

State All Hazards Advisory Committee (SAHAC) Meeting Notes

January 11, 2008

These are unofficial notes from the State All Hazards Advisory Committee (SAHAC) meeting of January 11, 2008, prepared for informational purposes for members of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Kathay Rennels, Larimer County Commissioner and Chairperson of the SAHAC. CSFCA Executive Director Paul Cooke represented the Association.

SAHAC Structural Change Discussion

Chairperson Rennels and members of the ad-hoc steering committee created to examine potential structural changes to the SAHAC, reported their recommendations. Following is a summary of their recommendations:

1. Leave SAHAC voting membership intact (29 members)
2. Create an Executive Board which will be seven members, as follows:
 - a. 1 person representing the regions
 - b. 1 person representing the state agencies
 - c. 1 person representing the tribes
 - d. 1 person representing organizations/associations
 - e. 1 person representing elected officials
 - f. 1 person representing federally funded programs (UASI, MMRS, etc.)
 - g. 1 person at large
3. The purpose of the Executive Board would be to take issues forward from the SAHAC to the SAC.
4. Create five standing committees, as follows:
 - a. Bylaws Committee
 - b. Legal Committee (Legislative, Congressional, etc.)
 - c. Operations Committee
 - d. Preparedness Committee
 - e. Communications Committee
5. The Executive Committee would meet on the same day as the full SAHAC and would have a conference call in the off-months.
6. The position of "secretary" should be added to the officers

There was significant discussion regarding the need for an executive committee with several members expressing concern that it would be difficult for one association to represent all associations, and one state agency to represent all state agencies, etc. Some believed it was the role of the officers to carry the message from the SAHAC to the SAC and adding a layer would not enhance the flow of communications.

The issue was tabled until the next meeting, and in the interim, the ad-hoc steering committee will continue to take input from the SAHAC membership.

Homeland Security Reorganization

Gen. Mason Whitney, the Governor Ritter's Homeland Security Coordinator announced the Governor's proposed reorganization of the State's homeland security functions.

Gen. Whitney presented his recommendations on the reorganization of the State's homeland security functions a couple weeks ago. Last Friday, after he had acted on the recommendations, the Governor presented his proposed homeland security reorganization to his cabinet. Following this, he directed Gen. Whitney to take the planned course of action to stakeholders for input.

Issues with the Current Structure

According to Gen. Whitney, the problem with the current structure in Colorado is that the homeland security mission is shared by many different state agencies, but there is no single agency that provides oversight for the entire mission. The result is a fractured system.

In considering the Colorado Division of Emergency Management as the potential lead agency for homeland security, the following pros and cons emerged:

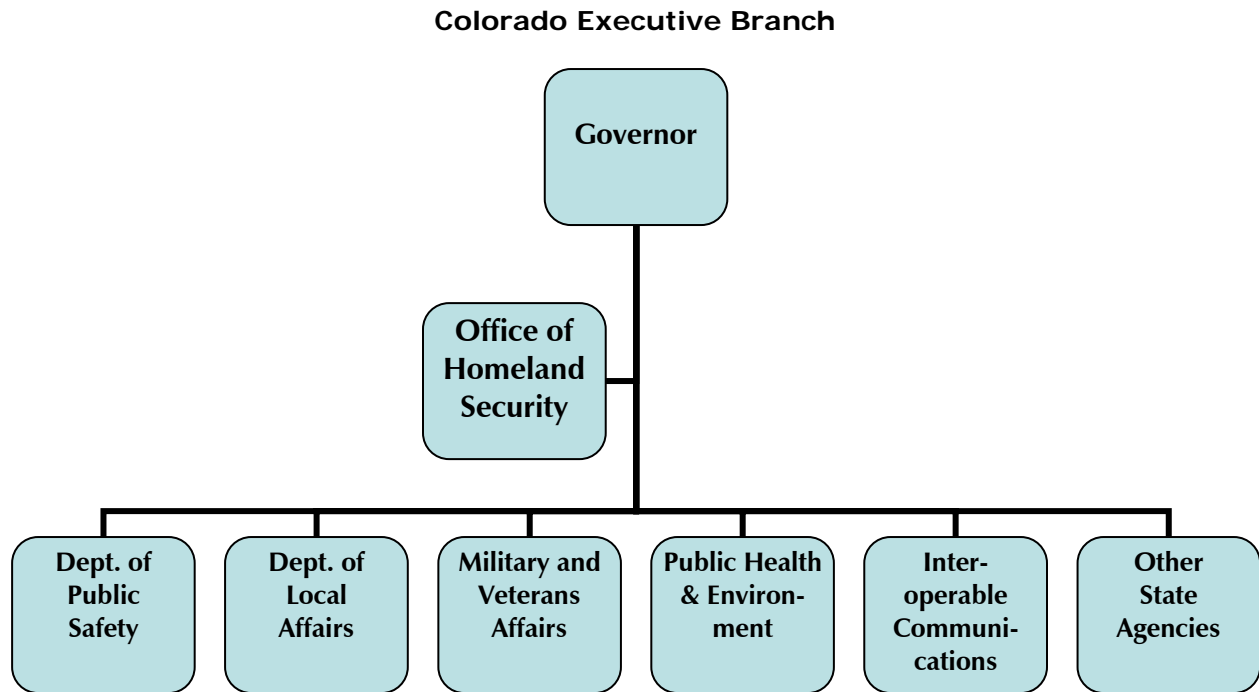
- Pros
- CDEM has a major piece of the homeland security mission
 - CDEM leverages DHS grant to help fund division
- Cons
- Responsibility for entire homeland security mission is not clear
 - Authority to task other agencies is limited
 - Focus of CDEM is emergency operations
 - Focus of CDPS is law enforcement
 - Cultures sometimes restrict collaboration

