

A G E N D A

Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security

Thursday, February 24, 2005

7:30 - 9:00 am

Senate Committee Room 354

State Capitol

SUMMARY FOLLOWS AGENDA

Call to Order

- I. Review of State Agencies' Roles in Homeland Security
 - Michael Beasley, Executive Director, Department of Local Affairs
 - Douglas Benevento, Executive Director, Department of Public Health & Environment
 - Joe Morales, Executive Director, Department of Public Safety

- II. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Thursday, March 3 (not confirmed)

 - Dr. Murray Hamilton, Rocky Mountain Center for Homeland Defense, University of Denver
 - Urban Area Security Initiative
 - Critical Infrastructures
 - Northern Command (US Department of Defense Agency Co-located with NORAD at Peterson Air Force Base)
 - Paul Nelson, Network Services Manager, Division of Information Technologies, Department of Personnel and Administration
 - Digital Trunked Radio System
 - Dana Hansen, Denver Police Department
 - Interoperable Communications

Thursday, March 10 (not confirmed)

 - Patricia A. Gabow, Denver Health
 - Bioterrorism Preparedness Efforts at Denver Health

Future Agendas (to be determined)

 - Public testimony?
 - Testimony from private sector / private vendors?
 - Western Slope tour April 9 or April 16?

Adjourn

Final

STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Date: 02/24/2005

ATTENDANCE

Time: 07:34 AM to 08:53 AM

Isgar X

Teck *

Place: SCR 354

Wiens X

Hagedorn *

This Meeting was called to order by

Grossman X

Senator Grossman

This Report was prepared by

Carl Jarrett

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

07:35 AM -- Review of State Agencies' Roles in Homeland Security

Michael Beasley, Executive Director, Department of Local Affairs, spoke to the responsibilities of the Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Local Affairs (Attachment A). He explained how the division works with first responders in local governments, most notably providing training exercises. He reviewed the work of the Multi Agency Coordination Center that is charged to ensure continuity of government in the event of a disaster in Colorado (Attachment B). He reviewed other programs and indicated that as the programs he works with mature, the coordination of services and responses in the case of an emergency improve.

With regards to the grant process, Mr Beasley spoke to the regional process that has been implemented by which grants are submitted by region and equipment purchases are coordinated (Attachments C and D). In 2002, the state received just over \$5 million dollars in grant funding. Priority was given to purchasing specialized equipment to enhance first responders' capacity to respond to incidents of terrorism involving the use of chemical and biological agents as well as radiological and explosive devices. For the 2003 funding cycle, \$50.1 million went towards conducting incident simulation exercises, planning, training, equipment, and funding to major metropolitan areas. The Denver Office of Emergency Management conducted a series of tabletop exercises simulating a terrorist attack on a Denver high rise building. Other exercises were conducted in Prowers County, Baca County, Mesa County, the City of Brighton, and by the Central Mountain Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council encompassing Chaffee, Eagle, Lake, Park, Pitkin, and Summit Counties. In 2004, Colorado received \$45.5 million in grant funding. The priorities for that money were enhancing local capacity and enhancing regional cooperation. As in prior funding cycles, much of the grant funding was used to purchase equipment and to conduct exercises. In addition, priority was given to helping local communities and regions with planning and with the application grant process.

Mr. Beasley indicated there are multiple revenue streams from the federal government aside from grants. In 2005, \$14.2 million is available for regional exercises, regional training, and coordination via the State Homeland Security Program. Another \$5.1 million is available from the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program to enhance security and overall preparedness to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. Further, \$8.7 million is available from the Urban Area Security Initiative to address the unique planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-risk urban areas.

Mr. Beasley remarked that, with regards to media reports that the state is sitting on grant moneys, that is not the case. He explained that the federal government specifies what money is available and leaves it to states via the grant process to guarantee that those dollars are available to local governments. Local governments then make down payments with their own moneys for equipment and other needs and provide their receipts to the state to begin the

reimbursement process. He further explained that his office must work through procurement processes and grant processes. He refuted claims that the state is in jeopardy of losing grant moneys acknowledging that grants have a life span and grant funds that are not used are lost. He indicated that will not happen in this program.

