

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

October 13, 2009
Room 535-N—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Mario Goico, Chairperson
Senator Jay Emler, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Anthony Hensley
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Senator Thomas Owens
Representative Dan Johnson
Representative Judith Loganbill
Representative Julie Menghini
Representative Lee Tafanelli

Staff Present

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees

Dr. Bob Hull, Director, Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools, Adjutant
General's Department
Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General of Kansas
William M. Chornyak, Deputy Director, Kansas Division of Homeland Security
Patrick Woods, School Board Member, USD 501
Jerry Tenbrink, Adjutant General's Training Coordinator
Superintendent Gary French, Osawatomie
Laura Jones, Kansas State Department of Education Title IV Coordinator
Superintendent Mike Roth, Clearwater
Superintendent Deb Baeuchle, Leavenworth
Superintendent Bob Diepenbrock, Flinthills
Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips, Kansas State Health Officer, Kansas Department of
Health and Environment
Kent Koehler, Chairperson, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

Thomas V. Thornton, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kansas Bioscience Authority
Captain John Eichkorn, Kansas Highway Patrol, Homeland Security Division
Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Oleen, Kansas National Guard Security Specialist

Others Attending

See attached list.

Morning Session

Vice-Chairperson Emler opened the meeting.

Emergency Preparedness at K-12 Schools (Attachment 1)

General Bunting spoke positively about the current collaboration and teamwork on the programs for preparedness and safety in Kansas public schools.

Dr. Bob Hull introduced school and state agency staff who would share information about the preparedness of schools. A PowerPoint presentation was reviewed by representatives of the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools (KC-SPS) and the Governor's Commission on Healthy and Prepared Schools.

Dr. Hull gave a brief review of need for an emphasis on school safety and preparedness, stating that approximately 25 percent of the population is in a school setting on a school day. Mr. Tenbrink spoke on events leading to formation of KC-SPS and its purpose, mission, and foundational duties.

Patrick Woods, Jerry Tenbrink, and Laura Jones explained the collaborative efforts of KC-SPS.

Superintendent Gary French elaborated on how disasters had taught superintendents and others many lessons which were useful in every community, in order to prepare more fully for a disaster. Disasters involve whole communities in resolving the many problems. For example, Osawatomie schools were used for housing during that community's summertime flooding in 2007, and the district lost students as a result of the flooding.

Dr. Hull reviewed the KC-SPS Mission Statement, its duties and responsibilities, Commission findings, guiding principles, and a position description for District Emergency Management Coordinator.

Early successes involving the Governor's proclamation were reviewed by Mr. Woods (Attachment 2).

Additional conferees reviewed various early "successes" in school preparedness:

- (1) Prepared Schools Week Activities and Kansas Safe and the Prepared Schools Conference, reviewed by Ms. Jones;

- (2) The KC-SPS working group, reviewed by Superintendent Mike Roth;
- (3) Hazards reviews at pilot schools, reviewed by Superintendent Deb Baeuchle; and
- (4) Graduate studies in preparedness by rural schools by Superintendent Bob Diepenbrock.

Dr. Hull explained the results of a recent school preparedness survey and had samples of classroom and building “crisis kits” to show to the Committee. He provided the Committee with a copy of the Crisis Management Action Outline ([Attachment 3](#)).

Recommendations for KC-SPS sustainability will be prepared by Dr. Hull and General Bunting for the Committee’s study at its next meeting.

Interspersed with the various presentations were questions from Committee members. Senator Hensley noted the Legislature should act on the requirement that schools must hold several drills and have a crisis plan. He asked that recommendations from the presenters on this area be sent to the Committee. He serves on a crisis committee at a school in his district and would provide a copy of its plan to the Committee.

Committee members asked questions on whether there is a standardized plan and whether each school district had provided the Committee with a copy of its crisis plan, as requested by this Committee in late 2007.

Jill Shelley provided the Committee a memorandum titled “Best Practices for School Crisis Plans and Submitted Plans” ([Attachment 4](#)).

