



**Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee
Co-chair Meeting
March 1, 2011
Summary**

Members/Co-Chairs Present

Hannes Zacharias, Johnson County Administration
Chris Alexander, Kansas City KS Fire Department, (Vice Chair, MARCER Subcommittee)
Richard Carrizzo, Southern Platte Fire Protection District
Ken Cope, American Red Cross, (Co-chair, Mental Health and Functional & Access Needs Subcommittee)
Mike Corwin, Kansas City Police Department, (Chair, AMSC)
Adam Crowe, Johnson County Emergency Management & Homeland Security, (Chair, RAPIO Subcommittee)
Tom Dailey, Independence Missouri Police Department, (Co-chair, Law Enforcement Subcommittee)
Bryan Dehner, Overland Park Fire Department, (Co-chair, KCTEAM)
Donna Maize alternate for Chief Smokey Dyer, KCMO Fire Department
Penny Postoak Ferguson, Johnson County Administration
Larry Jones, Independence Public Health Department (Co-chair, Public Health Subcommittee)
Tim Lynch, Overland Park Police Department, (Co-chair, Plans Subcommittee)
Brad Mason, Johnson County Med-Act, (Co-chair, Training & Exercise Subcommittee)
John Neeley, Kansas City Fire Department, (Co-chair, KCTEAM Subcommittee)
Dave Nelson, Platte County Planning & Development, (Co-chair, GIS Subcommittee)
Dwight Purtle, Johnson County Emergency Communications Center, (Co-chair, Interoperability Subcommittee)
Nancy Tausz, Johnson County Health Department, (Co-chair, Public Health Subcommittee)
Chuck Thacker, Grandview Fire Department, (Co-chair, Plans Subcommittee)
Carolyn Wells, Liberty Hospital, (Co-chair, Hospital Subcommittee)
Sandra Schiess, Independence Fire Department
Keith Shaw, Johnson County, (Co-chair, GIS Subcommittee)
Gene Shepherd, Kansas City Office of Emergency Management
John Spencer, Lee's Summit Fire Department

Guests

Alisa Griswold, Johnson County Health Department
Bob Kolenda, Kansas City Early Terrorism Warning
Matt May, Johnson County Emergency Management
Mike Latta, Kansas City Fire Department
Bonnie Martin, Kansas City Health Department
Mike O'Neal, Platte County Sheriff's Office

Excused

Richard (Smokey) Dyer, KCMO Fire Department, (Co-chair, RHSCC and Policy Subcommittee)
Dr. Rex Archer, Kansas City Public Health
Mark Owen, Platte County Sheriff's Office

MARC Staff

Christine Allen Hunter, Emergency Services
Bill McCabe, Emergency Services
Erin Lynch, Emergency Service
Justin Sorg, MARC Emergency Services
Keith Faddis, Public Safety
Marlene Nagel, Community Development
Justin Sorg, Emergency Services

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Co-chair Zacharias and self-introductions were made. Co-chair Zacharias shared that Larry Larimore would be the new Shawnee Police Chief and one of the Co-chairs for the Law Enforcement Committee.

Report on Recent Homeland Security Related Legislation – Co-chair Zacharias – He noted that the majority of those present were aware that House Resolution #1 did not pass in February. The amendment to this is what concerns our region since it deals with UASI funding. This amendment talks about limiting the amount of funding for recipients of UASI funds to 25 communities and there are 64 that are currently receiving funds. Efforts are being made to see where our region is at and what we might be able to do to change this equation. The point that we are saying, “is that we do not want to see an overall decrease in funding to begin with, but if indeed that is going to be required, let’s not just limit this to cut out a good portion of recipients, but to help everyone get some funding for this activity”. Knowing that disasters man made or otherwise do not just restrict themselves to certain communities. Our region has been partnering since 2002 at this activity and it is hoped that we can continue. To date, some of the things that have been done to help advance our cause collectively is to write letters to both the Missouri and Kansas Senators’ staff stating our position and asking them to modify the House’s position and allow the 64 to receive funding; albeit understanding there would be reductions. Also, follow up will be done with the delegation.

