



# First Responder Advisory Council (FRAC)

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Tuesday, December 2, 2014 Meeting Notes

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>
City of San Marcos	Emergency Management Coordinator	<a href="#">Ken Bell</a>
Round Rock Fire Department	Fire Chief	<a href="#">David Coatney</a>
City of Victoria	Fire Marshal	<a href="#">Thomas Legler</a>
Capital Area Council of Governments	Director   Homeland Security	<a href="#">Ed Schafer</a>
City of Austin	Wireless Communication Services Manager	<a href="#">Charles Brotherton</a>
Texas Division of Emergency Management	Emergency Management Liaison	<a href="#">Susan Vessell</a>
Texas Division of Emergency Management	Section Administrator	<a href="#">Jeff Newbold</a>
Texas Department of Public Safety	Deputy Administrator	<a href="#">Eddie Wilson</a>
Texas Department of Public Safety	Technical Services Coordinator	<a href="#">Mike Barney</a>

**WELCOME**

- Introductions and agenda reviewed.

**INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT & WARNING SYSTEM (IPAWS)**

- FRAC to request IPAWS update from TEMAC.
- IPAWS is not viewed as usable with current federal regulations and issues with testing the system make it difficult to use in a real event.
- Local emergency alert systems such as reverse 911 are performing better.
- IPAWS is viewed as too locked down and as a result, people can't practice using it which makes it even less feasible to be engaged when needed.
- Even though some COGs have the credentials to use the system and alert on behalf of jurisdictions within the COG; the COG is not staffed 24/7.

**WebEOC UPDATE – JEFF NEWBOLD**

- CIS deployment and support as well as the LoneStar server were tested during the Ebola event and both performed well.
- During the finance exercise at the EOC in Round Rock, some STAR requests went to CAPCOG, but not the state because the board was configured specifically for the exercise. The local WebEOC server was not configured so the transfer didn't automatically transition to the state on the STAR. CIS has a process to help connect servers if requested. CIS will ask all local admins to send a test request from their servers to see if they transition to the state on the STAR and if not will offer help to connect. Because this is a local WebEOC concern CIS has no further capability past this.
- There is an inability to transfer to drag-and-drop spreadsheets into WebEOC at this time although file storage is possible. If this would considerably reduce workload it can be put on the development path and given a priority vs other needs.
- CIS does not manage local finance boards across the. Shari Ramirez-MacKay can speak

with Jeff Newbold about connectivity from a FUSION'd state finance board down to local boards if she needs assistance with future exercises.

- There are many different boards that want to link into many State level WebEOC processes including the STAR. A process needs to be put in place to look at those requests and what impact they may have on boards and processes at all levels in addition to if there are other boards that would benefit from connection at that time as well.
- The varied level and authorities of local WebEOC administrators is an issue. Some areas may have different WebEOC boards that have extra fields that other shared statewide WebEOC boards (such as the STAR) does not have. CIS will seek to standardize local, regional and state level boards and fields to share out as state positions (IMTs, EMTF, DDC, HSR, DC, SC) are centralized onto the LoneStar WebEOC server.
- Due to the workload associated with moving IMTs, EMTF, DDC, HSR, DC and SC positions and processes from the 35+ WebEOC servers onto LoneStar, any local movement has been postponed. There are concerns with connectivity in the SE Texas area that have been mentioned. At such a time in 2015 that LoneStar regional state positions and boards project is completed the option for local entities to update and fix any local WebEOC servers or migrate onto LoneStar will be made available. Additional funding for adequate employees may be required for CIS to fully support the entire state as that is a new requirement.
- DSHS is on board with moving to the LoneStar server although additional funding for adequate employees to support this move has not yet been identified.
- In the first quarter of 2015, IMTs, EMTF, DDC, HSR, DC, SC and DDCs will all be on migrated to LoneStar. This will require all local WebEOC servers to tie their local boards in so that visibility between locals and the regional state assets is maintained. Currently, less than 25% of locals have responded. To address this, an administrator progress report will be sent out. For example, Beaumont wants to be on the LoneStar server, but first the regional players (IMTs, EMTF, DDC, HSR, DC, SC) need to be on the server.
- STAR and ETN statewide testing to happen by March 2015 on Texas and LoneStar WebEOC servers at a minimum. Local participation will help define a timeline for completion; as such, it may not be in 2015. Testing processes are to be in place by May 1.
- FRAC Feedback:
  - Instead of requiring local jurisdictions submit STARR requests to DCs, they should have a direct path to the state. Locals need access for mission assignments and resource requests.

