JOINT LEGISLATIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
October 12, 2017
Room 544 of the Legislative Office Building

The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee met on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 9:05 AM. The meeting was held in Room 544 of the Legislative Office Building. Members present were: Rep. John Faircloth, Rep. Mike Clampitt, Rep. Brenden Jones, Rep. Garland Pierce, Rep. Larry Pittman, Rep. Jason Saine, Rep. Michael Speciale, Sen. John Alexander, Sen. Ron Rabin, and Sen. Norm Sanderson.

Senator Rabin presided.

Agenda order changed to Emergency Management and North Carolina's Electricity Grid, The Opioid Crisis: The State of the State and North Carolina's Emergency Preparedness Update.

Mr. Tom Pruitt & Mr. Carl Cahill, Duke Energy, Presented (See Presentation).

Q: Senator Rabin- When you go through the threats- cyber, GMD, EMP, etc., the one that I don't see in my humble opinion is a direct attack on the power stations.
A: Pruitt- We do take it very seriously and is grouped in the Physical/Cyber Security slide. The physical attack is anything that is attacked on our facilities.
A: Pruitt- We cannot prevent or defeat what someone might do in that situation but we can be as prepared as possible and respond as quickly as possible.

Q: Representative Pittman- I asked about security at the dam at Lake Norman because it occurred to me after 9/11, if somebody wanted to, they could take that dam out crashing a plane in with high explosives or something like that could do a lot of damage. Is there enough security to make sure that does not happen. I do not need details.
A; Pruitt- I can't provide details in this venue. We can come back in a closed session but you'll have to live with the assurance that, yes, we have considered that threat. Not only have we considered it, we have trained and drilled on it.

Q: Senator Alexander: What will happen if North Korea were to attack our EMP?
A: Cahill- Everything could go, if they were successful.

Q: Representative Pittman- I've heard 97% of Duke's emails are filtered out. Would you like to make any comment?

A: Cahill- You have great intel. We have an extensive program that filters out phishing. Phishing seems to be the way most companies are compromised today. When the attack on the Ukraine power plants occurred, the originator both times was caused by a phishing email. We put in very extensive controls around our phishing programs.

Q: Senator Sanderson- How is NC prepared legislatively to overcome the obstacles that you see that are in your way?
A: Cahill- We have a handful of things the NC Legislature can help with. One of the biggest problems we see is around supply chains. If you go out and buy computers from China we have seen it tampered with additional chips on it, malware built in, etc. From a legislative standpoint, if we can take ownership of the security of these devices back a step to certify our vendors' products to be safe.

Q: Representative Faircloth- How are the other suppliers tied together on a day-to-day operating level?
A: Cahill- There are some touch points with other utilities. They are all handled through a series of buffers.

Senator Rabin: What I see is you have a list of things you would like to see upgraded that you'd be happy to share with us by way of requirements that might exist but in this public setting you can not disclose.

Q: Representative Pittman- In reference to targeted underground, I understand you cannot go through the whole state but if you can when a storm has knocked the pole out go underground is there any feasibility at all even with delay of service, costs, etc?
A: Pruitt- If there is a storm that occurs every 30 years and down the road the storm occurs every year then there is a case for prioritization. How can we sensualize or self-optimize a grid to get all or most customers back on a grid? It may be cost effective to put in a circuit since there is a sister circuit near. It also may be most cost effective to go underground.

Mr. Lee Ragsdale, North Carolina Electric Cooperatives, Presented (See Presentation).

Q: Representative Clampitt- How far west do you go? Swain, Jackson, Hayward counties in particular that I represent?
A: Ragsdale- From the mountains to the coast. Hayward County EMC is in the western portion that I represent.

Mr. Gregg Welch, ElectriCities of NC, Presented (See Presentation).

Dr. Susan Kansangra, NC DHHS, Presented (See Presentation).

Q: Representative Pierce- Do you supply naloxone to law enforcement officers/police departments?

A: Kansangra- Yes, there are about 150 law enforcement agencies that are carrying naloxone. Everyday there are more agencies being trained in how to use naloxone in administrating.

Q: Representative Clampitt- Do you have a targeted age for youth prevention?
A: Kansangra- The youth prevention is primarily being targeted in high schools because we are seeing that increase in high schools but we are also seeing middle school years.

Q: Representative Clampitt- Do you have a breakdown on the number of people whether employed, age, male/female, and number of children in family being affected by opioids addictions? There are costs associated for child care that DSS is affected by.
A: Kansangra- We collect this data from death certificates. We see one of the key breakdowns is males aged 25-45. Other details can be provided at a later date.

Q: Senator Alexander- What exactly entails being an opioid? What are the street names? Why don't you do that and explain to people what an opioid is?
A: Kansangra- We are talking about Percocet, Vicodin, Oxycodone and OxyContin. You are correct we need to make people aware of what opioids are not just the term opioids.