Co-chair Zacharias will be in Washington next week with the National Association of Counties Conference and meetings are set with our two senators and Councilmen Yoder in which, he plans on bringing this up personally with them. Wanting to make them aware of the regional issues that we have been able to deal with the last few years and this funding really made a difference for us and our desire to keep things going. He shared that this was one of the things that our region could be doing. He hoped that those in this room would contact their personal contacts with the governor’s office, the senator’s staff and representative’s staff which would certainly make a big difference. He shared that he is always amazed and as this group knows, one or two phone calls can make a big difference. This would let them know that we are monitoring the situation and we have come to appreciate/rely upon the funding and have used them to great effect. Also, to help with this, in the handouts was a copy of the letter that had been sent out for their review, background information so that they could see what had been done and a 1-page concise synopsis of how we have used the funds since 2002 and what those dollars have meant to us. His suggestion was that those making contact might want to also include this sheet. He also shared the names of some of agencies that had already expressed some concerns. Those that had contact(s) with other associations that might be helpful were asked to also make those contacts. There is a possibility that Congress will be shut down as of Friday, but he had been hearing that there is a resolution for the Federal Government to carry on for another 14 days. The time to act is now! He asked if the committee thought that all of the things that we needed to be doing were being done. Captain Corwin shared that one of the things that he had thought about was reaching out to our fellow UASIs. He believed that some were just sitting back to see what it going to happen because they felt kind of safe and that they are in the top 25, but no one knows what they are going to base this decision on, if this should pass. He really appreciated the Policy committee standpoint that it is not just about us, but it is about the entire nation. So, keeping the 64 intact is the appropriate way to proceed. He had personally reached out to contacts with other UASIs. He shared that Chicago, IL would be sending a letter stating that they did not support the amendment and Riverside, CA would also be taking a very aggressive stand, but he had also heard that St. Louis would not be taking a stand. Our members should be reaching out to whomever they know to see what their UASI was going to do and encourage them since none of us really know what they might do. Co-chair Zacharias asked if staff knew what the response was of those that had been contacted. Ms. Lynch shared that staff had not heard from anyone that this amendment is a good idea and she felt that they had appreciated being advised of the situation and anything that negatively impact the Kansas City region our House of Representatives and Senators have been interested in knowing. Information was sent out and then followed up with phone calls which have gotten their interest and they have asked for more information. She shared that the Policy Committee members had reached out personally to elected officials to seek support actions. Ms. Nagel shared that a number of MARC board members had recently gone to Washington prior to this action by the House and had left key messages with our

Congressional delegation: having to do with transportation and Homeland Security. All of the offices understood the work that is going on in Kansas City, the value of it and was supportive of funding for this area. She felt that we would get a positive reception from the members of our delegation. Co-chair Zacharias noted that Representative Yoder is on the Appropriation Committee and so is Senator Moran. Captain Corwin had a conversation with the USAI conference board and it was encouraged that every UASI responded. Another group that stood out was the National Fusion Center Association which sent out a letter. Most of these Centers are funded by UASI dollars. He urged those that had a personal contact with anyone to make that contact. It is usually the personal contact that does it.

Co-chair Zacharias shared that our region has done a very good job with the funding to increase our capacity and now we are talking about sustaining that capacity. We do not want this to be a fluctuating funding stream. What is the national strategy here? Ms. Lynch shared there were calls from across the region from individuals saying that they had sent letters and taken personal action.

Review of UASI '07 & '08 Open Projects – Co-chair Zacharias – A handout on this was in the packet. He shared that it was his understanding that we were getting close to closing out '06. Both '06 and '07 closeout deadlines are June 2011. An effort had been made on working with everyone to get this funds appropriately expended. The response was terrific and appreciated. He asked if there was anything on the list that the region could not complete as it was laid out. He shared that the overall intent is that we do not want to go to D.C. and ask for more funding when we have not spent what we already been awarded.