When asked if he defined "homeland security" as focused on the terrorist threat as opposed to "all-hazards emergency management", Gen. Whitney indicated that it included all four components of all-hazards emergency management; including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. But, he added, that the Division of Emergency Management is not the only state agency with these responsibilities, and it doesn't "own" all the responsibilities of homeland security, such as preventing and disrupting terrorist attacks, or protecting critical infrastructure.

Proposed Homeland Security Structure

The Governor's proposal is to create an Office of Homeland Security, within the Office of the Governor. The Director of the Office of Homeland Security would serve as both the State Homeland Security Advisor (HSA) as well as the State Administering Agency (SAA). Gen. Whitney indicated, unlike the federal Department of Homeland Security, other state agencies will not be rolled into the new office. Instead, he described the Office of Homeland Security as a staff function and the departments as "operational" and will continue to carry out their statutory duties. The Office of Homeland Security will coordinate and exercise "command and control" over the homeland security functions of the various departments.

The chart below shows the relationship of the Office of Homeland Security with respect to the other Executive Branch agencies.



Office of Homeland Security Organization

As proposed, the Office of Homeland Security will have the following functions and staffing:

Homeland Security Grants (4 FTE). The administration of DHS homeland security grants will be transferred from the Division of Emergency Management to the Office of Homeland Security. It is still to be determined which federal grants the state receives will fall under the oversight of the Office of Homeland Security, but it will oversee all those related to homeland security. Grants other than DHS grants will likely still be administered by the responsible state agency.

Financial Management (2 FTE). The Office of Homeland Security will provide the financial management for the homeland security grants it administers (currently a function of the Department of Local Affairs).

