



First Responder Advisory Council (FRAC)

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 Meeting Notes

Attendance		
AGENCY	TITLE	NAME
Texas Division of Emergency Management	Chief	Nim Kidd
City of Houston	Mayor's Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security	Richard Retz
Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma (STRAC)	Director	Eric Epley
State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas	Executive Director	Chris Barron
City of San Marcos	Emergency Management Coordinator	Ken Bell
City of Round Rock	Fire Chief	David Coatney
City of Beaumont	Emergency Management Specialist *Designee for Tim Ocnaschek	Shaqueena Nobles
State Fire Marshal's Office	State Fire Marshal	Chris Connealy
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Russell Cook
Tarrant County	Fire Marshal	Randy Renois
Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG)	Homeland Security Director	Eric Carter
City of San Antonio	Emergency Management Coordinator	Lawrence Trevino
Texas Division of Emergency Management	Emergency Management Liaison	Tim Loveland
Texas Division of Emergency Management	Supervisor	Susan Vessell
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Public Health Preparedness and Response Planner	Danielle Hesse
Office of the Governor	Policy Analyst	Seth Christensen
WELCOME		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introductions ▪ Agenda review 		

VACANCIES AND NOMINEES (COATNEY)

- Currently there are two vacant positions:
 - Ed Schaefer - Director of Homeland Security, CAPCOG
 - Otis Latin - Director, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, city of Austin
- David Coatney presented two nominations to the council
 - Eric Carter - Homeland Security Director, CAPCOG
 - Eric introduced himself to the council and provided an overview of his qualifications.
 - Randy Renois endorsed Eric to the council.
 - Gary Teeler - Assistant Commander, Strategic Planning and Technology, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Law Enforcement Field Operations Office. Not in attendance.
- David discussed Gary Teeler's qualifications. Even though qualifications will be an asset to the council, there is concern about adding another state employee as opposed to local jurisdiction representation. Question was proposed to Office of the Governor (OOG) policy advisor – if a state employee can be added to the council; question will be referred to the appointments office and general counsel.
- Further research into what disciplines are needed on the council prior to bringing on other members.
 - David will not bring names forward to TDEM leadership until clarification is complete.

POST INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (PIRT) UPDATE (BELL)

- Development is on-going and slowed down due to recent disaster response, but used some concepts of PIRT with success during recent recovery operations.
- Emergency Support Teams (EST) and Incident Management Teams (IMT) seem to be merging into a similar team resembling PIRT.
- PIRT is a multidiscipline model focusing on subject matter expertise in non-operations during disasters (disaster summary outlines, utilities, IT, reimbursement, donations management and public works) and have a background with previous disaster response and recovery. PIRTs are beneficial to smaller jurisdictions or jurisdictions with less experience dealing with disaster. PIRT would deploy during response in support a support function role. Teams would come from the local level (not deployed by the state) and would be deployed for 11 days maximum to fill the gaps between response and recovery phases.
- Discussion on possibly expanding the IMT roles.

501(c)(3) ORGANIZATIONS (BELL)

- Seeking input if there is a problem with 501(c)(3) organizations such as search and rescue and K9 support assisting in response and recovery. Concerns include:
 - Liability
 - Pre determinations on qualifications and vetting
 - Usage during incidents
 - Self-deployment
- Question was asked if legislative guidance is needed in state law on their use during emergency response.

REORGANIZATION OF COUNCILS, COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS (COATNEY)

- TDEM leadership provided an overview of the Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee (TEMAC) reorganization of the council and committees
 - FEMA's National Advisory Council (NAC) and the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) were used for the base of TEMAC reorganization
 - Focused on organizing subcommittees, reporting structure and meeting schedules
 - TEMAC would provide written recommendations concerning strategy, policy and statewide programs
- Gives senior leadership measurable and trackable success.
- Reorganization will help to educate other groups on activities and will provide a mechanism for information sharing and feedback.
- Eases meeting scheduling by planning all council, committee and working group meetings for two-day blocks; this reduces travel and assists with confirmed calendar meetings on annual dates.
- TEMAC meetings give an opportunity for everyone to speak and voice concerns.
- TDEM leadership suggested FRAC discuss term limits as part of the TEMAC reorganization.
- Q&A
 - **Will goals, missions and objectives be published?**
The councils required by legislative mandate have pre-determined goals, missions and objectives. Other committees and working groups should discuss how they would like that process to look.
 - **Can official documentation be provided as to which members are appointed to a council or committee for justification for current employers?**
Yes, as soon as the reorganization is finalized.
 - **What is the timeline for solidifying the reorganization?**
Need to speak with other groups first. Once we have a consensus, then implementation will begin.

OPEN FORUM

- Russell Cook gave an overview and responsibility of the Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management:
 - Task force is advocating for the state of Texas to hire a disability integration advisor. He/she would act similarly to other response teams. Other states and FEMA have similar advisors.
- Ken Bell discussed statewide radio interoperability. Legislatively mandated, local government jurisdictions and their associated emergency response agencies are not fully integrated. Ken Bell recommended this topic to be brought forward to TEMAC.
 - Should have 15-20 channels set aside 24/7 on a trunk system.
 - Suggestion made to form a radio interoperability task force.
- Shaqueena Nobles seeking FRAC input on confidentiality of After Action Reports (AAR) after an event in terms of making AAR for official use only instead of open records.
 - Suggested redacting portions of AAR and consulting attorneys
 - Possibly pursue legislative action
 - Open AAR may be helpful for legislative actions
 - Use informal hot washes as an alternative
- Richard Retz addressed homeland security items:
 - Information gaps between fire, EMS and law enforcement when dealing with intelligence threats. There is a significant procedural difference in information sharing between organizations. Improved information sharing will benefit smaller jurisdictions on assessing threats.
 - ID and credentialing need to be addressed again.

- Universal policy and procedures on fire and EMS response to active shooter warm zones should be developed. Currently, no universal policy on responding to active shooter warm zone areas is available.

2016 AGENDA ITEMS

- The council recommended the 2016 agenda and topics to present to TEMAC:
 - Statewide radio interoperability task force
 - AAR confidentiality
 - Fire, EMS and law enforcement sensitive information sharing
 - Homeland security ID and credentialing
 - Active shooter training in warm zone for responding fire, EMS and law enforcement

ACTION ITEMS

- OOG policy advisor will clarify the rules of appointing a state employee to a legislatively mandated council.
- Ken Bell
 - Provide further update on PIRT for next meeting.
 - Provide David Coatney information on 501(c)(3) organization responses.
- Tim Loveland and David Coatney to research different disciplines for appointments to FRAC.

NEXT MEETING

- Late July/early August, 2016
- Summer meeting date TBD