He asked everyone to review *UASI '06*:

Under Public Health Communications – Mr. Jones indicated that this would be expended.

UASI '07:

Mass Fatality - Chief Thacker - This is developing slower than they expected, but it is believed that it will be expended. The Plans committee had met several times on options. They had spoken about the possibility of using funds for the generator project. Mr. Sorg shared that at a meeting Chief Thacker was unable to attend a list of 10 potential shelter locations to install generators to support the shelter operations had been identified. Three of these locations are in the finally stages of preparing for installation. There is a temporary barrier with the Department of Homeland Security saying that they are not going to pay for the wall that needs to go around the generator. Right now, this is being appealed and we are waiting for the response to come back. Subject to this decision and if they deny the appeal, then these 3 locations would have to make a decision on whether or not they could come up with the funding for the enclosure. If not, the remaining funds will be used to start going to location 4, 5, 6 and however far the funds will allow.

MEIS - Chief Dehner - The committee had offered the \$91,000 back to the group for discussion. Both MEIS and PASS now, KCTEAM had meetings with the State of Mo leadership and the Ks Department of Emergency Management in regards to two different vendors that they were going to tie together. The State of Mo vendor has decided to get away from the accountability software that was requiring us to have different barcodes on the badge. Software has been received from the Ks side vendor (Salamander) that will include the Mo counties and currently, they have this software at no charge. The upcoming meeting with the vendor will determine how much it will cost to allow everyone to enter the data electronically, print out badges and be in the system. As well as, identify how much kits would cost for the Mo side. Currently, the State of Ks is providing through Salamander kits to everyone in Ks. They are working to see if they can leverage this, put the kits on the Mo side and determine the cost. Within the month of March, they should find out the cost and if they will be able to release additional funds if they have them. They are still offering up \$91,000 and Ms. Lynch shared that at the last RHSCC Full meeting, staff was empowered to work with various committees to see what the options might be. Fire Service through the tech rescue teams already had their list for 2010 and staff has already worked through the procurement method. So, they are ready to expend the \$91,000. She reminded everyone that this \$91,000 had been approved to go towards the All-star game planning and exercising, but because of timing these funds would not have been expended.

Public Health MEDS/PODS – Mr. Jones – Anticipate this will be expended.

Planning Special Populations – Mr. Cope - They are looking at purchasing functional access goods and supplies. The problem is that some of these items are not on the approved list. They have appealed this and are also developing a Plan B to purchase items that are on the approved list to expend these funds.

WMD/Mass Casualty Trailers – Chief Alexander – He reported that these funds would be going towards the rehab unit and MARCER was meeting this month to get these funds expended.

RAMBIS – Mr. Faddis - RAMBIS is completed and the funds shown on this report should be tied to Interop and will be used in the upgrade of the KC microwave to make it OC3 capable. This will connect to the Independence, Johnson County and the RAMBIS microwaves. This project is underway and all that they are waiting on is the executed contract from KCMO. This whole project is anticipated to be done on the 27th.

UASI '08:

Co-Chair Zacharias shared that the '08 funding needs to be expended by August 2011. He asked everyone to review the information on this sheet and alert him or Ms. Lynch if there was anything on this list that we might not be able to accomplish between now and the end of August. Being that if we cannot get these done in the timeframe, work should be done at getting these funds realigned to someone that can; so, that we would not have to give these funds back or have an awkward conversation with Congress.