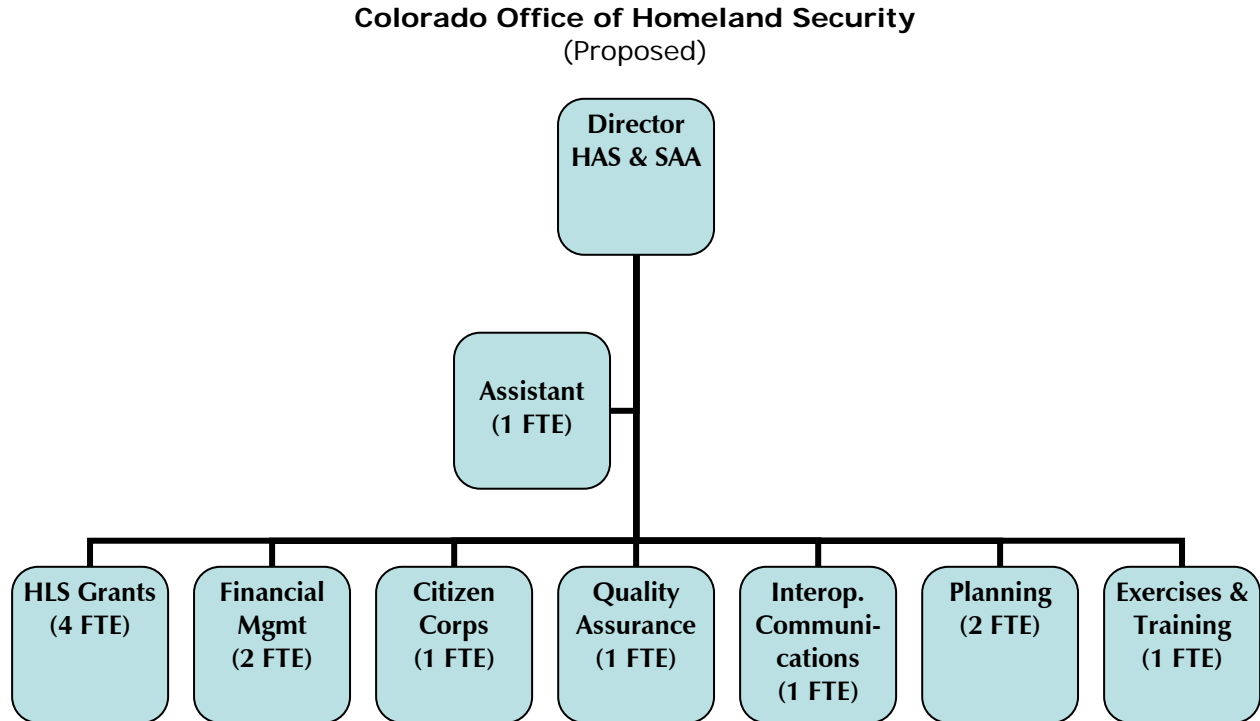
Citizen Corps (1 FTE). The Office of Homeland Security will coordinate Colorado's Citizen Corps program, providing the central coordination for the various Citizen Corps Councils around the state.

Quality Assurance (1 FTE). JoAnne Hill will continue to provide audit and quality assurance activities related to homeland security grant activities.

Interoperable Communications (1 FTE). This function will coordinate the state's various activities related to interoperable communications.

Planning (2 FTE). This function will develop, implement and administer the State Homeland Security Strategy.

Exercises and Training (1 FTE). This function will coordinate and provide oversight for the homeland security exercise and training activities of the various state agencies.



Gen. Whitney reported that has been directed to develop an implementation plan and an Executive Order to create the Office of Homeland Security. He indicated that the timetable is aggressive – the Governor wants to implement it in the next month or so.

Response to DHS Audit of Colorado’s Homeland Security Grant Program

Gen. Whitney reported that the DHS response to the proposed reorganization of Colorado’s homeland security responsibilities has been positive. He said that, as a result, there is some indication that DHS will work with the state with respect to the \$7.8 million it has identified for refunding back to the federal government. DHS is sending a team to the state to work through this issue.

More information on the proposed reorganization of the State’s homeland security functions will be forthcoming.

Election of Officers

Chairperson Rennels held the election of officers for 2008 and indicated that she was not interested in serving in this capacity any longer due to other commitments.

Lori Hodges, Park County Emergency Manager was elected Chairperson
Fran Santagata, Denver UASI was elected Vice-Chairperson

Bills of Interest

SB08-001. Janelle Krueger of the Colorado Department of Education reported on SB08-001 which would create a school safety resource center in the Department Of Public Safety the to assist schools in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and crisis situations. She indicated there is a parallel effort in the JBC to provide general fund support for this program.

SB08-011 & HB08-1009. Kathy Rennels discussed these bills that concern uncompensated trauma care. Both are being carried by members of the Legislative Health Care Task Force (Morse and Massey are prime sponsors). She indicated that a substantial amendment to HB08-1009 will be introduced in committee.

HB08-1097, Concerning the Provision of Protections to Certain Types of Volunteers Who Volunteer Their Services in a State-Level Emergency Situation. Dave Holm of CDEM reported that, as introduced, this bill only covers the Civil Air Patrol, but it is the sponsor's desire to amend it to cover other types of volunteers.

SAHAC/SAC Meeting Schedule

Following is the proposed meeting schedule for the SAHAC and the SAC (Senior Advisory Committee) for the remainder of the year:

<u>SAHAC</u>	<u>SAC</u>
March 14, 2008	February 6, 2008
May 9, 2008	May 7, 2008
July 11, 2008	August 6, 2008
September 12, 2008	November 5, 2008
November 14, 2008	January 7, 2008
January 9, 2009	

Next Meeting – The next meeting is March 14, 2008, 09:00 at the State EOC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

For more information about the State All Hazards Advisory Committee or to read previous minutes, go to: <http://www.dola.state.co.us/dem/sahac/sahac.htm>

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