

ILLINOIS TERRORISM TASK FORCE
Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting
March 23, 2022
2200 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62703

ATTENDANCE

- Schenkel, Gary – Illinois Terrorism Task Force Chair, in person
- Tate-Nadeau, Alicia – IEMA Director/Homeland Security Advisor, via WebEx

Committee Chairs

Critical Infrastructure:

- Felchner, Gene – IL Department of Transportation, in person
- Juskelis, Vydas – American Public Works Association, via WebEx

Cybersecurity:

- Rominger, Jennifer – IL Department of Innovation and Technology, via WebEx

Emergency Management:

- Dan Nelson – City of Naperville, via WebEx

Fire Mutual Aid:

- Keiken, Jim – IL Fire Service Institute, in person

Law Enforcement Mutual Aid:

- Page, Jim – ILEAS, in person
- Price, J.W. – IL State Police, via WebEx

Public Health:

- Dos Santos, Andrea – IL Department of Public Health, via WebEx
- Fox, Amy – IL Association of Public Health Administrators, via WebEx

Urban Area:

- Barnes, William – Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, via WebEx
- Guidice, Richard – City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications, via WebEx

Staff/Members:

Armstead, Alix – Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), via WebEx
Arnold, Eric – WIU, via WebEx
Beamer-Pfeifer, Julie – Western IL University (WIU), in person
Brown, Renysha – IEMA, in person
Chiappini, Dominic – ISP, in person
Doerfler, Mark – IPWMAN, via WebEx
Evans, Bob – IEMA, in person
Evans, Larry – ILEAS, via WebEx
Gutierrez, Natalie – Cook County DEMRS, via WebEx
Hayward-Buys, Kim – Cook County DEMRS, via WebEx
Holloway, Jennifer – IDPH, via WebEx
Kanish, Samantha – IEMA via WebEx
Kim, Myong-Ae – IEMA, via WebEx
Kustermann, Aaron – ISP, in person
Lyons, Bernie – MABAS, via WebEx
Miller, Matt – IEMA, via WebEx
Porter, Tammy – IEMA, via WebEx
Ricketts, Nina – IEMA, via WebEx
Sanford, Jason – IEMA, in person
Sluga, Dan – DoIT, via WebEx
Smith, Pete – ILEAS, via WebEx
Starr, Matthew – IEMA, in person
Statham, Anna – City of Chicago OEMC, via WebEx
Strayer, Nichole – IEMA, via WebEx
Sur, Kevin – IEMA, via WebEx
Trame, Chris – ISP, WebEx

Call to Order

ITTF Chairman Gary Schenkel called the meeting to order.

Minutes

- **Motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2022, Council of Chairs meeting.**
Motion to Approve: Jim Keiken, IFSI
Seconded: Gene Felchner, IDOT
Minutes of February 23, 2022, Council of Chairs meeting approved.

State Homeland Security

IEMA Director/HSA Alicia Tate-Nadeau discussed current geopolitical tensions and the challenges to cybersecurity in the U.S. She has been meeting with critical infrastructure partners in Illinois regarding planning, lowering our thresholds for reporting, and making sure their needs and the state’s needs are being met. She encouraged ITTF members to meet with their partners on continuity planning for communications and connectivity.

Chairman Schenkel spoke about the anticipated national cybersecurity grant and the requirement to have an executive planning committee. He also mentioned the possibility of holding the July full ITTF meeting in the Chicago area, as well as potentially cancelling the August ITTF Council of Chairs meeting.

Aaron Kustermann, Chief, Statewide Terrorism Intelligence Center, Illinois State Police, provided a national and state intelligence briefing.

Jennifer Rominger, Illinois Department of Information and Technology, provided a cybersecurity update. She explained that most successful cyberattacks involve the “basics” not being followed – including multifactor authentication (MFA). MFA remains a basic security measure that organizations should employ using best practices, including reviewing default configurations and modifying if necessary.

Old Business

IEMA PGA Grants Manager Bob Evans gave an update on the SFY22 PAR grant, ARPA projects, and unmet needs projects.

Chairman Schenkel reminded attendees that suggested changes to the ITTF Bylaws are due by April 27.

Jim Page, Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System, spoke about the unified command post and communications working groups. The comms working group has submitted their report, and the UCP working group report is forthcoming. Jim said the groups’ plans for UCPs and communications will be valuable as the task force looks at projects for the upcoming FFY22 grant cycle.

New Business

Jim Page explained the following motion regarding an ILEAS inter-grant transfer of funds.

- **Motion to transfer \$297,779.67 to acquire crisis negotiator technology (hostage phones) and ballistic shields for non-ILEAS multi-jurisdictional SWAT/tactical teams. ILEAS will transfer funds to 20ILEASSRT by reducing 20ILEASCOM by \$78,620.00, 20ILEASPLAN by \$150,000.00, and 20ILEASCAR by \$69,159.67.**
Motion to Approve: Jim Keiken, IFSI
Seconded: Dominic Chiappini, ISP
Motion approved.

Samantha Kanish, Safe2Help Coordinator, provided an update on the program, which is a free, statewide, confidential school safety program to prevent suicide, bullying and other threats to student safety. In addition to the confidential 24/7 helpline available through mobile app, text, phone, email or website, Safe2Help has a website with student resources, educational resources/mental health toolkit for teachers and administrators, and free marking resources for school districts. Samantha explained how school districts can register for the program and provided statistics on the helpline interactions thus far, with bullying being the most prevalent reporting category and texting being the most common mode of interaction. Chairman Schenkel encouraged attendees to spread the word to increase school participation.

Bob Evans provided an update on the FFY22 grants timeline in light of the president signing the FFY22 budget on March 16. Federal agencies have 60 days from that date to release the notice of funding opportunity to states. Bob mentioned two potential “special” ITTF meetings as the task force moves through the project approval process: an additional Council of Chairs meeting on May 18 and an additional full ITTF meeting on June 1. Committee chairs provided updates on their project submissions.

Comments/questions from committees:

Jim Page announced that on June 21 ILEAS is holding a law enforcement wellness event with nine mental health and wellness providers.

A brief discussion took place regarding remote vs. in-person attendance at meetings. ITTF staff will get clarification on Open Meetings Act guidelines/pandemic allowances from IEMA legal staff.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 27, 2022, ITTF full membership meeting at 10 a.m.
- *Tentative* May 18, 2022, special Council of Chairs meeting at 10 a.m.
- May 25, 2022, ITTF Council of Chairs meeting at 10 a.m.

Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn.**
Motion to Adjourn: *Jim Page, ILEAS*
Seconded: *Jim Keiken, IFSI*
Meeting adjourned.