



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Committee on Finance

Attendance	DATE	March 3, 2022	
	TIME	2:00 p.m.	
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Melissa Friend	
Voting Member Attendance			
Name	Title/Organization		Present
Joseph Lombardo - CHAIR	Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department		X
Greg Herrera - VICE CHAIR	Chief Deputy, Operations, Washoe County Sheriff's Office		X
Mike Brown	State Government Affairs Director, R&R Partners		X
Christopher Lake	Executive Director, Community Resilience, Nevada Hospital Association		X
Carolyn Levering	Emergency Management Administrator, City of Las Vegas		X
Erin Lynch	Chief, Nevada Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy		X
Stan Smith	Vice President, Emergency Management, Boyd Gaming Corporation		X
Non-Voting Member Attendance			
David Fogerson	Chief, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security		X
Level Staff / Support Attendance			
Samantha Ladich	Senior Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Office of the Attorney General		X
Melissa Friend	Nevada Division of Emergency Management		X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair, Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, called the meeting to order. Melissa Friend, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS) performed the roll call. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Lombardo opened the first period of public comment. Melissa Friend informed the Committee that no written comment had been provided to the Committee. No verbal comments were provided during this period of public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Lombardo called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2021, Committee meeting. Vice-Chair, Greg Herrera, Chief Deputy Washoe County Sheriff's Office, motioned to approve. All were in favor with no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Reports for Federal Fiscal Years 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21

David Fogerson, Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS), informed the Committee that the packet includes reports from the grant program on the open grants for 2017, '18, '19, '20, and '21, which are designed for public disclosure so everyone can see grants currently in progress. Mr. Fogerson explained that NRAC has looked at the grants and indicated that they are current up through December 31, 2021. Mr. Fogerson further indicated that the oldest grant has been extended through August of 2022. Mr. Fogerson explained that there is approximately \$10,000 remaining on the UASI side and \$40,000 remaining on the state side of the first grant to expire.

Chair Lombardo asked the expiration date of the 2017 grant.

David Fogerson explained that with the COVID extension, the grant expires in August of 2022.

Jared Franco informed the Committee that he could get the exact numbers with the drop-dead date of the grant to NCHS by the end of the day.

Chair Lombardo indicated the importance of ensuring that the grant is addressed as not spending the grant money by the deadline could prove to be detrimental.

David Fogerson explained that although he did not have the information regarding the 2017 grant yet, in the 2018 grant, there is \$56,000 remaining in the state fund and the UASI has \$130,000 remaining. Mr. Fogerson informed the Committee that he will be working with Billy Samuels to ensure that the information will get out to the UASI and to state Homeland Security partners to ensure that the money is spent.

Chair Lombardo asked for confirmation that both 2017 and '18 will have the same August expiration date.

Jared Franco, DEM/HS, confirmed that this is correct, both grants have 8/31/22 as the drop-dead final date.

5. 2021 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR)

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM/HS, informed the Committee that DEM/HS is required to do the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) every three years, and the Stakeholder Preparedness Report (SPR) every year. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that the THIRA utilizes several scenarios to determine the state's gaps in capabilities and resources. Mr. Bakkedahl further indicated that the THIRA also uses a regional approach, and that during that effort in the fall, all jurisdictions meet regionally with DEM/HS to work through the scenarios outlined in the THIRA to determine the results. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that many of the gaps are related to operational coordination, public information and warning, cybersecurity, physical protective measures, risk management for protective measures, fatality management, public health and emergency, and health and social services. Mr. Bakkedahl further indicated that there are a lot of areas in which Nevada is doing well, particularly in law-enforcement aspects,

logistics chain supply, and economic recovery. Mr. Bakkedahl explained that DEM/HS then takes all the information from the THIRA to determine the top three priorities on which the state should focus its efforts. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that this focus begins in Region 9 in the western United States approximately three years earlier when FEMA mandated it for the state agencies. Mr. Bakkedahl further indicated that moving into next year's grant cycle, DEM/HS is getting ready to work FEMA to open up the funds for the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) as well as the Homeland Security Grant, and to ensure that everyone's focus and priority is to close gaps. Mr. Bakkedahl further explained that in 2019, DEM/HS worked with FEMA for a 2020 grant application and indicated housing and logistics chain supply were issues for Nevada; in 2021, resilient communications, logistics, distribution management, and disaster housing were chosen as issues; in 2022, the focus will be on the effects of cybersecurity, fatality management, and health and social services.

