

Secure Commonwealth Panel

December 10, 2008

House Room 3, State Capitol

Attendees: Paula Burnette, David Smith, Marc Follmer, Kelly Hobbs, Jim Horton, Algie Howell, Dan Jenkins, John Knapp, Greg Lucyk, Dario Marquez, John Marshall, Marcus Martin, Cathie Hutchins, Leigh Middleditch, Mike Neuhard, John O'Bannon, Jeffrey Rezin, Norris Royston, Jack Sawicki, Beverly Sherwood, Henry Stanley, Jim Burns, John Watkins, and Ron Keys.

WELCOMING REMARKS

(Bob Crouch was absent due to attending two national conferences.) Marc Follmer opened the meeting by thanking the panel for their attendance and dedication. Mr. Follmer then introduced the Sub Panel Reports.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SUB PANEL REPORT

Leigh Middleditch

There are four components to the Business and Industry Sub Panel, which are (1) Liability Protection, (2) Credentialing, (3) Education, and (4) Information Sharing.

LIABILITY PROTECTION

Marc Follmer provided an update on the liability protection legislation that will go forward to the General Assembly. The legislation will provide liability protection to businesses and non-profits that assist in emergency recovery activities by providing personnel, equipment, etc. The proposed legislation will encompass the individual and employer. The draft legislation has been vetted through the Virginia Trail Lawyers who had concerns on the extent of immunity. Private sector entities will be more willing to assist in recovery actions if they know they are covered for liability protection. The bill may change before it formally goes before the General Assembly. Patrons are being sought.

CREDENTIALING

This effort is based on the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina.

The Priority Access Stakeholder System (PASS) is pattern after the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' hunting and fishing license system, where businesses can apply for a credential to gain access to an area post-disaster. Target has issued a small grant for this project; however, more funding and IT support is needed. The PASS will be on the agenda for upcoming Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees to garner support.

EDUCATION

The Business Continuity of Operations Plan project is seeking a web developer. The Sub Panel has approached a few universities for support, but have not received any interested sponsor as of yet. The program will be based on Exxon Mobile and Wal-Mart continuity of operations plans. If you have any ideas for funding, please let us know.

Marc attended the American National Standards Institute, which featured panels on standards and the business case for certification. The Department of Homeland Security has chosen ANSI to design the standard. Large elements of the National Fire Protection Association standard 1600 will be incorporated. The Sub Panel is exploring funding opportunities.

INFORMATION AND SHARING

There is a recognized need for state and local governments to exchange information with the private sector, especially in critical infrastructure. The Sub Panel is looking to customize the state's alerting notification program for their information sharing initiative where businesses can sign up to receive email or text messages on an upcoming emergency/event. Also, the Sub Panel is exploring a web based program where businesses can go online to view pertinent information specific to their interest. The following are two methods currently being used by state government that might be able to help establish a system for businesses to receive critical messages:

1. The Virginia Statewide Alert Network (SWAN) delivers important emergency alerts immediately.
2. The Citizen Alerting Process gives those who sign up a message of importance about an emergency/disaster. The message can be particular to your jurisdiction, such as Virginia Beach residents receiving messages regarding hurricanes.

Unfortunately last spring, the Department of Taxation did not provide guidance to retailers on the details of the Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday until the week of the event. This year the Sub Panel is working with the Department of Taxation on better planning efforts. The Retail Merchants Association is interested in installing displays advertising the tax holiday and providing in-store materials. Dominion Power has included a statement on invoices to their customers on the upcoming Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday. The Sub Panel would like to work with others on promoting this holiday to expand participation.

Marc is attending a meeting with the Business Executives for National Security (BENS), which is a nationwide, non-partisan organization and is the primary channel through which senior business executives can help enhance the nation's security.

The Sub Panel thanked John Knapp for finally setting up a Business Outreach Working Group within the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION SUB PANEL REPORT

John Knapp

Please see PowerPoint Slides.

The Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Strategic Plan implementation process has started. CRA has been hired to be the project manager of the 18 sector specific plans. Sector interviews and workshops are being scheduled to move forward.

A kick-off meeting was held November 18 to identify the lead agencies for each sector. The meeting went well. Some agencies, like the Virginia Department of Transportation, are

progressing with rapid speed, but others have had a hard time beginning and finding the right personnel to work on this project.

