

EMPG Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2013
1000-1500

Alternate SOC, Bldg B, 5805 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin

In Attendance

- Members: Joe Ferro (Chairman/City of Webster); Pat McMacken (Co-Chair City of Irving); Tim Ocnaschek (Secretary/City of Beaumont); Sarah Somers (Grayson County); Chuck Frazier (Brazos County); Frank Patterson (City of Waco; Larry Trevino (City of San Antonio); Chuck Frazier (Brazos County); David Coatney (City of Round Rock); Billy Ted Smith (Jasper/Newton/Sabine Counties); Michelle Carnahan (Harris County); Dale Little (Midland Co); Kevin Starbuck (City of Amarillo); Juan Ortiz (City of Fort Worth); Ricardo Gonzalez (City of El Paso);
- Liaisons: Shari Ramirez-MacKay (TDEM); Lisa Resendez (TDEM- Grant Coordinator); Doris Grisham (TDEM- EMPG Auditor); Heather Baxter (TDEM- Grant Technician);

Meeting Recap

Overview of discussion topics:

- Shari reviewed internal audit suggestions from EMPG program funding review which included putting more emphasis on jurisdictions' budget and less on population. She also reaffirmed TDEM and FEMA support for the current equation and the importance of maintaining a baseline funding which benefits small programs.
- Discussed the total EMPG funding passed through to local Jurisdictions by the state and the updated spreadsheet to reconcile the calculation inputs/factors for each agency.
- FY 2013 EMPG guidance is posted on the TDEM website and includes new reporting forms that are mandatory for use.

Key concerns included:

- Reminded that EMPG jurisdictions should have an idea of what monitors are focusing on to help agencies prepare for visit and make the visit more efficient (this is a repeat from last meeting)
- Reminded that resource sharing and networking is currently mandated on TRRN, but could be shared on other platforms, such as WebEOC , or something more effective

Decisions made: (Recommendations)

- Committee agreed that the existing formula was basically sound. There was a consensus to:

- Maintain the current 40% baseline of total pass-through funding
- Increase the Ceiling or Cap for change to 20% (which serves as a buffer against drastic changes as funding allocations are realigned on a more equitable basis- calculated by the four base formula factors as follows:
 - Reduce the Population factor to 60%
 - Add a Budget factor of 10%
 - Maintain the Progress Report factor of 20%
 - Maintain the Threat/Risk Factor of 10%
- The agenda for the next meeting (February 18, 2013 from 0800-1200) will revolve around reviewing the funding equation results after all grant applications are submitted by the deadline of 31 January to verify factors are reasonable.
- No new members will be recommended prior to the March meeting.
- There will be a March meeting during the State EM Conference (probably 26 March) to address membership assignments and adjustments. This may include a replacement for the Nacogdoches judge retiring, Patrice Reisen leaving, and Michelle Carnahan transferring to another assignment.

Issues requiring further discussion at next meeting:

- Jurisdictions need to be warned about budgeting based on expectation of future grant funding. Additionally, the buffer from drastic adjustments provided by the cap may be removed in future years, at which time funding allocations will be based fully upon the equitable equation.
- Lessons learned from EMPG program audits

Assignments

Item	Assigned to:	Date due:
Update spreadsheet with new agency applications and budgets	TDEM	(Prior to Feb 18)

Next Meeting

Date/time:

- February 18, 2013/ 0800-1200

Location:

- (EMAT Conference) San Marcos