## **CREDENTIALING**

- Texas State Guard is running into the same issues with credentialing and is moving to the STRAC system for members.
- Legislative initiatives need to be looked into. A mandate is needed as the state cannot enforce credentialing without. As previously discussed, it would be a recommendation of the council to place the credentialing process in the DPS Driver's License Division, but the idea was previously rejected by the department.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF A RECOVERY TASK FORCE – WHITE PAPER – KEN BELL**

- The conversation from the previous meeting concerning training existing IMTs was brought up again. The idea for an extension of a long-term recovery team comes is to provide assistance to locals beyond the initial information of where jurisdictions can find Public Assistance (PA).

## LTE UPDATE – EDDIE WILSON & MIKE BARNEY

- In August 2014 agreements were signed with FirstNet with operating authority in Texas within some Texas areas.
- Give Key Learning Criteria (KLCs):
  - Core transition first net – How will it look moving forward?
  - Data and analytics – What do people like fire and police look like using data?
  - What does extended mode look like? 14-15 KM for normal mode? Some research to go out 70 miles.
  - Special events – What does it look like?
  - Training – Identifying how LTE capabilities impact first responder training.
- Regional and tribal meetings are near wrapping up. There have been approximately 600 stakeholder interactions.
- FirstNet will do a state consultation in Austin the second week of February, 2015 with tentative dates of Feb. 11-12. FRAC will be invited to participate. Venue is [Omni Southpark](#). Representatives from state agencies, police chiefs, fire chiefs, etc. will be in attendance with an anticipated audience of 200. FirstNet and Texas will discuss where they are at and present case studies for rural importance. Breakout sessions will also be scheduled.
- Harris County was the first to operate with Colorado, New Mexico, Los Angeles and New Jersey also obtaining permits. Once permits are issued, jurisdictions have 10 years to become self-sustaining.
- LTE currently cannot work without towers. There is research and solutions being vetted to provide a 'talk around' capability. Voicing options and ways to look at data and have it connect to a modem in a vehicle are being looked into.
- Legislation exists for opting out of FirstNet or a state building its own network that can tie back into the national plan. The governor will review legislation and options and make a decision, but this is around 18 months away from seriously being looked at. Legislation process for opting out is stringent and appears to be difficult.
- Texas is extremely far ahead of other states and has been working on the initiative for four years.

## ACTION ITEMS

- Jeff Newbold to discuss FRAC WebEOC questions with Chief Kidd.
- FRAC members to report to Jeff Newbold what WebEOC servers each jurisdiction is on. Jeff can include in beta testing and ensure FRAC member servers are tied in.
- FRAC to provide guidance and help identify processes that CIS could potentially push statewide. If there is a local process that needs to be tied in, such as STARR, please report to Jeff Newbold.
- Chief Kidd to be requested to attend first 2015 meeting.
- Members to develop possible topics and breakout sessions for TEMC conference in May; such as long-term recovery teams.
- All members to provide feedback on the following questions from Tim:

1. Should a survey go out about the exercise process? Who would it go to for appropriate reply (EMCs, DDCs, COGs)? What would be the focused questions?

2. Should there be a session at the Homeland Security or Hurricane conferences, during special or general sessions where the multiple legislated Councils are discussed? Specifically, should we brief on the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Council purpose and provide an executive summary of focus issues with goals of openness and inclusion?

3. Using comments above, we could begin a discussion on Wiggio with a goal of determining the specific focus areas to target regarding statewide Training and Exercise at the next Council meeting. This would form a basis for the charge for the sub-committee.

- Susan Vessell to set meeting calendar for 2015.
- Ken Bell to provide recovery plan from Bastrop fire for FRAC members.

## NEXT MEETINGS

Quarter	Date	Location
1	February 11-12 Tentative dates	<a href="#">Omni Southpark</a> Austin, TX *DPS & FirstNet Consultation*
1	March 1-4 Exact date TBD	<a href="#">2015 EMAT Symposium</a> San Marcos, TX
2	May 12-15 Exact date TBD	<a href="#">2015 Texas Emergency Management &amp; Homeland Security Conference</a> San Antonio, TX
3	September 8	TDEM – Governor’s Conference Room Austin, TX
4	December 8	TDEM – Governor’s Conference Room Austin, TX