

M.O.R.E.
Regional Entities Subcommittee
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 07, 2015

Those Present:

Rep. Peggy Sayers, Jeffery Otto, Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Brian Anderson, Susan Bransfield, Jeff Bridges, Sen. Steve Cassano, Rep. Theresa Conroy, Rep. Mike Demicco, John Elsesser, John Filchak, Carl Fortuna, William Fritz, Betsy Gara, Scott Gaul, Sam Gold, Rep. John Hampton, Robert Labanara, Pat Llodra, Sheila McKay, Steve McKeever, Leo Paul, Lisa Pellegrini, Bonnie Reemsnyder, Rep. Christopher Rosario, Christine Ruman, Melissa Schlag, Donald Stein, Daniel Steward, Lyle Wray, Jeremy Zeedyk, Rep. Bob Godfrey

Those Absent:

Carl Amento, Rep. Aundre Bumgardner, Deb Hinchey, Richard Ives, Matthew Knickerbocker, Rep. Gail Lavielle, Cynthia Mangini, Robert Namnoum, Lena Rodriguez, Rep. Jason Rojas, Joyce Stille, Steve Vavrek, Jim Vigue, Rep. Tami Zawistowski

Meeting was called to order by Rep. Peggy Sayers at 12:06pm. Rep. Sayers noted that Leo Paul would take over as chair temporarily when she left the meeting early.

William Youell gave a presentation on the Kimball Study findings regarding 911 dispatch centers, regionalization suggestions, and existing opposition to regionalization.

Lyle Wray expressed the need for greater regionalization of emergency dispatchers and how two towns cooperating do not constitute regionalization. He also stated that 85% of the dispatch calls in Hartford go to one dispatch center, and then he inquired as to how the other 15% could be merged into the center that takes the majority of the calls.

William Youell expressed the issues revolving around small towns not wanting to send their calls to dispatchers in other towns.

Steve Verbil added that if all calls were moved to one center there would be a need to have a backup in another location in the event of a disaster.

Lyle Wray expressed his belief in the committee's need to think outside the box when exploring regionalization.

Carl Fortuna noted the problems with the grassroots approach to regionalization by stating that the towns lack the political will to regionalize and that the most effective way to regionalize would be through a state mandate.

Don Stein added that he wouldn't want any action taken to disrupt the existing agreements between towns.

Rep. Peggy Sayers asked Don Stein what issues his town faced when they began cooperating with another town.

Don Stein replied by saying that he doesn't know how the cooperation was implemented because it was long before his time in office.

John Elsesser added that some areas regionalized on their own out of necessity due to the limitations of the town.

Rep. Peggy Sayers asked if fire, police, and emergency services were all covered by the dispatch centers.

William Youell responded by stating that some regionalized dispatchers only cover fire services, but that any new regionalization should encompass all three services.

Pat Llodra brought up concerns regarding possible loss of employment and issues with police unions due to regionalization.

Leo Paul asked Lyle Wray to clarify the quantity of calls the Capitol Region handled.

Lyle Wray responded by stating that the 85% of calls the Hartford dispatch took were specific to only the Capitol Region.

Leo Paul inquired to the possibility of using incentives to convince the towns to regionalize.

William Youell responded by stating that an incentive exists, but since there are not many moves by the towns towards regionalization the incentive is insufficient.

Leo Paul asked if a study was conducted on the recalculating the regions without breaking up existing relationships.

William Youell responded by stating that no such study has been conducted yet.

Rep. Peggy Sayers brought up her concern with dispatchers not using the skills they were trained to use in the current format due to the infrequency of emergency calls that dispatchers handle.

William Youell agreed with Rep. Sayers and stated that was one of the concerns the study found.

Sen. Steve Cassano brought up the role of the federal government and the loss of money due to towns not regionalizing.

Susan Bransfield stated that her town's cooperation with another town worked well emphasizing that in her opinion two towns coming together does in fact constitute regionalization.

Bonnie Reemsnyder inquired to the possibilities of incentives to allow multi-town PSAPs to grow and serve more towns.

John Elsesser discussed how the advancing technology the dispatch centers are using could leave the smaller towns behind unless they regionalize.

Leo Paul opened the floor for the next presentation.

William Youell gave a presentation on next generation technology that 911 dispatches will move towards.

Daniel Steward discussed the difficulties of merging dispatch centers due to the personnel and unions involved because they don't want to lose any jobs.

Leo Paul thanked the presenters and concluded the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11pm.