

# Secure & Resilient Commonwealth Panel

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## Approved Meeting Minutes

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March 22, 2019

West Reading Room- Patrick Henry Building

1111 East Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23219

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m

### **Attendees:**

Brian Moran, Chairman and Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Brian Ball, Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Daniel Carey, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Carlos Hopkins, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation

Michael Hamlar

Elizabeth Leffel

Dr. Jonathan Newmark

Dr. M. Norman Oliver

Dr. Andrew Ramsey

Jim Redick, Director of Emergency Management, City of Norfolk

Charles Werner

Col. Gary Settle, Superintendent Virginia State Police

Dr. Jeff Stern, State Coordinator of Emergency Management

Major General Tim Williams, The Adjutant General of Virginia

Cathie Hutchens, for Attorney General of Virginia

Delegate Todd Gilbert

Senator Bryce Reeves

Executive Secretary Karl Hade, Supreme Court of Virginia

### **Welcoming Remarks**

Secretary Brian Moran, Chair, opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance. He provided an update on discussions at the NGA's recent Homeland Security Advisor Meeting in Washington, DC.

### **Member Introductions**

All Panel members introduced themselves.

## **Adoption of Minutes**

Panel Member Jim Redick submitted a motion for adoption, seconded by Panel member Joe Bourchard. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

## **Overview of HSEC- Secretary Moran**

Secretary Moran stated the following HSEC priorities:

- Cybersecurity & internet of things
  - Persistent and growing threat and opportunity
  - Attended Congressional workshop seeking present and future solutions
- Natural disasters
  - Virginia is always prone, 2018 a record year for disasters.
  - Must remain ready and resilient
- Decline of grants, \$69M in 2007 to \$18M this year (70% decline)
  - Significant disadvantage to public safety and homeland security sustainment
- Election security
- School safety
  - Bi-partisan support
  - School Resource Officers critical link

## **Chemical Pollution Incidences - John Giese, DEQ Pollution Response Programs**

- Reviewed the Pollution Response program with emphasis on chemical incidences.
  - Placing the threat in context, described the Union Carbide airborne chemical release in Bhopal India that killed nearly 4000 citizens.
  - West Virginia Elk River chemical spill that poisoned drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people.
- DEQ pollution response serves as:
  - Administrative support
  - Public and industry outreach
  - Information clearing house
  - Provides support to EPA for enforcement
- Explained public safety responsibilities
  - Designate Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC)
    - Appoint members
    - Review local Emergency Management Plans
  - Supervise and coordinate LEPC's
    - Dr Stern contributed that not all LEPCs are active in VA and that VDEM staff serves to bridge gaps.
    - Dr Stern also contributed that the State Emergency Response Council (SERC) was established in Virginia under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act.
      - The SERC
        - Processes information requests
        - Ensures public and industry awareness of reporting requirements

- Any facility that handles or stores hazardous material is bound by reporting requirements
    - Receives pollution release notifications and ensures localities are notified
      - Verbally and in writing
- Giese explained that the primary program intent is transparency of threats. Stern added that the program allows communities and responders to understand what is stored in their area and where. Stern also indicated that chemical pollution threats should be included in the C-THIRA, and cautioned occurrences of Federal under-representation of chemical pollution incidents in Virginia. Talmadge added that Federal facilities do not have to report raw chemicals, and that the SRCP has oversight of the SERC and appointments to the LEPC. Stern indicated that VDEM will continue to support emergency planning and support of LECPs and DEQ will manage the hazardous chemical facility data base.

### **2018 Disaster Services – Dr Jeff Stern, VDEM**

- 2018 was record disaster year
  - 16 disasters
  - 119 assessments ongoing within localities
  - Estimate \$174M in damages
  - Two FEMA joint field offices
    - Roanoke
    - Hanover
  - Small Business Administration is engaged
- \$500M in disaster recovery operations since Stern assumed State Coordinator position (2014)
- IGA completed review of disaster recovery finance
  - Recommended merger of disaster recovery, finance, and grants staffs
- FEMA reported that Virginia has gone from worst to first in disaster services and is a model for handling disaster recovery projects
- Federal grants are diminishing.
  - Distributed \$18M in 2018, \$30M less than 2008.
- Hurricane Florence
  - Highly unpredictable,
  - Louisiana Governor's Office review commended VA for decisions and actions in evacuation and sheltering.
- National disaster trends
  - Past two seasons: unprecedented number: hurricanes, fires, volcanoes
  - FEMA directed \$80-100B on disasters
    - equivalent to first 30 years of its existence
  - Federal support for EM and homeland security to states is at an all-time low.

