Chief Callahan – The multi-year calendar (MYC) is up and running and is more accurate than before, but it will never be completely accurate due to all of the variables that go into it. Several individuals have been trained. Next month, will be the mid-annual review on May 28th. At this meeting, the progress towards goals/objectives will be assessed and a review of the annual budget to see if it is online. The committee will also consider present and future training requests and recommendations and get more information on calendar to be determined (TBD) items.

MARCER – Chief Cantrell

- Patient Tracking was tested at Perfect Storm Exercise and was a success. They were able to hand it out for use with very little training and it was used successfully. They did put quite a few patients into the system to see if they could overload it, but they did not. Chief Mason has been overseeing this process and he has said that he feels it is time to move on to the next level of use of this system. More will be shared about this soon.
- They are working on getting personnel together to develop Rehap the pilot program that came from the most recent UASI grant application.
- They are aware that the cyano kits for the region have expired and looking at how this should be approached to acquire the adequate number for the area.

- Working on time diagnose (STEMI stroke & trauma) that will have a direct impact in the region on how we support EMS on a daily basis. MARCER is active on a state level in Mo regional needs.

Mental Health – Ms. Lynch shared that Ms. VanderVelde has asked her to publicly thank the Training & Exercise Committee for approving the request for the speaker fee request for their upcoming disaster mental health training.

Program Project Measurement Task Force (PPMTF) – Chief Rocha – Met last month and are in the process of reviewing the Strategy Plan in relation to the Capabilities Assessment. They are halfway through and believe they will complete it this month and report at a future meeting.

7. Report on current Regional Homeland Security Activities/grant administration not addressed above

a. 2010 Grant applications status

- Ms. Lynch noted that the 2010 UASI application was submitted and that the hope is to hear something favorable in the July timeframe. She thanked everyone that helped to put this together.
- 2010 Investment Justifications for the Port Grant have been prepared and submitted on behalf of the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC). If this is successful, it will provide 2 patrol and response vessels on the waterways and Joint Regional Operations Center. Work has not been done with the port grant before so she asked for the members to bear with staff as they are learning about the program.
- At the last meeting, she reported that the '06 deadline was coming up and an extension has been requested as a contingency. It is hoped that these funds will be fully obligated. Remaining funds are primarily in communications and interoperability.
- Work will be done with the State to request an extension on the '07 UASI funds and a handout was shared in the meeting packet. There was a spectrum of projects that have funds obligated and funds remaining and there is a need for specificity around plans for fully spending these funds or identifying if there will be any problems. Work will be done on the extension in the next week or so and she asked that information about the funds be shared at that time.
- Since the last meeting, the scope of work has been received and a budget submitted for the 2010 ASPR program. These funds help with hospital preparedness in Region A for the hospital community.
- '07 HSRT – She thanked the specialty teams for the progress made on getting equipment specifications and submitted purchasing is complete and for '09 HSRT have everything needed and are waiting on the State to move forward with this.
- Port Security – Now that the 2010 application has been submitted, work is being done with the AMSC on the '08 & '09 investments. There is a match for these grants that needs to be identified. These need to be submitted by June 4.
- Additional funds to the state to support MEIS & WebEOC – Approval has been received to use the funds that were originally funded to support MEIS & WebEOC to help support hardware and software for badging and accountability. These obligations have been made.
- There are a number of purchasing highlights across disciplines and referred those present to the RHSCC Special sheets and that are continuing to help fill capacity. She reminded everyone that the project level financial report is provided as a snap shot in time. As soon as it is produced, it is out of date, but hopefully, it provides awareness of projects, where they are and who to reach out to if you have questions. She asked that if anyone saw an error, to please let her know. MARC is moving to new accounting software so, the report format may change.
- There have been monitoring visits from state and federal officials for the MMRS & ASPR programs and desk audit for the port program and MARC is in the midst of their audit in which Homeland Security has been chosen for an in-depth review.
- There will be an equipment inventory done in early fall and she asked for help in getting information to staff. This will help the region to remain in a strong position to report.

8. Other Business – Chair Noll – He and Mr. Zacharias will be doing a MARC board briefing on May 25th to talk about what has been accomplished in homeland security and what the RHSCC is all about. Presiding Commissioner Knight made a great point in the Policy Committee meeting that there was a need to emphasize the role of all of our elected officials in all our communities in terms of leading homeland security since they are the ones that are ultimately responsible for these issues. One thing they want to highlight to the MARC Board is examples of when this equipment has been used. They discussed a few of these uses in the Policy meeting, but felt this group would know better some of the uses of this equipment. He asked those with information to email it to Ms. Lynch for a PowerPoint that is being developed.

- a. UASI Conference – Chair Noll shared that the UASI Conference is June 21-24 and those attending should have already been notified. Ms. Alt sent out some alternate traveling information earlier today in which attendees were asked to respond as soon as possible.

There will be some awards given out at this year's conference and the Heart of America Fire Chiefs and the RHSCC have nominated Chief Dyer for the UASI Leadership Award and two programs: the Program/Project Measurement Task Force (PPMTF) for a Best Practice Award and the Tech Rescue for a Training Award.

There will not be a July meeting. August 3rd will be a full committee meeting.

9. Next Meeting: June 1, 2010 Co-chair, Full RHSCC, August 3, 2010

Handouts:

- Agenda
- March Summary
- Handouts on PowerPoint Presentation on National Preparedness Task Force
- Grant Summary Sheets
- MEIS Calendar
- Training and Exercise Notebook