UASI Conference Participation – June 20-23, 2011 – Co-Chair Zacharias – He shared that there are funds set aside to send representatives to this conference and that Captain Corwin was on the planning committee. He invited Captain Corwin to share some conference information. Captain Corwin shared that this year's conference would be held in downtown San Francisco and offered some great tracks (it will be in Columbus in 2012). The committee is concerned and watching what is going on with the funding since this will impact future conferences. He asked if anyone had planned to present at the conference and Ms. Griswold had. He asked what the presentation was on and there were several: 1) Uprooting Technologies, 2) Collaborative Relationships Dealing with Regional Projects and 3) Volunteers. He will follow up on this. He reported they are hoping to get APRS on the Port Track. Now that APRS is done. They are willing to share the system with anyone that needs it. They need to share and try to leverage this with what they have done and give it to others so that they can try to buy down their risks at a much cheaper rate. Co-chair Zacharias shared there is funding to send 13 representatives. One thing that he was curious about was the ideal of continuing on our efforts around this table for those that might succeed and that it would be good to have some experienced as well as new representatives attend. He felt that even if we did not get federal funds, this effort should continue. If these relationships are not nurtured as leadership, we will be ill prepared for the next event that occurs. His appeal was to think about going yourself and about who you would like to mentor going along with you; across disciplines. Those interested in attending were asked to let Ms. Lynch know. Ms. Lynch added that there was a desire to take advantage of the early bird registration in which the deadline was March 31st. She asked those interested in attending to let her know by March 15th and/or if there was someone they would recommend. She also noted that in the packets was a conference schedule, that this conference included a national training expo and also an after-action conference which had a separate registration. It would be helpful to know what days potential representatives wanted to go and what they would want to go to of the three meetings. Captain Corwin shared the reason for the after action being tagged on to it is to save money. He is the DHS Liaison for the conference committee and this is something that they had been discussing.

2011 Strategic Planning – Co-chair Zacharias shared that what was provided in the handouts was information from the Policy committee that had been discussed in January. He asked the members to review this document to see if the information was correct in terms what they wanted to cover. He went over the handout and asked for feedback. Ms. Lynch noted that a date for this planning had not been set since there was a desire to correlate it with the announcement of the next award. Ms. Nagel shared the President's 2012 budget, had called for an increase in UASI funding. Captain Corwin said that sustainment had been discussed and there is at least 1 project that we are unable to sustain right now. He felt that there should be some review in the planning session that

covers what if we do not get funding; what needs to be sustained and how is that going to happen. There is a need to start the planning for this. Co-chair Zacharias felt this was a legitimate conversation to have and maybe there should possibly be contemplation of putting together a committee/team to visualize a way to get funding beyond UASI/federal resources. He asked Ms. Lynch to propose some dates for the strategic planning to get this on everyone's calendar.

Other Coordination Issues – Co-chair Zacharias reminded everyone that there was a flyer on the April Spring Fever Exercise in the packet and it was a tabletop exercise involving Law Enforcement, Hospitals and Public Health. Mr. Jones shared that this exercise would be covering a disease and this made it more complicated. It will be looking at the fact that Police and those investigating from that side have to keep a chain of command. Also, they need pieces of information and materials to test what they will be working with. Working on maintaining the legal side along with working with the patients, the disease or conditions involved. There are 71 signed up to attend. Captain Lynch shared that for law enforcement in the room, information had gotten back that law enforcement believed this would be an FBI issue which could be true after 3 or more days, but that it was critical for a level of law enforcement to come to the table in the first 48 hours. He encouraged those here to think about this and pass this information on to other law enforcement contacts.

Chief Dehner shared that KCTEAM wanted to thank those that provided their personnel information and that Mr. Hwang was very busy.

Other Business - Ms. Nagel noted that in the past individuals associated with the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee had been nominated for the MARC Leadership Award with some being recipients. Again this year, MARC is looking for nominees and she encouraged submissions.

Next Meeting: RHSCC, April 5, 2011, RHSCC Co-chairs, May 3, 2011

Handouts:

Agenda

Copy of letter to Senator McCaskill

Flyer: "What does UASI mean to the Kansas City region?"

UASI Open Projects for FY06, FY07 & FY08

Flyer on Spring Fever Tabletop Exercise

Information on the UASI Conference

Flyer – Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support Training

Flyer – Volunteers Needed: Advanced Disaster Life Support