

VDFP/ VDEM STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT
July 17, 2007
Roanoke, Virginia

ATTENDEES

Secretary John Marshall
Bill Smith
William Crumpacker
Carol Rhodes
Ed Rhodes
Ken Clark
Rob Logan
Garrett Dyer
Linda Johnson
Jim Cady
Marilyn Harris
Wade Collins
Mike Hanks
Joseph Roma
Susan Mongold
Joe Coyle
Travis Halstead
Marge Thomas
George A. Morgan
Jack W. Jones J.
Seth Mowles
Ken Rudnicki
Elton Wright
Sharon Woo
Charles Werner
Ron Stickle
Troy Hanger
Chris Eudailey
Lee DDT
Tim Pickle
Bobby Baker
Ron Hargrave
William Crupo
Randy Abernathy
D. J. Lipscomb
Woody Henderson
Gary Huffman
Joey Stump
Michael D. Bery
Dustin Campbell
Pokey Harris

Craig Bryant
Charles Singleton
William Richardson
Mike Gow
Andy Seabout
Kimberly Harper
Daryl Louder
James Gray
Michel Mohlar
Michael Cline
Cheryl Adkins
Teddy Adkins
Kent McIlhany
Randy Journigan

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Burch, Jr.
Tom Moffett

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Duncan
Billy Shelton
Russ Chandler
Larry McAndrews
Angela Alston
Brook Pittinger
Marion Long
Mark Buff
Dave Jolly
Don Hansen
Dennis Price

Major Announcements and Events

Chief Rick Burch welcomed Billy Shelton and the staff from VDFFP as well as the Stakeholder Summit attendees to the Roanoke County Fire & Rescue EOC. A brief slide show presentation about Roanoke County Fire & Rescue was shown.

Secretary John Marshall introduced Marilyn Harris, Chris Essid and Susan Mongold. He commented on the history of the Stakeholder Summit, which started in 2002, and the insight on community needs and issues that these meetings provide.

A moment of silence was observed for the men and women killed in the line of duty.

Billy Shelton and Michael Kline both addressed the attendees. Both welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation in the stakeholder summit.

Greg Brittingham started the brainstorming process by requesting each group create a list of critical issues to address during the next 1 to 2 years.

The following issues/concerns were identified and each participant was asked to vote for what they considered the most important issue.

- A. Funding (state-federal) finding new and additional sources of revenue – Votes 11
- B. EM does not have approval or authority for care facilities or funding - Votes 0
- C. Recruitment and retention (Diversity) of skills etc... - Votes 6
- D. Retirement Benefits - Votes 2
- E. Succession planning - Votes 0
- F. Move OEMS to Public Safety - Votes 14
- G. Interagency Cooperation - Votes 10
- H. Training(compliance, accessibility, standard & constituency-technology)- Votes 9
- I. Disaster Management (credentialing-standardization) - Votes 1
- J. Interoperability (mutual aid) - Votes 2
- K. Operability - Votes 1
- L. Specialty Response/typing - Votes 2
- M. Weak fire safety legislation - Votes 1
- N. Trecon resources and assisted living - Votes 0
- O. Drain on manpower from war needs - Votes 0

The groups were then asked to answer the following questions for the subject areas identified as critical issues/problems the fire services will face in the next 1 to 2 years.

1. Why is this issue important?
2. What do citizens gain?
3. What needs to be done?

The seven main topics were chosen as follows:

1. Recruitment and Retention-C.
2. Move OEMS to Public Safety-F.
3. Funding-A.
4. Interagency Cooperation-G.
5. Training-H.
6. Specialty Response Typing-L
7. Interoperability-J.