NBAF Update

Tom Thornton gave an overview of the current status of the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), reviewed current projected costs, and explained a study requested by Congress is being conducted to validate the original risk assessment, to ensure that risk has been adequately identified and mitigated in planning for NBAF. The project is on schedule with an estimated \$650 million construction cost. A report from the National Academy of Sciences will be released soon.

Chairperson Goico noted a letter had been prepared on behalf of himself and Senator Emler and sent to Representative David Obey, Chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, and others urging support of the \$32 million FY 2010 budget request for the NBAF as included in the Senate Appropriations bill ([Attachment 5](#)).

The Committee recessed for lunch to reconvene at 1:40 p.m.

Afternoon Session

H1N1 Preparedness

Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips provided a Pandemic Influenza Update presentation. He reviewed what is known about this new microbe, the clinical picture, the unusual age pattern as compared to ordinary flu, the extent of this disease in the United States, the H1N1 picture in Kansas, potential impact of the disease, disease-control strategies in Kansas, guidance for schools and businesses, and the H1N1 flu vaccine ([Attachment 6](#)).

Dr. Eberhart-Phillips was asked why educational staff in a high-priority age group were not included on the priority list for vaccination. He responded that the federal group in charge of forming the priority list made that decision and this is an international disease, so various groups should not make changes. In response to other questions, he said that a person who had not had a confirmed case of H1N1 should be vaccinated, that the virus has shown few signs of mutation, and that people who were exposed to a similar infection in the 1950s may have some degree of immunity.

Homeland Security Initiatives in Kansas ([Attachment 7](#))

Major General Bunting provided an update on Homeland Security Programs in Kansas. He reviewed the Kansas Homeland Security Regions; the status of training venues at Crisis City, near Salina; and the annual business and industry forum scheduled for May 19-20, 2010, in Salina; and collaboration and partnership.

Bill Chornyak announced the first Biennial Kansas Security Summit would be held in Wichita, on December 8, 9, and 10, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (copy of program included with Attachment 7). He reviewed the staffing and funding source of his division; vulnerability assessments provided to facilities such as courthouses, schools, and chemical plants; buffer zone protection program goals; buffer zone protection plans; unique assessments, such as a vulnerability assessment of Cedar Crest; and the assessment process.

Captain John Eichkorn reviewed homeland security grants. (The Patrol is the state administrative agency for those federal grants and is advised by the Governor's Council on Homeland Security.) Those grants totaled approximately \$13 million in FY 2008 and FY 2009.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Oleen explained the Kansas Fusion Center and its role in analyzing and sharing security information.

General Bunting concluded by noting that Homeland Security in Kansas is a collaborative effort among federal, state, private industry, and local agency officials to ensure that Kansans are prepared for all contingencies.

Communications Interoperability Update

Kent Koehler presented information about Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) membership; the SIEC's goals; accomplishments in each region toward interoperability of radio and data communications; the strategic technology reserve, including upgrades for

“communications on wheels” vehicles; and the status of the motobridge interoperability gateway. He also provided:

- (1) Executive Order 07-27, which established the SIEC;
- (2) Color-coded maps on Kansas Department of Transportation 800 MHz Tower Sites; and
- (3) Letters from Keith Haberer, Chairperson of the Northwest Kansas Homeland Security Region, and Don Button, Chairperson of the Southwest Kansas Regional Emergency Planning Council, encouraging the State of Kansas to continue its support of interoperability by completing the remaining 23 site conversions (Attachment 8).

In response to a Committee member’s question, Mr. Koehler said he would find an estimate of moneys needed to convert the last counties to P25 capability.

Announcements

Chairperson Goico announced the next meeting of the Committee would be held on October 27. At that time, the Committee will be reviewing suggestions for possible legislation which those making presentations at this meeting were asked to provide, and it will hear briefings on additional topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by Ann McMorris
Edited by Jill Shelley

Approved by Committee on:

October 27, 2009

(Date)