



Dudley H.A. Wright II, Chair
Kent Appelhans, Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee Meeting Date and Location:

May 1, 2020

Virtual Microsoft Team Meeting

Committee Members Present:

David Gerstner (Chair), Jeffrey Jackson (Vice Chair), Karen Beavers, Eric Burgess, Dr. Michael Zorko, Mark Resanovich

Committee Members Absent:

Deanna Harris, Christopher Kyer, Micah Stoll

DPS and EMS Staff Members Present:

Robert Wagoner, Interim Executive Director; Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director; James Burke, Section Chief of Education and Testing; Ted Kienzle, EMS Support; Aria Sovann, EMS Support

State Partners Present:

Joe Kirk, Michael Wise

Public Present:

None

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am and introductions were made.

Review of March 6, 2020 Draft Minutes

Homeland Security Committee draft minutes for March 6, 2020 were reviewed. A correction was made on page 3 to read Medical Priority Data System (MPDS).

ACTION: Motion to approve the Homeland Security Subcommittee meeting minutes from March 6, 2020. Karen Beavers– First. Jeffrey Jackson – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.



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Homeland Security issues and concerns

The standing agendas were discussed:

- Special pathogens preparedness/pandemic preparedness & COVID-19 response issues
- COVID-19 Sit Rep
- Dispatch issues
- EMS operational issues, including protocols
- Law enforcement (LE) operational issues
- Personnel, budget, and personnel retention issues
- Opportunities for preparedness

Chair Gerstner sent emails with attachments to the committee to review. The attachments included reading material from the Mumbai Committee which is a committee maintained by Dayton Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). Another item was an article from March where a man who planned an attack on a hospital was arrested by the FBI.

Everyone's primary issue for the last 2 months is COVID-19; however, there has been a lot going on as far as terrorism and criminal activities.

There has been a lot of fraudulent activity related to COVID-19. States purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) are either not receiving their orders or are receiving unusable PPE that does not meet the criteria for which it was purchased. There have been criminal scam attempts to impersonate large companies such as Amazon and FedEx. There has been a huge amount of hacking at the national, state, and local levels. There are also a lot of ransomware attacks.

Years ago, terrorist organizations, including ISIS and Al Qaeda, used a technique called gamification where they used the gaming culture as an opportunity to recruit terrorists and spread violent genocide ideology. White supremacists are now doing this. Terrorist organizations have released videos to encourage people to take advantage of the current crisis to commit attacks while the West's attention is focused on COVID-19.

Up-to-date statistics from the Ohio Department of Health on their coronavirus page was read to the committee.

The biggest ongoing issue statewide is obtaining appropriate PPE (gowns, masks, gloves, eye protection, eye shields, etc.). The majority of hot spots right now are all congregate settings such as the prison system and long-term nursing care facilities. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) staff and incarcerated population have tested positive in 24 facilities in Ohio. A large number of these people are asymptomatic. Currently, one fourth of all of the positive COVID-19 cases are in the state prison system. Measurements are being taken to slow down intake and try to alleviate the situation. Inmates who served their time are being tested before they exit. If they test positive for COVID-19, they are either quarantined in the



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prison for 14 days or isolated in the medical facility before they're released. This has created the capacity to develop with creative ways to create distancing between prisoners.

The agriculture industry is also being impacted. Food processing plants have shown large incidents of COVID-19 cases and have caused the shutdown of some major processing plants. Fortunately, the early actions of Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton have had a major impact in Ohio, and the affects to flatten the curve have been successful. The utilization of mass hospital surge facilities in Columbus and other areas such as Dayton and Cleveland have not been needed..

In the last couple of weeks, public safety personnel testing has become more available. However, the problem with nasal swabs is that a provider collects the sample incorrectly or from the wrong location, the results will not be accurate. Blood testing would be more helpful because of sample acquisition. If there is a false reading, the error will be due to the technology and not with the provider who is collecting the sample.

Many agencies have adopted the American Heart Association's guidance for cardiac resuscitation. The interim guidance link can be found in the EMS section of COVID public safety website.

Dr. Cunningham wrote a guidance to Ohio EMS regarding non-transport considerations. The creation and implementation of non-transport protocols is a local decision. Subcommittee members were advised to subscribe to the Ohio Division of EMS listserv to receive the latest news. Interested persons can subscribe via www.ems.ohio.gov and clicking on the "Stay Connected" popup on the webpage.

The use of face masks is recommended, but not mandatory, in Ohio. There is concern for a resurgence of the spread of disease as the state gradually reopens which is why openings are being permitted in staggering stages. Indicators will be carefully watched. If the numbers increase, then changes will have to be made.

On May 4, 2020, Dr. Jon Krohmer, the Director of the Office of EMS at NHTSA, and Dr. Richard Hunt, the Senior Medical Advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will host a clinical care operations webinar. Dr. Cunningham will be a guest speaker discussing her article "The Human Side of Us." This article can be found at <https://www.jems.com/2020/04/12/the-human-side-of-us/>.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Old Business

Review of the Rescue Task Force/Active Shooter Training Program

Due to the current pandemic, it is uncertain if the Best Practice Conference will be held this year.

Recap of Action Items

The Subcommittee will brainstorm ideas of a best practice models to bring to the next meeting.



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Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

ACTION: *Motion to adjourn at 11:56 am.*

Next meeting:

April 3, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Microsoft Team Meeting