

ILLINOIS TERRORISM TASK FORCE
Minutes of the Full Membership Meeting
October 27, 2021, 10:00 a.m., via WebEx and In Person

Call to Order

Interim Chairman Jim Page (ILEAS – Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System) called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending via WebEx and in person.

A verbal roll call of ITTF voting members (agencies/organizations) participating in the meeting and method of participation (WebEx or in person) was as follows:

Ameren –
American Public Works Association – Vydas Juskelis, Mike Millette; both WebEx
American Water –
American Red Cross – Scott Clarke, WebEx
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
Central Management Services – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
City of Aurora –
Cities of Bloomington-Normal – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
Cities of Champaign-Urbana – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
City of Chicago – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
City of Joliet –
City of Naperville – Dan Nelson, WebEx
City of Peoria – Jim Bachman, WebEx
City of Quincy – Bernie Vahlkamp, WebEx
City of Rockford – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
City of Springfield – Tom Chi, WebEx
Collaborative Health Care Urgency Group – Bill Pretzer, WebEx
Cook County DEMRS – Bill Barnes, Kim Hayward-Buys, WebEx
DuPage County OHSEM – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police – Dan Ryan, WebEx
Illinois Association of County Engineers – Cliff Frye, WebEx
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators – Amy Fox, WebEx
Illinois Association of School Boards – Zach Messersmith, WebEx
Illinois Board of Higher Education –
Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators –
Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers – Tara Matheson, Jim Watts; both WebEx
Illinois College of Emergency Physicians – Jason Kegg, WebEx
Illinois Commerce Commission – Stephen Laffey, WebEx
Illinois Community College Board – Jeff Newell, Todd Jorns; both WebEx
Illinois Council of Code Administrators – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
Illinois Coroners Association –
Illinois Department of Agriculture – Sandy Gilmore, WebEx
Illinois Department of Corrections – Mike Chappell, Brad Baker; both WebEx
Illinois Department of Human Services – Joe Gasparich, WebEx
Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology – Jennifer Rominger, in person
Illinois Department of Military Affairs – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Stuart Fraser, WebEx
Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) – Ashley Thoele, Michelle Hanneken; both WebEx
Illinois Department of Transportation – Gene Felchner, in person
Illinois Department on Aging –
Illinois Emergency Management Agency – Marc Sullivan, in person
Illinois Emergency Services Management Association –
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Bobby Elzie, WebEx
Illinois Firefighters Association – William Offerman, WebEx
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) – Joe Holomy, WebEx

Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) – Jim Keiken, in person
Illinois Health and Hospital Association – Keneatha Johnson, WebEx
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) – Jim Page, Larry Evans, both in person (*see WebEx attendance report below)
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) – Heather Hotz, WebEx
Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team – Mary Connelly, Moses Lee, Chris Jansen; all WebEx
Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System – Stephen Melega, Nita Ludwig; both WebEx
Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network – Barb Stiehl, WebEx
Illinois School Psychologists Association – Carrie Emrikson, Michael Grenda; both WebEx
Illinois Sheriffs’ Association – Jon Sandage, Bruce Kettelkamp; both WebEx (microphone not operational)
Illinois State Board of Elections – Bernadette Matthews, Amy Kelly; both WebEx
Illinois State Police – Brendan Kelly, Chris Trame; both WebEx
Lake County Emergency Management Agency – Dan Eder, Rebecca Kumar; both WebEx
Logan County EMA – Kendall Caruthers, WebEx
McHenry County Emergency Management Agency –
Metro-East (St. Clair – Madison Counties) – Samantha Bierman Roland, WebEx
Mid-West Truckers Association –
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Glenn Ericksen, Bernie Lyons; both WebEx
Nicor Gas – (*see WebEx attendance report below)
Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Alix Armstead, WebEx
Ogle County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) – Brian VanVickle, WebEx
People’s Gas and Northshore Gas Companies – Charlie Graham, WebEx
Quad Cities – Rob DeFrance, Jeff Yerkey; both WebEx
Regional Superintendents of Schools –
Secretary of State Police (SOS) – Jason Dunn, Ron Lewis; both WebEx
Will County – Allison Anderson, Harold Damron; both WebEx

Interim Chairman Page announced there was a quorum.

*WebEx Attendance Report (Verbal Response Not Heard During Roll Call)

American Public Works Association – Brian Goldman
American Water – Anthony Neal
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois – Jeffrey Maher
Central Management Services – Brent Boesdorfer
Cities of Bloomington-Normal – Michael Humer
Cities of Champaign-Urbana – Charles Lauss (audio call in)
City of Chicago – Richard Guidice, Anna Statham, and Natalie Gutierrez
City of Rockford – Tim O’Keefe
DuPage County OHSEM – Murray Snow and Craig Dieckman
Illinois Council of Code Administrators – Kathryn Gruber
Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology – Beth Pruitt and Dan Sluga
Illinois Department of Military Affairs – John Howard
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System – Pete Smith
Nicor Gas – Mark Guth
Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Greg Hay

Other Participants (*Advisory)