Mr. Beasley reviewed a funding sources document (Attachment E) that lists, by region and jurisdiction, grant awards by funding source, the amount awarded, the type of award, the agency receiving the award, and the amount received. He explained that some jurisdictions receive money from more than one source so that while Aurora, for instance, is listed as receiving one amount, they also get money from Urban Area Security Initiative which is not indicated on this list.

Mr. Beasley then reviewed 2003 and 2004 Part I and Part II State Homeland Security and Urban Area Security Initiative grants (Attachment F) including state awards, reimbursements, expenditures, costs, encumbrances, and balances.

07:55 AM

Doug Benevento, Executive Director, Department of Public Health and Environment, spoke to the state's bioterrorism program. He said the state has received \$28 million in grants and he explained how that money was used. Mr. Benevento further spoke to \$17 million in hospital bioterrorism grants the state has received and how those funds were used.

Mr. Benevento indicated that Colorado was prepared for bioterrorism attacks prior to September 11, 2001 and he gave an overview of state and local government coordination in this area. The state supports 36 positions across the state to ensure response efforts are integrated and coordinated. Adequate communications equipment is one way to ensure coordinated responses. In September of 2004, the state conducted a mass vaccination exercise which speaks to the state's preparedness. Mr. Benevento indicated that more than 6,500 individuals in the state were vaccinated in 7 hours. As a result, the state is prepared to pull off a mass vaccination plan in a short period of time. Mr. Benevento also reviewed other incidents proving the state's response preparedness such as the recent incident in which a woman on an airplane appeared to be sick resulting in the quarantine of the plane. He provided other examples of hospital system operations and exercises to illustrate how coordination between state and local governments and health agencies demonstrate the state's preparedness. Mr. Benevento indicated that four emergency response exercises are scheduled for this summer.

08:05 AM

Joe Morales, Executive Director, Department of Public Safety, spoke to grants applied for by his agency and the progress his agency has made to date. He reviewed his department's accomplishments over the past year: in January, 2004, the state homeland security strategy and assessment report was completed, submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and approved. The report documented needs and resources, and also contained assessments of Colorado's infrastructure and equipment needs.

Mr. Morales spoke to the need to move the grant process from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Local Affairs. He explained how grant moneys received were used to conduct exercises, buy equipment, and provide training, and he reviewed other efforts such as the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Mr. Morales talked about vulnerability assessments and how they are conducted in conjunction with the National Guard and he spoke to the kinds of buildings on which assessments were conducted. He finally indicated that terrorism training has been instituted as part of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board certification curriculum.

08:14 AM

Senator Grossman asked questions about the progress of the implementation of prevention and response protocols required by HB 02-1315. Mr. Morales responded that the plans have been completed and are located on the Office of Preparedness, Security, and Fire Safety (OPSFS) website. Mr. Morales indicated that protocols for Emergency Medical Services units and fire safety units have been completed as well.

In response to questions about state agency security assessments, Mr. Morales indicated the assessments are in process. Karl Wilmes, Director, OPSFS, said while 19 assessments have been completed, assessments have not been completed on all state facilities.

With regard to resource mobilization plans and the inventorying of EMS units, hazardous materials response units, and fire safety agencies, Mr. Morales said about half of the agencies have been inventoried. He indicated that fire departments and health departments are participating in resource mobilization plans. In response to questions from Senator Wiens about a database of available resources for firefighting and all hazard response units, Mr. Morales indicated that all fire agencies are participating in the resource mobilization plan.

