



Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)



Training & Exercise and Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Conducted via Zoom Platform

March 10, 2021 – 1:30 P.M.

Members Present

Robert Kenn, E. Bridgewater DPW
Chief Mary Lyons, Mattapoissett PD
Chief Thomas Lynch, Franklin PD
Chief Brian Clark, Norton PD
Richard Brown, Somerset Town Administrator

Guests Present

Support Staff Present

Todd Castro, SRPEDD
Kevin Ham, SRPEDD
Jed Cornock, SRPEDD

Members Absent: Chief Kevin Partridge, Easton FD

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Kenn called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.
2. **Public Comment:** No public comments were provided.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** No action was taken on the December 1, 2020 draft minutes due to a lack of quorum.
4. **Fiduciary Report:** Mr. Ham mentioned that the subcommittee needs to figure out how they want to spend the 2021 funding. He reported that FY18 is just about spent, FY19 is half spent and the FY20 funds have not been touched yet. Mr. Ham mentioned funds are a little behind on spending due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sub-Committee Working Group/Project & Funding Discussions for FFY2021 Plan: Chairman Kenn mentioned the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was recently received, and he wanted to begin by discussing the five National Priorities. Mr. Ham indicated that the FY21 plan will need to have investments in those areas. He also mentioned some projects may end up in their own line items or they may fall into these new investment areas. Chairman Kenn asked if cybersecurity has its own line item. Mr. Ham indicated that there was a line item in the FY19 and FY20 plans. He indicated that in FY19, the cybersecurity funds were taken from T&E funds and in FY20, there is \$25,000 set aside, but it doesn't have any specific projects identified yet.

Chairman Kenn then asked if any of the police chiefs had any specific trainings that would satisfy these investment areas. Chief Lyons stated that there aren't any planned currently, but some type of joint effort amongst the three or four available LECs might be worthwhile. In terms of soft targets, she mentioned there hasn't been much investment for the venue in Mansfield and that might be an area to cover. Chief Lyons went on to say that Seth Bouvier from EOPPS sent out an email to the chairs yesterday, stating that he's willing to communicate with the program managers and the chairs regarding cybersecurity initiatives. She feels that a cybersecurity committee should be put together to ensure that the Council is working on the latest cybersecurity initiatives. She stated that Mr. Brown is doing the best he can on this topic but it would be great to have a small committee with people interested in cybersecurity. Chief Lyons mentioned that on Friday, she will be going with Tom Grady to meet with the Undersecretary of Homeland Security, along with Dermot Quinn and



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Scott from the Fusion Center to cover some of their recent initiatives. She mentioned they will be information and intelligence sharing and she will have more information after Friday. Mr. Brown mentioned that the cybersecurity group out of Cyber Resilience is still working on a program for cyber-month in October. Raine Brown from WRHSAC has been coordinating some of the training. Mr. Brown agreed that the Council needs to figure out a way to generate more interest locally. He said that they did have a couple of good programs last year, but it just didn't get the participation was expected. Chairman Kenn asked if Mr. Brown would chair that cybersecurity committee and Mr. Brown agreed to do so. Mr. Brown asked Chief Lyons to ask folks from the Fusion Center if they have a cyber-program that they can deliver to our region. He stated if the committee mentioned that a training was coming from the Fusion Center, there may be more interest. Chief Lyons agreed and noted that the Fusion Center did a terrific program in the Western region with participation from the FBI. She stated this could hopefully get this done in October or even sooner at one of the university big halls. Chief Lyons asked Mr. Ham to clarify the NOFO language as it relates to if the \$61,506 soft target investment area and if all of the funding has to be spent on that item. Mr. Ham stated that he believed that was the case. He mentioned that one project could satisfy multiple priorities and therefore make it easier, and maybe make the project more palatable. Chief Lyons stated it would be good to clarify if the money between line items could be moved around and indicated that it is a good question for MAPC and EOPSS. Mr. Ham mentioned there is a SWFT meeting coming up and he will ask then.

Chairman Kenn asked if the National Priorities percentages come off the top of the total funding and Mr. Ham replied that they do. Mr. Castro stated that the final plan is due on April 23rd and the initial project list is due by April 5th. Mr. Kenn asked what is needed from the committee to help the sub-fiduciary put the plan together. Mr. Ham stated that the committee needs to submit project ideas and the support staff will work to identify which investment area they fall into. Chief Lyons stated that basic and advance SWAT training are needed and indicated that each LEC might need something different. Chief Lyons stated that she does want to be conscious of that this year is the last year for the governmental group being under EOPSS supervision. Going forward, the Council needs to keep in mind that, it could be a whole new administration coming in, which could change the way the plan is developed. She mentioned that equipment and training for both law enforcement and fire services would be good to add.