Jon Bakkedahl explained to the Committee that DEM/HS takes the THIRA process and puts into the Integrated Preparedness Plan for the state which, was due at the end of January, and was submitted on time. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that DEM/HS looks regionally and statewide at planning, training, and exercises for emergency management, for fire, for law enforcement, for schools, for public works, and for the private sectors involved with casino resorts and utilities. DEM/HS then takes this information and builds a plan as to what's going to help reduce the effects in the state when any disaster hits but focuses specifically on a few. Mr. Bakkedahl then explained that DEM/HS looks to close its gaps using these processes, the THIRA, the SPR, as well as the Integrated Preparedness Plan, and submits all the information to FEMA in order for the state to receive its grant money. Mr. Bakkedahl indicated that in return, DEM/HS is looking to local jurisdictions to track and look to reduce gaps by reporting out quarterly, following which, the state will work jurisdictions to identify how the gaps have been closed and at what percentage the potential impacts of pre and post-disaster may have been reduced.

Mr. Bakkedahl reiterated that this was brought forward to the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) the previous week in an effort to have statewide coordination and observation for transparency as to what DEM/HS is doing as an agency and how it is working with all its partners to make sure that federal money coming into the state is being used in the ways that both the federal government and the state intend for it to be used. Mr. Bakkedahl informed the Committee that this is not a DEM/HS decision and operation; it is a State of Nevada operation.

Chair Lombardo commended Jon Bakkedahl on his presentation and informed him that he has received a letter of reference for Mr. Bakkedahl from Rachel Skidmore.

6. State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, explained that a new cybersecurity grant is coming forward for Homeland Security, but that not all the details are yet available. Mr. Fogerson indicated that the federal government has provided \$1 billion over four years to be distributed across the states, with the majority of money earmarked for the local government. Mr. Fogerson reminded the Committee that in the last year, the Homeland Security Grant Process had carved out a portion for cyber and the anticipation is that carve-out will now go away given the existence of the Cyber Act. Mr. Fogerson informed the Committee that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this grant is due out at the same time as the Homeland Security Grant and as such, Mr. Fogerson anticipates the ability to vet projects jointly. Mr. Fogerson indicated that some

preliminary meetings have taken place with state Cyber Information Security Officer (CISO), Shaun Rahmeyer, with the Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, with the Gaming Control Board, with NRAC, and with the Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center regarding the best way to move the grant forward. Mr. Fogerson explained that the grant does require a review by subject-matter experts from the cyber world and as such, NRAC intends to implement a subcommittee for which Mr. Fogerson and Chief Billy Samuels (Chair and Vice-Chair of NRAC) will choose members to ensure a well-round and well-represented committee comprised of local and state government partners. Mr. Fogerson explained that the group would meet ahead of the receipt of the grant applications in order to create a grading sheet to be used for projects. Mr. Fogerson further explained that once the projects have been graded, they will then go through the normal NRAC review and vetting process through NRAC, the Finance Committee, and the Homeland Security Commission. Mr. Fogerson indicated that although they don't know how much the grant will encompass, he believes that it will be for \$200 million in the first year and the amount that will come to the state of Nevada will be indicated in the NOFO. Mr. Fogerson further explained that DHS has been negotiating between the Chief Cyber Information Officer, Association of State, the Homeland Security Advisors Associations across the state, and the Emergency Association across the state on how best to make this grant work. Mr. Fogerson indicated that the original proposal was for the State Cybersecurity Office to receive all the money, but that that would be EITS and EITS is barred from NRAC actually giving money or project assistance to local government. As such, the grant was moved back to DEM/HS with the process at the federal level that still leave the state administrative agents to move the process forward. Mr. Fogerson discussed that the two grants coming up with funding opportunities, the Homeland Security Grant Process and the Cyber Grant, will be a nice project to add some money to the cybersecurity side and have vetting criteria for the projects as they move forward. In addition, Mr. Fogerson indicated that this may free up Homeland Security money for other projects that currently cannot be funded because they are below the line of what needs to be paid. Mr. Fogerson explained that the NOFO is expected in April and at that time, DEM/HS will have the true data for determination on the actual amount of money available and how it can be used.

