

ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Full Membership Meeting

August 11, 2025, 11:30 a.m.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security
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 listed attended in Springfield.

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

Beth Windisch, IEMA-OHS Deputy Director of Homeland Security

HSAC Member Delegates:

Ameren – Tony O’Neal

American Public Works Association (APWA) –

American Red Cross – Scott Clarke

American Water –

Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois (AFFI) – Chuck Sullivan (DuPage County)

Aurora University –

Central Management Services (CMS) –

Cities of Bloomington-Normal –

Cities of Champaign-Urbana –

City of Chicago – Natalie Gutierrez (DuPage County)

City of Joliet –

City of Naperville –

City of Peoria –

City of Quincy –

City of Rockford – Todd Monahan (DuPage County)

City of Springfield –

Collaborative Health Care Urgency Group (CHUG) –

Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (DEMRS) –

DuPage County Office of Homeland Security Emergency Management (OHSEM) – Craig Dieckman (DuPage County)

Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police –

Illinois Association of County Engineers –

Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators (IAPHA) – John Ridley

Illinois Association of School Administrators –

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) –

Illinois Board of Higher Education –

Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators – Aaron Woodruff

Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers –

Illinois College of Emergency Physicians – Jason Kegg

Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) –

Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) – Jeff Newell

Illinois Council of Code Administrators –

Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association –

Illinois Department of Agriculture –

Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) –
 Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) – Zachary Joyce
 Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) – Jason Bowen
 Illinois Department of Military Affairs (Illinois National Guard) –
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) –
 Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) –
 Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) – Joe Gasparich
 Illinois Department on Aging –
 Illinois Education Association –
 Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) – Clayton Kuetemeyer
 Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) – John Dwyer
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) –
 Illinois Firefighters Association – Terry Ford
 Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) –
 Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) – Heather Moore, Jim Keiken
 Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHHA) – Dan Bordage (DuPage County)
 Illinois Incident Management System (IL-IMS) –
 Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) – Larry Evans, Bryant Seraphin
 Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) – Eric Arnold, Heather Hotz
 Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT) –
 Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System –
 Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) – Mark Doerfler, Mark Runyon (DuPage County)
 Illinois School Psychologists Association –
 Illinois School Resource Officers Association –
 Illinois Sheriffs' Association –
 Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) – Amy Kelly
 Illinois State Police (ISP) – Scott Ahrens, J.W. Price
 Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) – Matthew Miller
 Lake County Emergency Management Agency – Michael Jackson (DuPage County), Rebecca Kumar (DuPage County)
 Logan County Emergency Management Agency –
 McHenry County Emergency Management Agency – Dave Christensen (DuPage County)
 Metro-East Emergency Management Agency (St. Clair – Madison Counties) – Samantha Bierman
 Mid-West Truckers Association – Don Schaefer
 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) – Bernie Lyons
 Nicor Gas – Mark Guth (DuPage County)
 Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Jordan Ping
 Ogle County Emergency Management Agency –
 People's Gas and Northshore Gas Companies –
 Quad Cities –
 Regional Superintendents of Schools –
 Secretary of State Police (SOS) –
 Will County Emergency Management Agency – Allison Anderson (DuPage County)

Advisory Members

Steve Lyddon – U.S. DHS

Other Attendees

Adjei-Mantey, Daniel – ICCB
Beamer-Pfeifer, Julie – WIU/IEMA-OHS
Buckley, John – Illinois Fire Chiefs Assoc. (DuPage County)
Coffing, Bruce – City of Chicago (DuPage County)
Conway, Louise – IEMA-OHS
Evans, Bob – IEMA-OHS
Fitzsimons, Ryan – Chicago Police (DuPage County)
Gilkes, Angela – Cook County DEMRS
Hajdu, Karl – Chicago Police (DuPage County)
Hand, Bethany – Chicago Fire Dept.
Long, Candice – IEMA-OHS
Maulawin, Tomas – City of Chicago (DuPage County)
Olech, Claudia – DuPage County (DuPage County)
Strayer, Nichole – IEMA-OHS
Velez, Francisco – City of Chicago
Williams, Haley – IEMA-OHS

➤ Call to Order/Welcome

IEMA-OHS Preparedness and Grants Administration Division Chief Bob Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in Springfield and Wheaton. He explained that FEMA released the FFY25 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity on Aug. 1, with an application deadline of Aug. 15, necessitating the extra Council of Chairs meeting earlier in the day and the current full HSAC meeting. Funding allocations for both the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) were reduced: SHSP by over \$2 million and UASI by almost \$26 million. He shared that the Council of Chairs worked during their meeting to make reductions to meet the funding target while maintaining all of the minimum percentages for national priorities.

➤ Public Comments

None

➤ Introductory Remarks

Ted Berger, Homeland Security Advisor/Acting IEMA-OHS Director, thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged the dynamic and uncertain environment that currently exists around homeland security funding, while also recognizing the significant capabilities and talents of HSAC subject matter experts. He said he was inspired by the work accomplished during the Council of Chairs meeting, with all partners recognizing the need to make necessary cuts while remaining poised to pivot to address future opportunities and continue to advance the HSAC's work. He introduced Beth Windisch, IEMA-OHS's new Deputy Director of Homeland Security.

Deputy Director Windisch shared that it is a privilege to serve in her new role with the HSAC in a state that has been a leader and trailblazer in homeland security. She welcomed the opportunity to meet with HSAC members to hear their perspectives, history and priorities.

➤ Presentation

Natalie Gutierrez from Chicago OEMC introduced several individuals from HSAC's partner organizations in Chicago (listed below), who shared a presentation on the critical importance of Urban Areas Security Initiative funding to the city in maintaining its public safety capabilities.

Deputy Director Ryan Fitzsimons, Chicago Police Department
Tomas Maulawin, Director of Grants Management, City of Chicago
Captain Karl Hajdu, Chicago Police Department
Bruce Coffing, City of Chicago CISO
Chief Jamar Sullivan, Chicago Fire Department
Assistant Commissioner Bethany Hand, Chicago Fire Department

➤ Quorum

It was determined that a membership quorum was not present at the meeting; therefore, the HSAC could not consider any motions or take final actions on agenda items.

➤ Discussion and approval of FFY25 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

Chief Evans explained the numerous challenges faced in putting together the proposed project list and budget for the FFY25 HSGP application, which include significant funding cuts and national priorities that total 30% of the request (including a minimum 10% for border crisis immigration enforcement), along with a 50% personnel cap and 80/20 local and state split. He presented the project list and dollar amounts arrived at and recommended by the Council of Chairs. No objections were raised. No vote was taken because of the lack of quorum in attendance. The HSGP application is due to FEMA on Friday, August 15.

Evans said he will soon be sending out information regarding the submission of projects for the unmet needs list, which will be discussed at the September Council of Chairs meeting. He will also send out the final HSGP spreadsheet from today's meetings.

- Upcoming Meetings/Events
 - Council of Chairs Meeting – September 24, 2025, 10 a.m.
 - Full Membership Meeting – October 22, 2025, 10 a.m.
 - Council of Chairs Meeting – December 10, 2025, 10 a.m.
- Adjournment