

**Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council
SPECIAL Council of Chairs Meeting
August 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS)
2200 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL
and
DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
418 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL

Attendance:

Unless otherwise indicated, individuals attended in Springfield.

Ted Berger – IEMA-OHS Acting Director/Homeland Security Advisor

Beth Windisch – IEMA-OHS Deputy Director of Homeland Security

Clayton Kuetemeyer – IEMA-OHS Deputy Director of Emergency Management

Committee Chairs

Communications:

- Matt Miller – Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

Critical Infrastructure:

- Mark Doerfler – Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network
- Joe Gasparich – Illinois Department of Transportation

Cybersecurity:

Emergency Management:

- Allison Anderson – Will County Emergency Management Agency (attended in Wheaton)

Fire Mutual Aid:

- Jim Keiken – Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Law Enforcement Mutual Aid:

- J.W. Price – Illinois State Police
- Larry Evans – Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System

Prevention:

- Eric Arnold – Illinois Law Enforcement and Training Standards Board

Public Health:

Urban Area:

Staff/Members:

Ahrens, Scott – ISP
Albert, Damian – Cook Co.
Beamer-Pfeifer, Julie – WIU/IEMA-OHS
Bordage, Dan – Illinois Health & Hospital Assoc. (Wheaton)
Bowen, Jason – DoIT
Buckley, John – Illinois Fire Chiefs Assoc. (Wheaton)
Coffing, Bruce – City of Chicago (Wheaton)
Conway, Louise – IEMA-OHS
Evans, Bob – IEMA-OHS
Fitzsimons, Ryan – Chicago Police (Wheaton)
Gutierrez, Natalie – Chicago OEMC
Hajdu, Karl – Chicago Police (Wheaton)
Hand, Bethany – Chicago Fire Dept.
Hotz, Heather – ILETSB
Jackson, Michael – Lake County Sheriff's Office (Wheaton)
Khayyat, Adnan – IEMA-OHS
Kumar, Rebecca – Lake County EMA (Wheaton)
Lyons, Bernie – MABAS
Maulawin, Tomas – City of Chicago (Wheaton)
Moore, Heather – IFSI
Ogilvy, Graham – IEMA-OHS
Pound, Karl – IEMA-OHS
Runyon, Mark – IPWMAN (Wheaton)
Seraphin, Bryant – ILEAS
Statham, Anna – Chicago OEMC
Strayer, Nichole – IEMA-OHS
Sullivan, Jamar – Chicago Fire Dept.
Velez, Frank – City of Chicago

Minutes

➤ Call to Order

IEMA-OHS Preparedness and Grants Administration Division Chief Bob Evans welcomed everyone attending in Springfield and in Wheaton.

➤ Public Comments

None.

➤ Introductory Remarks

IEMA-OHS Acting Director/Homeland Security Advisor Ted Berger welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation on short notice. He acknowledged the dual challenges of a tight timeframe to submit grant applications and significant reductions in allocated funding. He encouraged open and honest discussion as the group works toward a consensus recommendation on projects. He also introduced new IEMA-OHS Deputy Director of Homeland Security Beth Windisch.

Deputy Director Windisch shared that prior to coming to IEMA-OHS, she spent 20 years working for the federal government, both in Washington, D.C., and federal region 5 in Chicago. She expressed how happy she was to be at IEMA-OHS and involved with the HSAC, which has a long history of collaboration and problem solving. She expressed appreciation for the members present for providing expertise on what is needed to ensure Illinois remains prepared despite significant cuts to federal preparedness funding. She added she is looking forward to continuing to meet with partners in the coming days and weeks.

➤ Discussion of project submissions and attachments for FFY25 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP):

Chief Evans provided information on the Notice of Funding Opportunity that FEMA released, revised, and re-released on August 1, with an application deadline of August 15. Illinois' State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) allocation is \$10,419,556, a \$2,085,863 reduction from the FFY24 allocation. Illinois' Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) allocation is \$33,479,819, a \$25,915,559 reduction from FFY24. He reviewed the national priorities and their minimum percentages, which include 10% for supporting border crisis and response enforcement, 3% for enhancing election security, and 35% identified with law enforcement terrorism prevention. The meeting focused on reaching consensus on the SHSP project list, which needs to be reduced by approximately \$2 million, targeting areas that don't require a minimum percentage. Evans pointed out that keeping the state-retained UASI funds at the same percentage as last year results in a reduction from \$5,631,821 to \$3,173,887. Committee chairs/organization representatives summarized proposed cuts from their previously proposed projects, while Evans adjusted the displayed spreadsheet in real time. After everyone's input, the target allocation amount was reached.

- ***Motion to approve FFY25 HSGP project submissions and recommend to the full HSAC***

Motion to approve: Jim Keiken, IFSI

Seconded: Mark Doerfler, IPWMAN

Motion carried.

➤ Adjournment