Dan Bacon – U.S. DOJ* (via WebEx)
Julie Beamer-Pfeifer – WIU (in person)
Troy Brewer – IEMA (via WebEx)
Renysha Brown – IEMA (in person)
Dominic Chiappini – ISP (via WebEx)
Joe Corso – DoIT (in person)
Brent Cranford – U.S. DOJ (via WebEx)
Charles Dushane – U.S. DHS* (via WebEx)

Bob Evans – IEMA (in person)
Myong-Ae Kim – IEMA (via WebEx)
Steve Lyddon – U.S. DHS* (via WebEx)
Tammy Porter – IEMA (via WebEx)
Nina Ricketts – IEMA (via WebEx)
Jason Sanford – IEMA (in person)
Gloria Savage – ILEAS (via WebEx)
Nichole Strayer – IEMA (via WebEx)
Alicia Tate-Nadeau – IEMA (via WebEx)

Minutes

Motion to approve the July 28, 2021, Full Membership Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Larry Evans, ILEAS

Seconded: Jim Keiken, IFSI

Motion Carried

National and Illinois Homeland Security Updates

(It should be noted that the audio connection to the Director was compromised at times, but the summary below is an accurate representation of her report.)

National Security Advisor Update

Director Tate-Nadeau, the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor, reported the following updates:

- The billion-dollar infrastructure bill waiting on Capitol Hill will drive the Homeland Security Strategy for Cyber Security, and a cyber security task force will be created to develop ways to best implement those strategies.
- Regarding the Afghan refugee situation, the Department of Homeland Security has directed the placement of refugees (in groups of five) into private homes.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced changes to their Individual/Public Assistance policies to address how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practices may not have been effectuated in the past. These changes will provide assistance to groups of people who didn't qualify under the former policies. Illinois is also evaluating policy to determine potential DEI shortcomings.

Cyber Security Briefing

Dan Sluga, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), DoIT, provided the following updates:

- Ransomware operations have advanced to a full Cloud operation referred to as RAS (Ransomware as a Service), allowing "bad actors" to launch attacks using the Cloud offering quick set up, scalability, elasticity, and often enhanced anonymity. Black Matter ransomware (thought to have evolved from Dark Side ransomware used in the Colonial Pipeline attack in March 2021) is one such example. CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) reports these entities use embedded credentials to discover network assets and services available, then launch the attack (e.g., attacks on U.S. food industry and water treatment plants).
- The Russian-based outfit called Nobelium, a "nation state actor," known to be responsible for the SolarWinds attack, is also now using Cloud-infrastructure. They are using home networks where they can hide until the time is right to launch an attack on larger, more valuable entities. Home networks are more vulnerable because they usually don't get regular firmware updates and have few detection capabilities.

Dan emphasized the importance for everyone to perform regular updates to home routers by searching for firmware, installing updates, and rebooting the router. He also stated passwords for home networks need to be taken seriously.

Mitigations for ransomware continue to be MFA (multi-factor authentication), healthy off-line backups, deleting stale users' service accounts, and reviewing rights and permissions, but now an effective strategy to monitor Cloud solutions is needed, including examining delegations or inheritable rights to other accounts, the level of overall permissions, and isolation to mitigate "sprawl" by the bad actors (e.g., making separate accounts for each service).

Dan stated he'll provide the links for some of this information in the WebEx chat area (Laura Sedory emailed the links to the ITTF membership and support staff on 1/4/22).

ITTF Chair Report/Old Business

- Interim Chairman Jim Page reminded the ITTF that every member should be assigned to *and participating* on a committee. These committees are led by the Council of Chairs and going forward much of the planning work of the ITTF will be performed at the committee meetings. He noted the November 17, 2021, deadline for the committees to submit their 1) modified Capital Replacement Strategy Projects, 2) updated/prioritized Unmet

Needs Projects, and 3) revisions to the Vision 2025 Goals and Objectives. These topics will be discussed at the next Council of Chairs meeting on December 8, 2021, and it'll be important to have these plans in place when the new ITTF Chair is hired. Contact Laura Sedory for member committee assignments and any other questions. Bob Evans added the prioritization of the Unmet Needs Projects will provide direction to IEMA regarding how to allocate any funds that may become available.

- Interim Chairman Jim Page also reminded the ITTF that the last quarterly report for 2021 (using the old format) is due to Laura Sedory and Julie Beamer-Pfeifer on January 14, 2022, however the quarterly reporting format will change starting on January 1, 2022. *(The new format was shared with the committee co-chairs and their support staff at the December 8, 2021, Council of Chairs meeting.)* Jim stated in the near future there would be discussion on how the new quarterly reporting format will coordinate with the quarterly report narratives the grantees prepare and submit.

New Business

IEMA Inter-Grant Adjustments Policy for HSGP Grants (effective November 1, 2021)

Jim Page provided an overview of the changes outlined in this policy approved by the Council of Chairs on September 9, 2021, to be brought before the ITTF. Some discussion ensued regarding the "movement of funds between grants."