Chair Lombardo asked about the historical funding for the state in the cybersecurity space.

David Fogerson explained that he does not know what that number is because up until the previous year, there was not a specific set-aside requirement in the HSG process, and it was up to DEM/HS to determine what projects could be funded. As this is the first time the federal government has ever done this grant, currently it is unknown what and how this will be received.

Chair Lombardo asked for confirmation that a standalone committee would be created to address this particular grant.

David Fogerson confirmed that a subcommittee would be created under NRAC.

Chair Lombardo asked where the Finance Committee falls into this grant.

David Fogerson indicated that the Finance Committee would come into play after NRAC receives recommendation from the cyber subcommittee but before going to the Homeland Security Commission.

Chair Lombardo commended this plan, indicating that he personally has been frustrated by management of some previous grants. Chair Lombardo indicated that the documentation states that 80 percent of the grant will go to local jurisdiction and asked if DEM/HS would issue a request to re-enter or include this in the MOU on the changing of the percentage for the administration.

David Fogerson explained that for the process, 80 percent of the funds have to go to local governments, and that the management and analyst costs to manage the grant process would remain so those would not go to local governments. Mr. Fogerson indicated the possible potential of rural partners doing things on their own and in that case, agreements might need to be negotiated in order to help some of those

rural communities.

7. Review and Approval of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Strategic Priorities 2022 – 2024

David Fogerson, DEM/HS, explained that beginning in 2017, the state started strategic capacities to be maintained, and each year, DEM/HS would bring those strategic capacities to NRAC, to Finance, and to the Homeland Security Commission. Mr. Fogerson explained that some of these strategic capacities were not actually strategic capacities or programs, but rather CERT programs and rather than calling these strategic capabilities to maintain, they are listed as strategic programs that must be funded in order for the state not to lose the ability to do what it needs to do. Mr. Fogerson further indicated that the documentation then lists other items that need to be funded and how they've been funded in the past, including on the Public Health Preparedness and Homeland Security sides. As such, Mr. Fogerson explained the desire to create a holistic document that encompasses the strategic programs that must be funded using Homeland Security dollars, as well as other goals such as those cited by Jon Bakkedahl regarding the EMPG priorities in order to tie everything in together under a generalized philosophy of where money is going, what must be funded, and what other projects could fit to ensure the forward movement and advancement of the state. Mr. Fogerson indicated that NRAC had concluded that strategic priorities have to last longer than a year and as such, the plan was revised to a three-year plan rather than an annual one with all programs needing funding and goals for 2022, '23, and '24 included. Mr. Fogerson reiterated the importance of including Public Health Preparedness funds in this document, citing the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of knowing how money should be spent in relation to public health should another pandemic or other public-health issue arise. Mr. Fogerson informed the Committee of NRAC's recommendation to approve this three-year document that includes the programs that critically need to be funded as well as any extra programs that are recommended for funding.

Erin Lynch indicated her support of intertwining public health into the greater picture.

Chair Lombardo concurred.

Vice-Chair, Greg Herrera, Chief Deputy Washoe County Sheriff's Office, motioned to approve the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Priorities for 2022, '23, and '24 as discussed by Chief David Fogerson. All were in favor with no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Comment

Chair Lombardo opened the second period of public comment. Melissa Friend informed the Committee that no written comment had been provided to the Committee. No verbal comments were provided during this period of public comment.

David Fogerson informed the Committee that the 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program has \$41,104.30 remaining.

Chair Lombardo indicated to Chief Billy Samuels the importance of addressing any issues that may be lacking in the programs and that they be addressed prior to the expiration date of the

grant.

Chief Billy Samuels indicated his understanding.

Chair Lombardo asked about the date for the next meeting.

David Fogerson explained that DEM/HS is waiting for the federal budget to get passed and the NOFO to be released prior to setting the date.

9. Adjournment

Chair Lombardo call for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Herrera motioned to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.