Mr. Ham stated that many years ago the Council purchased gates and cameras for Brockton Area Transit (BAT) to provide support for a soft target. Chief Lynch asked if the Council could use the enhancing the protection of soft targets funds to purchase drones. He stated that static cameras aren't doing much when a soft target isn't in use and a drone would be much better to protect that site. Mr. Ham stated that drones would also fall into emerging threat type category which is another way to satisfy the NOFO requirements. He then mentioned that the purchase of drones would also need to include a description of the operating protocols that would be sent to FEMA. Mr. Ham also stated that exercises are a great way to satisfy several priority areas. With \$50,000 to \$60,000 worth of backfill and overtime for an exercise which is at a potential soft target and that is tied to violent extremism, these are great opportunities. Mr. Castro mentioned that Chief Clark mentioned the potential of purchasing drones in the past and indicated there may be an opportunity for a joint training with the east or the central regions. Chairman Kenn asked how many people are trained and licensed to run the drone for METRO LEC. Chief Lynch mentioned that four officers have their license and have passed the test. He mentioned it is part of the specialized services division, the detectives, and Lieutenant West runs it. Chief Lynch stated that they just did great trainings and there are many different venues that the drone can be used at. Mr. Castro asked if this is a possible project for both police and fire and Chairman Kenn indicated it was and asked



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that it include the cost to train people as well. Mr. Castro asked if Chief Lynch knew the cost for training and Chief Lynch indicated that he would get Mr. Castro more information.

Mr. Kenn asked if there was interest in including purchasing a BearCat and what category it would fall into. Chief Lyons stated that it falls in all categories. Mr. Kenn also asked if it could be financed or bought out right. Mr. Castro mention that SRAC cannot finance due to uncertain year-to-year funding. Mr. Ham mentioned that the Council could use FY20 or FY21 funding because it takes a while to purchase. Chief Clark mentioned that the BearCat can run up to \$300k to \$350k. Chief Lyons indicated that it should be included in the FY21 plan and indicated that if other regions are interested, it's possible to bring the cost down due to bulk purchasing.

Mr. Kenn mentioned that Chief Partridge is leaving the committee soon and he asked if this committee should start looking for some from fire services. Chief Lyons stated that she was going to reach out to Chief Lance Benjamino from Middleborough. She indicated he has been around for a while and she knows he is interested. Chief Lyons indicated that she is going to reach out to Rick Ferreira as well to provide representation from the Mass Care subcommittee.

Mr. Castro asked if active shooter is a major priority and asked if we want to keep it on the list. Chief Lyons stated that it is still a priority and should be added to the project list. Mr. Castro asked about Interop and if there are other investment sites or equipment of interest. Chief Clark stated that the Copicut tower has to be connected to High Rock and that effort would include other sites. Chief Clark indicated that although the main priority currently is Copicut and the equipment, but another site will be needed in the future. Mr. Ham mentioned that he is working with MAPC on bringing on an engineer to figure out the rest of the Southwest BAPER Network which will help firm up those potential future sites and their needs.

Mr. Castro asked about items for the cache sites. Chairman Kenn mentioned that message boards are always good to have as well as the water filled barriers. He mentioned that those water filled barriers could satisfy the enhancing the protection of soft targets and would be good items for the caches. Mr. Castro asked if the committee would like to purchase tents. Mr. Ham mentioned the tents are pretty easy to use, are good size (30' x 20'), and very usable. Chairman Kenn stated that it could be added to the project list.

Mr. Castro asked about ballistic vests and inquired about listing them in the FY21 plan. Chief Clark stated that they were just purchased and indicated FY21 would be too soon. Mr. Ham mentioned that new vest purchases wouldn't be included until the FY23 plan. Chief Lyons asked about another cache location. Chairman Kenn stated that he mentioned it to Rick Ferreira in Taunton and is interested in finding another host community. Chief Lyons indicated that Mr. Brown could send out information through his Town Administrators group looking for another potential cache site. Mr. Brown asked Chairman Kenn for more information that would be sent out and Chairman Kenn stated that he could reach out to if provided a mailing list. Mr. Brown agreed and indicated he would share the list with Chairman Kenn. Chairman Kenn stated that he felt that was enough to get the plan started and Mr. Castro mentioned that he would get the list started and fill in potential prices.

Chief Clark stated that having a cybersecurity subcommittee is a great idea. Chief Lyons stated that Mr. Brown can reach out to people he knows for volunteers that know about the subject. Mr. Ham stated that he knows the Central region added a cyber-seat to their Council. Mr. Brown asked how many on this call have applied for



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the Cyber Security Training that was recently awarded. Chief Clark mentioned his town did thru his school and did receive the grant. Chief Lynch stated that he was already doing training in his community.

Mr. Castro mentioned that he will work with Mr. Ham on the preliminary plan and would have to the group before the next meeting. He asked that if anyone had questions or ideas to please reach out to him or Mr. Ham.

5. **Old Business:** None
6. **New Business:** None
7. **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:** None
8. **Next Meeting/Adjournment:** Chairman Kenn adjourned the meeting at 2:26 P.M. The next meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 1:30 P.M. on Zoom.