

**National Homeland Security Consortium (NHSC)
NEMA-ASTHO-GHSAC Joint Policy Work Group
August 8-9, 2023 – Oklahoma City, OK**

Meeting Summary

A joint meeting of the NHSC and the NEMA-ASTHO-GHSAC Joint Policy Work Group was held on August 8-9, 2023, in Oklahoma City, OK. Tri-Chairs Brad Richy, Alicia Tate-Nadeau, and Ali Harrist presided over the meeting. Welcoming remarks were provided by Mark Gower, Director and Homeland Security Advisor, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management.

Managing the Impacts of Climate Change – Chad Payeur, FEMA Branch Chief, Planning Integration

FEMA is creating foundation guidance that will help increase community and national resilience. The guidance will: Promote a common understanding of resilience; Help everyone to understand and fulfill their critical roles related to increasing resilience; Address the relationship between shocks and stressors and how they affect resilience; and to inspire fresh, forward-looking, and people-centered approaches. FEMA is currently seeking stakeholder input on the guidance and the final document should be released in spring 2024.

What is FEMA doing in this area? FEMA established a Climate Adaptation Enterprise Steering Group to develop a unified agency approach to address climate change across all agency programs and operations. This group led assessment of barriers and opportunities, drew input from contributors to the agency's request for information on climate and equity, and held forums with experts to help shape FEMA's strategic direction.

To successfully integrate climate change initiatives, science, data, and perspectives, FEMA established a Climate Team to strengthen all the efforts Directorates, Programs and Regions have begun and support the development of national policy and guidance in close coordination with FEMA programs, partner agencies from the Department of Homeland Security, Other Federal Agencies, and the White House.

The FEMA Senior Climate Advisor leads the Climate Team in implementation of interagency coordination, policy work, and communications on climate resilience and adaptation, and support implementation of the FEMA strategic plan. The Climate Team serves as a facilitator, convener, advisor, and main coordinator when priorities cross multiple areas in the agency. And supports national policy and guidance in close coordination with FEMA programs, partner agencies from DHS, and the White House.

The Response and Recovery to Cyber Incidents - Nitin Natarajan, Deputy Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

The cyber threat is evolving and is no longer contained to urban areas or large businesses. Anyone who has money and enemies can initiate a cyber-attack against others. CISA received over 450 notifications of attacks against the healthcare sector. There needs to be a discussion at the state and local level about making investments in cyber security and mitigation efforts. There are limits to what can be done after an attack has already occurred. Natarajan referenced the cyber security grant which is a total of \$374M this year. The group discussed the challenge of getting the private sector to report cyber-attacks because of their concerns about privacy, and the difference between compliance versus security. Just because systems are compliant with federal regulations doesn't mean they are secure. In the future, CISA would

like to see software companies provide greater transparency to customers so they know what they're buying and can make better acquisition decisions.

Are We 'Stocked Up' and Ready for the Worst-Case Scenario? Tamatha Patterson, Director, Distribution Management Division, FEMA; Will Ray, Director, North Carolina Division of Emergency Management

Patterson briefed the group on FEMA's logistics management capabilities and their role in filling gaps in the private sector supply chain during disasters. FEMA does not have a role with the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) as the agency doesn't deal with medical supplies. The state of North Carolina has numerous warehouses for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that have been established by healthcare coalitions and are now managed by public health and paid for through emergency management funding. As part of FEMA Region IV, North Carolina and other states are discussing the future of PPE stockpiling and what inventory levels make sense in case of another pandemic. There needs to be a determination as to whether a 30- or 60-day stockpile is most appropriate, including situational awareness of what capacity that U.S. manufacturers have post-COVID-19. The group discussed whether ASPR and FEMA are looking at policies that make us stronger and better prepared in the future.

The Latest on Border Security and Interstate Migration - Mark Wittrock, Assistant Director, Office of Health Security, Department of Homeland Security; Ivan Zapata, DrPH, MS, Global Health Security Advisor, DHS

The DHS Office of Health Security was reconstituted last year and has a role with migration to the U.S. They discussed the challenge of sharing information in a timely manner and with the right parties. The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) medical personnel are licensed at the state level and are cleared to provide care in whatever state they are deployed. DHS discussed the changing migration patterns with more people now coming from China, India, Pakistan, and Africa. This creates a strain on resources for repatriation as every country has different requirements.

NEMA Pandemic Workshop – Alicia Tate-Nadeau, Director, Illinois Emergency Management Agency
NEMA recently hosted a COVID-19 pandemic workshop that brought together 8 states with teams made up of emergency management and public health leaders. The purpose was to identify lessons learned and model practices for future pandemics. The recommendations will result in a white paper to be shared widely with all stakeholders and elected officials.

Tour of Oklahoma City National Memorial

The group conducted an off-site visit to the Oklahoma City National Memorial - a memorial in the United States that honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were impacted by the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995.

DHS Center for Prevention and Partnerships (CP3) Brief - Bill Braniff, Director, CP3, DHS; Tiffany Sewell, Associate Director for Field Operations, CP3, DHS; Dave Castoe, Regional Prevention Coordinator, CP3, DHS

CP3 prioritizes a public health informed approach to targeted violence prevention bridging public health and law enforcement communities. The program includes grants, training, resources, and regional prevention coordinators working with local communities. CP3 officials shared that focusing on the ideology that may lead to terrorist actions leads to missed prevention actions. People come to ideology later they stated. Also, a public health informed approach allows measuring success in whether people feel included and connected to others, their communities, etc. There are a number of states

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DOD utilizing AI: <https://www.c4isrnet.com/video/2023/07/19/dod-artificial-intelligence-agents-successfully-pilot-fighter-jet/>

Humanoid Robot AI Platform, Engineered Arts (YouTube):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPukuYb9xWw>

Boston Dynamics, Parkour Robot (YouTube): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tF4DML7FIWk>

Topics for Future Meetings

- PHEP Redesign
- Interconnectivity during riots and protests between all disciplines
- ICS and the role of public health