



AGENDA

ST. LOUIS AREA REGIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, January 14, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.

*** VIRTUAL MEETING - CALL IN INFORMATION ***

1-605-313-5111

Access Code: 193547

1. CALL TO ORDER BY SGT. BILL ROCHE
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING
3. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Directors Report
GREGGORY FAVRE
STARRS
 - B. COVID / HCC Update
BRAD ZOREF,
STARRS
 - C. CCTA Update
DALE CHAMBERS
STARRS
 - D. Sub-committee Reports
 - *Subcommittees have been engaged in COVID-19 response and have not had a opportunities to meet regularly. Report outs are welcomed for the good of the order are welcomed and regular committee reporting will resume as COVID-19 operations lessen.*
5. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Regional Security Expenditures – Vislink Helicopter Upgrades
6. OTHER BUSINESS
7. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT
 - a. **The next STARRS Board meeting is currently scheduled for February 11th, 2020.**
Given the fluidity of the regional COVID-19 response and the impact it has on this board, we will continue to evaluate the needs of the organization and our membership and will provide updates to the meeting schedule as needed.

**STARRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2020**

The meeting of the STARRS Board of Directors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. via telephone conference call, with attendance as follows:

On Conference Line:

Bill Roche
Brian Gettemeier
Chris Hunt
Cody Minks
Dennis Jenkerson
Derek Rieger
Gary Christmann
Greg Brown
Gregg Favre
Herb Simmons
Jim Wild
Joann Leykam
John Nowak
Larry OToole
Michele Ryan
Nick Kohlberg
Roger Smith
Tony Falconio
Vanessa Poston

Not Present:

Abe Cook
Don Feher
Jim Terry
Jani Albright
Josh Wilderson
Justen Hauser
Kathy Vasivil
Kurt Frisz
Landen Prange
Lawrence Taylor
Lynn Perrin
Michele Tanton
Mike Arras
Nick Harper
Ryan Weber
Tina Davis
Warren Robinson

Also in attendance were Dr. Rachel Charney (Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital) and STARRS / East-West Gateway Council of Governments staff Staci Alvarez, Leah Watkins, Gregg Favre, Dale Chambers, Samantha Peterson and Brian Marler

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Roche called the meeting to order at 0900 and Staci Alvarez took attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

Bill requested approval for the August 2020 Board meeting minutes. Larry O’Toole motioned and Gary Christmann seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Directors Report

Gregg Favre shared that staff would provide brief programmatic updates during today's meeting, and shared his thanks with Dr. Rachel Charney (Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital) for attending to share a COVID-19 update with the Board. Gregg also shared that COVID-19 would continue to be a priority in the region for a good bit longer. Gregg also shared information on the announcement of a new million dollar DHS RCPG grant that St. Louis has received thanks to the diligent application work by Dale Chambers and the East-West Gateway staff. This was a competitive grant and the St. Louis region received the maximum amount awarded to recipient cities. Gregg also shared that the region is awaiting word on the 2021 UASI grant and that it is likely a similar timeline will occur to last year's UASI process, and that we may see additional law enforcement or other grant requirement changes and stressed that the THIRA update and other upcoming UASI processes are crucial to receiving a grant award. Gregg also shared that the cybersecurity landscape has been exceptionally busy in 2020 and that a cybersecurity panel discussion between Derek Rieger, the Region's Cybersecurity Coordinator, and State and Federal cybersecurity experts would occur at the East-West Gateway Council of Governments annual meeting later this month. Gregg also shared that Sam Peterson of STARRS staff completed her CEM certification recently, and that Brad Zoref is doing some competitive paper submittal related to Covid-19. Additional updates included that Captain Rieger has been named to the Midwest Regional Cyber Treat Intelligence Network for the nation's Fusion Centers, and that East-West Gateway has received the nation's Patriot Award for outstanding contributions to Military Reserve Duties from the Department of Defense.

Covid/HCC Update

Brad Zoref provided an overview of Covid-19 statistics for the St. Louis region. The Missouri side of the UASI region has 656 covid positive patients in hospital beds plus an additional 131 patients under investigation for covid plus, with an additional 151 ICU beds in use in covid response. These numbers do not include numbers from the Illinois side UASI counties nor the extended non-urban areas of the Healthcare Coalition. In Illinois, in the HOPE Coalition's UASI counties have 130 positive covid patients, for a total of about 786 covid positive hospitalized patients in the UASI counties. For comparison, back in the first wave in the spring the region had 525 covid positive patients, demonstrating the seriousness of the current surge. In the spring surge peak, elective surgeries were canceled, and staff were fresh. In the current wave elective surgeries continue in many hospitals, and staff has been in response mode for much of the year. Hospital staff shortages have also increased with staff become covid positive or becoming sidelined with flu as well. Hospital administration staff has stepped in and provided clinical assistance due to the staff shortages. The region is also seeing PPE fatigue, not protecting themselves due to exhaustion. Other regions in Missouri are seeing similar or higher levels of surge, with a statewide positivity rate of 21%. The southeast region of Missouri has a positivity rate over 31% and has transferred patients to St. Louis area hospitals.