1. Recruitment and Retention-C.

- Why is this issue important?-Meeting safety levels for first responder, meeting needs of your coverage area, quality of service, expectations of public have changed, new classes keep coming up which makes it hard to maintain certification.
- What do citizens gain?-Accessibility of service, faster response times and stronger sense of community.
- What needs to be done?-Needs assessment, if someone can not fight fire but can help with the small things, find out why these people joined, changed, something for everyone (giving)

The following discussion was held on recruitment and retention:

- Solicit help from the OEMS
 - It was suggested to find your students and find out what they need, advertisement is the key.
 - What benefit have we received with programs presented to the high schools?
 - Encouraging the Schools and making them aware of the OEMS and FF program and what's required for course completion.
 - The group also emphasized the need to open doors to other parts of fire service, stating people that can do other things that don't include fighting fires could help lighten the load.
2. Move OEMS to Public Safety-F.
- Why is this issue important?-Where does OEMS belong, the public doesn't understand what they represent-they represent thousands in the community. Legislation needs to be worked on, funding, what the department is called, where it falls in the public safety.-
 - What do citizens gain?-
 - What needs to be done?-
3. Funding-A.
- Why is this issue important?- Fire service needs equipment, insurance, emergency management needs, established funding
 - What do citizens gain?-
 - What needs to be done?- encourage our legislators to work with state legislation, increase line of duty death benefits, opportunity to provide benefits

Among the groups that are here very few are EMS people, there needs to be a regional approach that can be easily integrated into smaller localities/small jurisdictions.

4. Interagency Cooperation-G.
- Why is this issue important?-approach for uniformed funding, the reduction of redundancy
 - What do citizens gain?-bring about a confidence in citizens

- What needs to be done?-legislative policy needs to be developed, revisit the current public safety models, look at other models, develop steering committees (develop a consortium to identify responsibilities)

5. Training-H.

- Why is this issue important?-it effects the quality of service, makes us available for staff, consistency of information, not just for fire service, competent, set a standard that is applicable and enforceable. Departments are asking for it. Does customer service provide timely service to citizens?
- What do citizens gain?-insurance dollars, grant issues,
- What needs to be done?-legislation, interagency collaboration and cooperation, teach to be instructors first, go to these remote places, teleconferences, certified people have to practice and exercise the skills that they have acquired-there are people that have gotten NIMS training and are not using it.

The group noted that they see the possibility of a mutual agreement that will take care of the 2006 stakeholders. Needs assessment shows we need training. It is redundant to have to teach people to be an adult instructor over and over again. Make a decision which standard we are going to accept. Billy Shelton commented we need to have a crossover form of training accepted. Unrealistic expectation of NIMS participants, it is not practical, a lot of what is taught is something that won't be used.

6. Specialty Response Typing-L.

- Why is this issue important?-typing of resources needs to be done-no appropriate NIMS compliance, sometimes you don't know if you are getting what you requested on a call
- What do citizens gain?-protection, requirements being met
- What needs to be done?-needs to be NIMS compliant with typing list, there needs to be validation typing of apparatus, we recommend that a system be created credentialing these teams, all current future and public.

Is there something that can be done to get a nationally accepted NIMS or ICS standard? All teams are made available on same calls. Notification can be done in many different ways. For every order placed you need to submit paperwork.

7. Interoperability-J.

- Why is this issue important?-
- What do citizens gain?-
- What needs to be done?-

Recessed for Lunch at 11:30a.m.

Returned at 12:20 p.m.

ISSUES ADDRESSED WITH INITIAL THOUGHTS

Group discussion:

Mike Mohlar suggested the group of attendees take a consensus of who supports an idea; we need to come to a conclusion on what they would or could move on with.

Many attendees agreed the number one issue is moving OEMS.

Secretary John Marshall stated there should be a continuing process of gathering relevant information and fresh ideas for the subjects discussed and take on what is manageable.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Secretary John Marshall assured attendees that these issues will not be forgotten. He also addressed The Commonwealth's need for a Public Safety Memorial.

Marilyn Harris commented they would be attaining a state wide consensus of relevant subjects at future meetings.

Adjournment at 2:15 p.m.

Clerk of Committee by
Angela Alston