One of the challenges is to acquire support from the private sector.

This is a year long process with quarterly meetings. A draft should be produced by June 2009 with a final implementation plan in October.

FIRST RESPONDER SUB PANEL REPORT

Colonel Henry W. Stanley, Jr.

From last meeting, the Sub Panel is still reviewing language to the mutual aid private university legislation. The legislation has been reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and hopefully will be a Governor's Bill during this year's General Assembly.

See Handouts.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUB PANEL REPORT

Delegate John O' Bannon III

The health and medical stakeholder group met on December 9 and was well attended with Dr. Martin and Dr. Royston participating. Chief Justice Hassell addressed the group and was engaged in the issue of how Pan Flu affects the court system.

The City of Chesapeake is completing a survey of nursing homes, assisted living homes, and group homes in their locality. This information will be provided to first responders in case of emergency/disaster events. The City of Chesapeake is not the first jurisdiction to perform such a survey. Ron Keys from the City of Norfolk has used portions of the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant to fund a project incorporating special needs population and plugging their information/location of facilities into WebEOC. Also would like to take this further and put the data into GIS.

Colonel Stanley mentioned that Henrico County had an occasion to inventory their nursing/assisted living homes and were surprised to learn how difficult it is to reach out and find these facilities.

There are so many different facilities in Virginia; the Department of Social Services has 300 long-term care license facilities with minimal to full staffing, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services have half-way group homes, and then there are the shut-ins. It is a very difficult area to survey and keep track of numbers.

See PowerPoint Slides.

Virginia received a perfect score for the second consecutive year in an annual report evaluating the nation's preparedness efforts for major health and public health emergencies.

Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on Dec. 9 released the sixth annual "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and

Bioterrorism" report, which casts a critical eye on national and state emergency preparedness efforts since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The report contains state-by-state health preparedness scores based on 10 key indicators to assess areas of capabilities in our nation's effort to prepare against bioterrorism and other large-scale health emergencies. Virginia was among five states that received top scores this year and was the only state to repeat its leading performance from 2007.

Citing commendable disaster preparedness plans and well-funded injury prevention programs, but poor overall access to emergency care, Virginia received a grade of C for the state's overall support of emergency patients in the American College of Emergency Physicians' (ACEP) National Report Card on the State of Emergency Medicine. Virginia ranked 23rd overall in the report, receiving a high mark of B+ for Disaster Preparedness, and a low grade of D- for Access to Emergency Care.

OUTREACH SUB PANEL REPORT

Greg Lucyk

The Sub Panel goals are to (1) examine outreach efforts cross-agency, state and local government and try not to duplicate efforts, but to make more efficient; (2) Communications – try to reach people more effectively and to help them understand the preparedness message; (3) Special needs including the elderly and the non-English speaking population; and (4) Focus on preparedness education to grades K-12.

Outreach Sub Panel met on November 4. The staffing for the Sub Panel is in flux with Susan Mongold leaving the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and Julie Stanley unable to participate with the Sub Panel, both of their work was appreciated. Ed Turner will step in for Julie Stanley and Curtis Brown will be the support staff from the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness.

The Outreach Sub Panel has a link to their own website on the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness webpage where meeting minutes, updates and other information is posted. You can view their page at

http://www.ocp.virginia.gov/Governance/SCP_outreachsubpanel.cfm.

The major topic of interest to the group is the special needs population and trying to identify and reach them. It is vitally important to make sure assisted living facilities have an effective emergency preparedness plan and identify any gaps in the plan. There seems to be no common scheme to ensure these plans are reviewed. Although the state relies on the local emergency managers to assist in reviewing these plans; sometimes even the local emergency managers are not aware of all the facilities in their area. Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources Aryana Khalid is completing a list of group homes by locality and this will be distributed to the localities for their information.

The Outreach Sub Panel would like to have a workshop track at the upcoming Virginia Emergency Management Conference on special needs with Ron Keys (Urban) and Paula Burnette (Rural) providing their perspectives.

The next meeting of the Sub Panel should be in January.

READY VIRGINIA UPDATE

Bob Spieldenner

Please see PowerPoint Slides.

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Please see Handout.

