

EMPG Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 17, 2012
1000-1315

TDEM Preparedness Conference Room, 1033 La Posada, Ste 230, 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); Billy Ted Smith (Jasper/Newton/Sabine Counties); Patrice Reisen (Travis County); Dale Little (Midland Co); Juan Ortiz (City of Fort Worth); Ricardo Gonzalez (City of El Paso);
- Liaisons: Miles Tollison (TDEM-State Preparedness Coordinator); Lisa Resendez (TDEM- Grant Coordinator); Doris Grisham (TDEM- EMPG Auditor); Heather Baxter (TDEM- Grant Technician); James Kelley (TDEM-Exercise Officer); Shari Ramirez-MacKay (TDEM- Deputy Assistant Director);

Meeting Recap

Overview of discussion topics:

- THIRA update- Karen said the State Preparedness Report (SPR) is due Dec 31. 31 Core capabilities broken into five groups have replaced the old TCLs. A TDEM or SAA workgroup has been assigned to look at each grouping of capabilities. Funded UASI jurisdictions are required to have a THIRA, but not all the other EMPG jurisdictions are yet. THIRAs from COGs are due in November.
- Exercise Report- (James Kelley) Discussed a new exercise notification form available on PreparingTexas.Org. Soon, the whole form will be able to be submitted via that website. Other entities such as pipeline companies can also provide exercise notifications for regional awareness benefits. New core capabilities from PPD8 are required in FY2013.
- Joe Ferro discussed the total EMPG funding passed through to local Jurisdictions by the state and the updated spreadsheet to reconcile the calculation inputs for each agency.
- Shari discussed future funding issues, to include- federal funding will likely be delayed for up to six months which will likely affect grant awards; auditors desire that the population input be discussed since the percentage seemed to high to them; the fact that auditors and FEMA like the fact Texas has a publicized equation and a committee dedicated to input; TDEM would like the baseline funding in the equation to remain; even though there is still no mandate to pass any money to local jurisdictions, TDEM will likely continue to do so; allocations to specific grants have been combined and reduced, and in some cases such as SHSP, EOC, and MMRS, EMPG funding may have to be used to cover those

programs; research will be conducted into which MMRS jurisdictions also get DSHS funding; non-profits are NOT being accepted into the EMPG program

- Membership- Repeated discussion from last meeting to review past committee decisions and to postpone detailed discussion for the March meeting at the State Conference when potential changes of offices would also be discussed. It was reiterated that any official information sent to individual members of the committee should be disseminated to the other members for situational awareness.
- FY 2013 EMPG guidance will likely be available by the end of October or early November with an application due date of 15 Jan like last year.
- Heather discussed that audits are ongoing, seven completed and seven scheduled through the end of December. All EMPG jurisdictions are due monitoring visits by end of 2013. She will provide some benchmark program issues, and common findings with the committee for review so all jurisdictions can benefit.

Key concerns included:

- 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)
- 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)

- The agenda for the next meeting (January 17, 2013) will revolve around the funding equation and whether to maintain it as is, adjust or revise. Miles Tollison will also have someone discuss NIMS compliance with regard to AARs and other EMPG issues.
- There should be a February meeting to solidify any adjustments to the funding equations made in January.
- The agenda for the March meeting will address membership adjustments, which may include a replacement for the Nacogdoches judge retiring.

Issues requiring further discussion at next meeting:

- Funding equation
- NIMS compliance

Assignments

Item	Assigned to:	Date due:
Review Committee Charter/guidelines and be prepared to discuss updates needed	All members	(March meeting at Conf)
Present NIMS compliance issues	Miles Tollison	Jan 17, 2013

Review funding formula and suggested modifications if any	All members	Jan 17, 2013

Next Meeting

Date/time:

- January 17, 2013/ 1000-1500

Location:

- (TDEM Preparedness Conference Room) 1033 La Posada, Ste 230, Austin, Texas

Past Membership Decisions:

June 27, 2011

- Committee rules and guidance approved
 - Decisions made: (Recommendations)
 - • Approval of committee guidelines with:
 - ○ Membership capped with current designees to provide continuity at advanced stage of discussions
 - ○ Remove attendance parameters since members lose a voice if they are not present at voting time. Additionally, there may not need to be many more meetings to accomplish current obligations.