## **Homeland Security Division Update- Shawn Talmadge**

- Interoperability
  - State Communication Interoperability Plan update delayed due to Federal government shut down
  - COMLINC
    - GA has fully funded expansion and refresh
    - Will be overseen by VSP
  - STARS Funding - GA fully funded system
  - FIRSTNET – no new updates
- Cybersecurity
  - Unite the Right II
    - VFC played large role in successful operation
  - Cyber workshops - hosted across commonwealth - included IT, LE, and EM
  - DMA Cyber Assessments –
    - 17 completed
    - Requires sustainable funding
  - Election security
    - Cyber Task Force created
      - joint state/federal venture
- Unmanned Systems
  - CIT - regional workshops
    - Designed to engage public safety and share best practices
    - Will include Counter UAS tech demo - day long workshop with federal partners
  - Department of Aviation Report
    - posted first draft recommendations on how states and localities can implement UAS

## **Public Safety UAS Sub-Panel Update – Charles Werner**

- Expressed need to develop statewide strategy for unmanned/manned air traffic
- Shared Sub-Panel findings:
  - Confusion over number of laws in place
  - Commended Moran and Talmadge for UAS support
- Stated that number of state agencies using UAS increased from two in 2017 to over 50 in 2018
- Leveraging CIT partnership
  - posting of best practices
- Presented UAS use cases

## **Health & Human Resources Sub-Committee Brief- Bob Mauscapf, HHR**

- Reviewed agenda of last meeting;
  - June 13 is next meeting
- Provided overview of AAR from Hurricane Florence
  - Leveraged FEMA emergency ambulance contract
  - Staffed EOC

- Tracked storm related fatalities
- Deployed 34 nurses to NC - left just after landfall to NC
- AAR complete
- Published emPOWER data that provides info on medicade and medicare individuals who might be in threatening areas
- Briefed Spring National Level Exercise: Hurricane Fury
- Reviewed State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) capability
- Reviewed capabilities of Hampton Roads Medical Strike Team
- Reviewed funding status
  - 22 million annually and hasn't changed much

**Virginia Department of Health, Dr. Deberry**

- VDH focusing on climate change and potential impacts to populations. Formed at Climate Change Committee to study:
  - Heat stress
  - Impacts of water
  - Increases of infectious diseases
  - Alpha blooms
  - Sea level rise
  - Infrastructure damage; septic systems
  - EM community to educate citizens
    - Moran asked if Commonwealth Resilience Officer, RADM Phillips has been engaged. Answer- yes, as a sub-set of overall effort
- Former NASA Director is now chief medical officer in eastern shore/HR region
- Commended VDEM and DSS for sheltering presentations
- Disease and Vaccination Trends:
  - Flu - not as severe as other years
    - 3 pediatric deaths
    - 93.2% vaccinated
    - Recommend adults receive vaccine
  - National Trends
    - 2017: four state outbreak with 41 deaths (KY, CA, MI, and Utah) - mostly homeless and drug users
      - States received limited federal funds to deal with outbreaks - very costly
    - *Question from Ramsey: Are we doing something right in VA?*
      - *Answer: Some is timing; very possible we could have an outbreak, trying to get ahead but very challenging due to at risk populations*
    - *Question from Hamlar: What is the average cost of vaccination?*
      - *Answer: \$30-\$100*
    - *Question from Hamlar: what is the threshold for outbreak?*
      - *Answer: Depends on condition*
  - Measles - used to not be a risk; now number of cases have doubled
  - Ebola – Reported outbreak in Congo –
    - 921 cases with 63% fatality rate

**Opioid Data Pilot Project - Carlos Rivero, PSHS Chief Data Officer**

- Reviewed benefits of drug sharing platform to assist LE and public health to target populations and prevent overdoses
- Provided demo of the platform; focused on use cases in Winchester Virginia.
  - Can look at correlations over time to see when spikes occur
- *Point from Moran:*
  - *would like to expand pilot to see what is going on across Commonwealth and have data drive policy decisions*

**Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**Closing Remarks**

Secretary Moran thanked all for their participation and commitment to the Secure and Resilient Panel.