

**Legislative Coordinating Commission
Preparedness for Terrorism and Disasters Working Group
Friday, February 8, 2008
2:30 PM
Room 112, Capitol**

Present:

Rep. Chris DeLaForest
Rep. Ryan Winkler
Sen. Linda Higgins
Steve Andreasen
Kristi Rollwagen (designate for Rocco Forte)

Excused:

Rep. Carolyn Laine
Sen. Terri Bonoff
Sen. Warren Limmer
Karen Anderson
Dr. Michael Osterholm

Rep. Winkler called the meeting to order at 2:44 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Steve Andreasen moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2007 meeting.
MOTION PREVAILED.

State Emergency Management Funding

Cathy Clark, the acting Director of Emergency Management for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), gave an overview of MnDOT's Emergency Management Section, which is responsible for overall emergency preparedness and training activities. Ms. Clark reviewed the funding sources for the Emergency Management Section, which include both state appropriations and federal funding. Federal funding sources include homeland security grants, the urban area security initiative and the critical infrastructure grant. Ms. Clark stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Scott Wiggins, Director of the Division of Emergency Communication Networks for the Department of Public Safety, gave a status report on the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) program. Mr. Wiggins reviewed the ARMER vision and plan. He pointed out the goal of the ARMER program is interoperability. Mr. Wiggins then reviewed 2007 legislation, ARMER studies, the ARMER timeline and ARMER participation. Mr. Wiggins stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Emergency Management Programs in Other States

Kenneth Backhus, Senate Counsel; Chris Turner, Senate Fiscal Analyst; Jeff Diebel, House Research; and Mark Shepard, House Research, gave an overview of emergency management and homeland security functions in other states. Mr. Backhus reviewed the three general organizational structures employed by states for their homeland security functions. He then reviewed the three guiding principles that assist states in determining an appropriate homeland security structure.

Mr. Backhus gave an overview of the homeland security structure of Wisconsin. He noted that in Wisconsin the governor has appointed a Homeland Security Council and designated a Homeland Security Advisor to coordinate policy on homeland security issues.

Mr. Diebel reviewed the homeland security structure of Indiana. He noted that in 2005 Indiana combined their homeland security services into one unified Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Diebel reviewed the homeland security structure of California. He noted California has an Office of Homeland Security, an Office of Emergency Services, and a Strategic Committee on Terrorism that report to the governor.

Mr. Turner reviewed the homeland security structure of Iowa. He noted the Iowa Department of Homeland Security is housed under the Iowa Department of Public Defense and reports to the lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor serves as the Homeland Security Advisor and reports to the governor. Mr. Turner then gave an overview of homeland security in Michigan. He noted the Department of Homeland Security Management is a specialized division within the Michigan Department of State Police. The Homeland Security Advisor in Michigan is housed in the Department of Military Affairs.

Kris Eide, Director of the Department of Public Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), addressed questions of the Working Group on homeland security structures in other states. She also reviewed the complexities of the homeland security structures and gave an overview of the homeland security structure in Minnesota. Ms. Eide stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Next Meeting

Rep. Winkler announced the next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for March 7, 2008. At the meeting, the Working Group will look at public health as it relates to emergency management.

There being no further business Rep. Winkler adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.