Paul Cooke, Director, Division of Fire Safety, explained that most of the conversation about resource management plans seems to revolve around fire departments and not other agencies because of the need to spend time on resource standards for other agencies. He clarified that even though a little more than half of agencies participate in the resource management plan, those agencies represent more than 90 percent of the state. The division is working to get smaller departments and other kinds of agencies to participate in the plan. Mr. Morales remarked that resource typing is easy for fire departments, but getting participation and buy-in from law enforcement agencies is not as easy. This is a new concept for other disciplines for this kind of effort but progress is being made. In response to continuing committee questions about the lack of more participation and progress, Mr. Cooke remarked there will never be 100 percent participation given there is no law requiring participation. He again indicated that a significant portion of the state is being covered. He clarified that nonparticipating departments are, for the most part, not full-time resource agencies. In some of these agencies, for instance, the fire chief is a volunteer with a full-time job and who can't devote the time needed to participate.

Senator Wiens spoke to the importance of having information on resources and equipment catalogued in a database so that when a fire chief needs to respond to a large fire but needs to save some resources for local needs, that chief should know, within the first 72 hours, what resources are already at the scene. He asked what kind of access a chief has to that information today. Mr. Cooke said that even though all of those resources are not catalogued, chiefs have access to that information. He explained how resources are prioritized and how information on resources is currently listed.

Senator Hagedorn asked whether, given Mr. Cooke's prior comments, the legislature should mandate participation in the resource management plan system. Senator Hagedorn acknowledged the conflict with the principle of local control should the General Assembly implement such a requirement. Mr. Cooke indicated the plan currently in place is more broad than what the statute contemplated. He remarked that the fact that law enforcement participation was not mandated in bill has become an issue only because of the broad all hazards approach agencies have taken as opposed to a limited terrorism approach.

Senator Hagedorn asked about efforts to protect information technology systems. He noted that if information technology capacities are lost, chaos will ensue. He questioned how the state is being proactive with regards to protecting information technology systems. Mr. Beasley indicated that the Department of Local Affairs is developing continuity of government plans for state agencies and other branches of government. The department has asked all agencies to examine protection plans. He remarked the plans undergo constant updating. In response to a committee question, Mr. Beasley indicated state information technology systems are always subject to cyber attacks and that such attacks are frequent. The Office of Innovation and Technology is addressing this issue.

Senator Wiens addressed the issue of ultimately having all functions related to homeland security under one roof and fully integrated under one department. He indicated he would, however, save that discussion for another day.

In response to Senator Hagedorn's earlier question regarding the integrity and vulnerability of critical infrastructures, power grids, power links, and information technology systems, Mr. Morales reminded committee members that these systems are, for the most part, in the hands of the private sector. He indicated that the state has worked with these entities to perform critical threat assessments and that productive partnerships have resulted.

Returning to questions regarding the implementation of HB 02-1315, Senator Grossman asked about the status of recommendations to be made to the General Assembly. Mr. Morales said legislative leadership has been briefed on the current status of implementation, on security issues, and on day-to-day operations. They have also been briefed on threat assessments done on the Capitol. He indicated that while the entire General Assembly has not been briefed he would be pleased to provide a similar briefing to the General Assembly.

With regards to the lack of recommendations made to the General Assembly, Senator Grossman stated his belief that there is a role for the General Assembly to play despite news reports claiming the opposite. He indicated that he would appreciate policy suggestions being made to the legislature and he remarked that the discussion around recommendations should not be confined to the executive branch. He suggested there may be a need for a more formal process to bring recommendations to the legislative branch. Mr. Beasley indicated that the legislative branch has formalized review processes via the Legislative Audit Committee and the Joint Budget Committee. In addition, he noted that the members of the committee have all been involved as individual legislators. Further, he noted that there are lots of formal processes through which the executive branch departments report to the General Assembly. He finally stated his openness to discuss ways to formalize and streamline decision making processes.

Senator Grossman indicated that the executive branch directors can expect to hear from committee members over next few weeks with more inquiries on communications between first responders, radio penetration for fire responders, and inquiries regarding public health and cyber security. He requested the directors' help with fact finding and recommendations.

08:52 AM

The committee adjourned.