OUTREACH DISCUSSION

The panel discussed ways of reaching out to the immigrant population. The Governor's Immigration Commission reported that 1 in 10 Virginians are from outside the country. In Northern Virginia, the court system had to fund translators who are fluent in 28 languages. It was noted that the highest immigrant population is Asian. These statistics were stunning and the panel believes that addressing communication should be a key issue in preparedness marketing efforts. The state might want to reach out to Chambers of Commerce when promoting preparedness, such as the Korean Chamber of Commerce who is willing to distribute information out to its members.

The panel noted that marketing for the Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday needs to be more creative and trigger the consumer's mind to know that this holiday comes around once a year before hurricane season. Also have flyers on preparedness set up near the bottled water displays or have a checklist near the batteries section. Get people thinking.

Use Back Pack Mail as a marketing area. Back Pack Mail is what teachers give to their students and the students take home to their parents. We should start including flyers on preparedness. Push the parents to action.

Come up with a universal symbol for preparedness that could be used on batteries or water to advertise the effort. Might not want to use the checkmark (seen on Ready Virginia Campaigns), people might confuse with Virginia First Products.

The state might want to look into partnering with Food Banks, which have seen an increase in customers.

LUNCH

Wanda Willis from Harrisonburg Fire Department asked the Panel to re-consider supporting legislation on novelty lighters. Please see handout on statistics on fire resulting in lighters (these are not broken down by novelty lighters). No action was discussed.

BUSINESS CREDENTIALING

Marc Follmer

During and after Katrina, there was mass confusion regarding credentials. Each jurisdiction in Louisiana had their own credential and if you were a first responder or business, you had to go through the process of getting all these different credentials before entering a disaster zone. Businesses would be very appreciative if there were uniform standards/credentials.

Virginia would like to use the Priority Access Stakeholder System (PASS), a web-based system that would produce documents/credentials that are pre-printed by businesses allowing them into areas after disasters. PASS is a post-event credential system and would relieve some responsibility off of state government.

The PASS would help with checkpoint security and provide the Incident Commander with immediate notification whether this person is approved for entrance. The First Responder Sub Panel and the Virginia State Police have endorsed this project. This will also give citizens of the destroyed community a sense of relief or comfort to shop in their own stores. The Sub Panel is in discussions with the business community on this new project.

It does not make sense to pre-position water when Wal-Mart or some other company can provide this commodity. This will free up state resources.

There is no standard in Virginia on business credentialing. During the floods in Franklin, Virginia, the Local Law Enforcement decided who could enter the disaster zone; if the local police knew you personally, then you were granted admittance.

The problem is funding. Target has provided a small grant to begin the project; however, more is needed. Dominion has showed interest and could become a lead donor, which means they can design the system in house and donate it back to the state.

This initiative has been briefed to the All Hazard Consortium and other neighboring states have showed interest. Discussions are underway with them.

FIRST RESPONDER AUTHENTICATION CREDENTIAL

Mike McAllister

Please see PowerPoint Slides.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Wimberly Fair

Please see PowerPoint Slides.

Vision slide:

- Change to “governments”.
- One panel member said the Vision was too ambitious and others said visions usually are ambitious.
- It should mention “individual or citizen preparedness”.

Goal 1

- Maintain and enhance – separate the verbs.
- Does not sound right, reword.
- Is this goal specific to surge? Yes, surge is a target capability.

- Might want to mention national/international compliance.

Goal 2

- Expand beyond CBRNE; might want to mention sniper incidents, college campus shootings, non-CBRNE events.

Goal 4

- Info Systems – what systems; too broad and vague. Needs to be more specific.
- Include individuals and citizens.
- A panel member voiced their concern about if this goal is attainable. We get intelligence information from the Fusion Center, but it is data they want to release (it might not be all the information). Intelligence agencies do not even share information with each other.

Goal 6

- Sounds mandatory - it is, based on Executive Order 44.
- Expand to other agencies other than higher education, such as health care systems, court systems, appeal systems, public/private education and home school.

Goal 7

- Delete “minimally”.
- Reword, “increase the number of Virginians.....”

Goal 8

- Too broad.
- May disappear.
- Sounds like an objective, not a goal.
- Businesses need to be included, along with courthouses.

Goal 10

- Reword, “Develop a strategy for development” does not sound right.
- Special needs may need their own, stand alone goal.

CLOSING

Marc Follmer thanked the panel for their participation and adjourned the meeting.