Dr. Rachel Charney also provided an update on the Covid-19 response, sharing that she is a pediatric emergency medicine physician and the medical director for disaster preparedness at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Dr. Charney is also the medical director for the School of Medicine at St. Louis University and their contract tracing program. Dr. Charney shared information on differences between the spring surge and the current one. The mortality rate is lower now than it was in the spring. Dr. Charney shared concern on a possible surge following the Thanksgiving holiday due to group gatherings over the long weekend. She also shared they are seeing more covid infection in healthcare workers due to PPE fatigue.

Brad Zoref also shared some information on the reproductive (RE) value of covid. An RE value of one (1) means that each infected person infects one other person. An RE value of one point one (1.1) leads to an exponential growth of infection. The current RE value for the St. Louis region is one point two three (1.23). Three months ago the region had an RE value of point nine nine (0.99), demonstrating the exponential increase underway.

Brad also shared an update on response activities throughout the covid response, including the activation of the SMOC and its associated daily and weekly update calls and processes, and the integration of STARRS staff within the St. Louis County OEM's covid response. Planning has occurred throughout the response in items related to PPE, LTC, Public Health, the Dignified Transfer Center, ACS, School reopening planning in addition to many other planning and response processes. The SMOC has not been integrated within Dr. Garza's Pandemic Task Force as well, and coordinates with the region's CRI processes. Brad shared that the St. Louis region's HCC has been given praise by the Missouri Hospital Association and the state being touted as the model HCC in the state, and has had the best coordination and effort throughout the covid response. After an inquiry by Joann Leykam, Brad shared an update on the discussion of opening a temporary free standing/ACS location in the region, explaining that the lack of staffing for such a new facility is the primary hurdle for such an endeavor. Dale Chambers also shared that the acuity level of covid patients would be a challenge for any ACS facility and its staffing/facility needs. Gregg Favre shared thanks with Dr. Charney for sharing information with the Board of Directors today.

CCTA/HSPG Update

Dale Chambers shared that the CCTA project continues with upcoming events, including a regional workshop exercise with the Fusion Center in December. In 2021 the region will see CCTA tabletops for senior elected officials. In March 2021 and through the rest of the year the region will see some additional work in fatality management and family reunification, plus a wrap up drill late in the spring.

Dale also shared that work has begun on the new Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant (RCPG). An additional STARRS staff person is anticipated for work with this grant that focuses on core capabilities and community lifelines. The program will focus on pandemic preparedness, logistics and supply chain management within the healthcare/medical lifeline. Private sector partners will be engaged on a larger scale than has been done in the past. This new project will look similar to the CCTA project in execution with many workshops and events.

THIRA Update

Samantha Peterson shared an update on the THIRA/SPR projects. Sam shared that workshops were completed in October and that STARRS has begun uploading the data in to the Federal tools. The information gathered will also be integrated in to the future UASI 2021 process, providing justification for project requests.

Cybersecurity/NCSR Update

Brian Marler shared that 2020 has seen a large increase in cyber attacks, consuming an estimated two trillion (\$2,000,000,000 dollars) in response worldwide. Hospitals are being targeted specifically in many attacks. Brian shared that a continuing focus on cybersecurity in DHS

grants such as UASI was likely and that additional agency requirements, such as the NCSR process, may be implemented in the future. The NCSR process is underway with 14 of 25 agencies having completed the 2020 NCSR process. All agencies are expected to complete the process by the December 7th deadline this year.

Joann Leykam asked for an update on the possibility of a future cybersecurity working group in the future. Gregg Favre confirmed that additional cybersecurity requirements for the UASI grant are likely, and that adding a cybersecurity representative to the STARRS Board of Directors is being looked at. Joann volunteered to assist with the process of updating the bylaws to facilitate this change.

Gregg shared that Captain Derek Rieger, the Regional Cybersecurity Coordinator, will be hosting a cybersecurity update and panel discussion at the East-West Gateway Council of Governments Annual Meeting next week, and encouraged attendance and participation in that event.

OTHER BUSINESS

No subcommittee reports or other business were offered.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Gregg Favre shared that January 14th is the next Board meeting date.

Gregg requested a motion to adjourn, Larry O'Toole motioned to adjourn and Tony Falconio seconded.

The motion carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 0951.

Bill Roche



Memo to: Board of Directors
From: Staff
Subject: Regional Security Expenditures
Date: January 14, 2020

Staff is requesting authorization to expend funds in support of regional security that will improve the region's disaster preparedness and response capabilities. Funding will come from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant program. Attachment A summarizes purchases totaling \$95,000

Vislink Helicopter Upgrades

Staff is seeking approval to upgrade the Vislink transmitters and antennas within the region's Metro Air Support aircraft. In 2010 the STARRS Board of Directors initially approved a contract with Vislink Group to equip the region's Metro Air Support reconnaissance aircraft with live streaming video transmission equipment. In later years the region added four fixed-site receiver locations to the region's microwave network, allowing the aircraft to transmit the livestream to these sites for redistribution to viewers across the region's facilities. With some Vislink components nearing 10 years of age, upgrades are required to maintain the Vislink systems to ensure its future availability and to improve stream quality and reliability for viewers.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the expenditure of funds as follows:

- for the purchase of equipment and services from Integrated Microwave Technologies (IMT) associated with the Vislink systems within the region's Metro Air Support Aircraft in an amount not to exceed \$95,000;

for a total amount not to exceed \$95,000.