Motion to approve the IEMA Inter-Grant Adjustments Policy for HSGP Grants.

Motion to Approve: Robert DeFrance, Quad Cities

Seconded: Joe Holomy, IFCA

Motion Carried

(Laura Sedory emailed the updated grants policy manual containing the approved Inter-Grant Adjustments Policy, numbered as policy number 2.11, on November 1, 2021, to the ITTF full membership.)

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Special Response Teams Mission Focus

ILEAS's Jim Page described a proposed change in mission for ILEAS with regard to the WMD Special Response Teams. ILEAS has been reducing the number of WMD teams over the last 10 years from 11 to five. An additional team will most likely be decertified, bringing the bottom-line number to four teams: two north, one central, and one south. ILEAS is proposing to instead use the money originally budgeted for WMD teams for other regional multi-jurisdictional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Teams throughout the state. This will better prepare the state to respond to domestic extremism and soft targets/emerging threats as well as reduce the amount of response time to critical incidents. Details are to be determined regarding how to structure and organize this endeavor. The Council of Chairs expressed support for this change during the September 22, 2021, meeting.

Motion for ILEAS to continue to explore (with IEMA's Division of Preparedness and Grants Administration) moving the grant focus away from WMD Teams to other local SWAT Teams.

Motion to Approve: Gene Felchner, IDOT

Seconded: Brian VanVickle, Ogle County EMA

Motion Carried

(Per Jim Page, on October 28, 2021, the ILEAS Governing Board decided to keep the number of WMD Teams at five, continue funding them, and directed Jim Page to find an alternate way to support local multi-jurisdictional response teams.)

Other Business

Jim Page reminded the membership that the deadline for completing the two mandatory training courses, 2021 Ethics Training and 2021 Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training, is November 2, 2021. Please let Laura Sedory know if any of your committee voting delegates have not received the instructional emails or if there are issues with your training account.

(Laura Sedory reported to IEMA Legal on November 3, 2021, that all ITTF voting delegates completed the required training by close of business November 2, 2021.)

Jim Page stated the due date for committee membership rosters is December 31, 2021. Before sending the lists to him and Laura Sedory, the committee co-chairs should perform a review of the voting and advisory participants, ensuring their status is synonymous with what is recorded in the ITTF full membership roster. The number of organizations

represented by their voting delegates is important when determining if a quorum is established before conducting committee business.

Jim Page stated the due date for committee meeting schedules is December 31, 2021. He asked that committee co-chairs send them to him and Laura Sedory prior to the deadline. Per the Open Meetings Act, committee meeting schedules must be available to the public. *(The 2022 committee meeting schedules were posted to the IEMA website on January 11, 2022.)*

Bob Evans reported he received a notification that the National Cybersecurity Review Survey will be distributed soon and needs to be completed by the sub-award grantees. Just as in the past, he presumes the deadline will be December 31, 2021.

Jim Page opened the floor for other comments, and Scott Clarke (American Red Cross) requested information regarding anticipated supply chain challenges that might impact/hinder departments' preparedness and/or readiness over the next year. Marc Sullivan, Chief of Operations (IEMA), stated the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor, Director Tate-Nadeau, is working to address this while taking into regard procurement and legal policy. Marc Sullivan and Jim Page stated they will inform Director Tate-Nadeau, Policy Advisor Jason Sanford, and the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) that the ITTF is interested in being a recipient of the information and/or being a part of the process. Bob Evans added that at the National Security Conference, FEMA announced they are evaluating the effects of COVID-19 on the supply chain and are taking into consideration grant program extensions, revised/renewed guidelines, etc. Bob stated he'll share what he receives accordingly.

Michal Grenda (Illinois School Psychologists Association) requested an update on Safe2Help Illinois. He stated he received the launch letter from IEMA Director Tate-Nadeau emailed on October 19, 2021, and asked if there had been any further promotion of the program. Bob Evans responded that there has been some media work originating from IEMA's Public Information Officer (PIO) and IEMA will be hiring a Safe2Help Program Manager soon. Discussion ensued regarding the launch communication. Jim Page said he had information from the Safe2Help Coordinator, Samantha Kanish, that outreach to regional education offices regarding the launch would begin the week of October 27, 2021. She also stated presentations are scheduled over the following weeks to disseminate information about the program and how to register. If further information is required, schools are instructed to reach out to their Regional Offices of Education (ROEs). Renysha Brown, Division Chief of Preparedness and Grants Administration (IEMA), reported real-time use of the Safe2Help Illinois program in a very recent Missouri school safety intervention, which provided the necessary help and resulted in no incident. *(Laura Sedory emailed the link to the October 20, 2021, Press Release for Safe2Help Illinois to the ITTF Full Membership on November 1, 2021.)*

Upcoming ITTF Meeting

- Council of Chairs Meeting – December 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx
- Full ITTF Membership Meeting – January 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Motion to Adjourn:</i> | <i>Jim Keiken, IFSI</i> |
| <i>Seconded:</i> | <i>Marc Sullivan, IEMA</i> |
| <i>Meeting Adjourned</i> | |