Q: Senator Alexander- I'm looking at the STOP ACT and it does not apply to controlled substances when administered in a hospital, hospice, nursing home or residential care facility. I understand a hospital but the others could be very loose. Do we maintain a track of where these drugs go specifically by prescriber and patient?
A: Kansangra- One of the ways we track is through the controlled substance reporting system for prescriber and patient. We can see if the patient has received opioids from another prescriber. That is one of the key things the STOP ACT will be preventing.

Q: Senator Alexander- Are these hospices, nursing homes, etc., being policed at all?
A: Kansangra- Yes, many of these facilities are being tracked. Looking at division protocols being implemented and verifying that patients need these opioids are some of the ways.

Q: Representative Faircloth- I've heard of several instances where naloxone has been used multiple times on the same person. So, the naloxone is not changing the behavior of the individuals. Is that very widespread?
A: Kansangra- The data is showing that substance use is really a chronic disease. Relapse is actually a part of the disease. We are seeing after a number of times that people are going into treatment and being successful in their treatments.

Q: Representative Faircloth- Bloodspot analysis versus urine analysis, what are your thoughts on the two for testing opioids?
A: Kansangra- Physicians are generally relying on urine analysis when checking for drugs in the system. Drugs generally have a longer lasting result in urine than blood. Blood-spotting is not a widespread test.

Q: Representative Speciale- I know people using naloxone can be similar to people using safety equipment on vehicles. The more safety equipment there is, the sloppier the actions. Make people aware of where they can get rid of these opioids.
A: Kansangra- We are making people aware that opioids or other medications can be donated to law enforcement, fire departments, etc.

Q: Senator Sanderson- You said you are increasing laypeople and naloxone knowledge/usage. What are you doing to increase naloxone usage among laypeople?
A: Kansangra- Laypeople can purchase it through pharmacies (1500 pharmacies participate), treatment sites, organizations, law enforcement agencies.

Q: Senator Sanderson- As a layperson I can have some naloxone on hand?
A: Kansangra- Yes

Q: Senator Sanderson- Are we moving away from pain being included in the 5th vital sign?
A: Kansangra- Yes we are moving away from this in assessments.

Senator Alexander- Make sure to tell people not to flush prescriptions down the commode properly dispose these opioids. What not to do.

Q: Senator Rabin- During your discussion on who is working this thing, coalition, coalition, etc., is there a formal structure on this?
A: Kansangra- Yes it is created by the legislature Opioid and Prescription Drug Abuse Advisory Commission. There are subcommittees working within committees. DHHS, in particular, has a set time that we schedule to work on this within our department and other state agencies.

Q: Senator Rabin- You can provide us feedback to make that legislation better? Who receives the report?
A: Kansangra- Yes, we are in the process of writing the report.

Q: Senator Rabin- Propaganda 101 he who speaks first speaks the truth. I didn't see DPI on the chart. Why?
A: Kansangra- DPI is involved. We just do not have room to list everyone.

Q: Representative Speciale- What was the name of the website you spoke of?
A: Kansangra- www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/SafeKids/

Mr. Mike Sprayberry, North Carolina Emergency Management Director, Presented (See Presentation).

Q: Representative Brenden Jones- Locally, I couldn't be more proud of my guys in the field, making the rescues doing the recoveries, but we lacked a knowledge with our officials with Emergency Management people. Is there something we can do to help your department in this local level?

A: Sprayberry- Yes through education. Some Emergency Management teams have been through a lot and it's a key to understanding and doing. Counties that experience a lot seem to handle it more efficiently.

Q: Senator Alexander- When we send to other states is our state compensated for the expense involved in these types of missions?
A: Sprayberry- Yes, every penny is reimbursed. That is how Emergency Management Assistance Compact is set up. We are reimbursed. The state we are helping is reimbursed 75% and the receiving state covers the additional 25%.

Representative Larry Pittman- If we make more of a priority to funding to take care of we might be able to help Emergency Management more.

Q: Representative John Faircloth- With flooding and fires, there is often times a large loss of farm stock. Can you speak to your interaction with agricultural folks? Are there agreements to find trailers, move animals, etc?
A: Sprayberry- We work with agriculture consumer services. They have what they call the division of emergency programs, the new director is John Howard. They have veterinarians, planners and GIS experts that we work carefully with. For pets, such as cats and dogs, we have the companion animal mobile equipment trailer. When people evacuate to a shelter they can take their pets with them. For larger animals, such as horses, cows, etc. that's a more complex operation that we work with agriculture and all their vets. This happened during Hurricane Floyd. I was briefed earlier this year about Avian Influenza and practiced on that.

Q: Senator Ron Rabin- Given the way the world is changing and evolving into, would it be a good idea to fix the mission? Include preemption as part of the now: prepare, respond, recover somewhere in there?
A: Sprayberry- For me, being preemptive is part of being prepared. Proactive/preemptive is part of our mission. That's why Duke Energy comes and talks with me about their grid each year. That's why we participate in the EMP exercises with them. I do have real concerns with man-made issues like terrorism. We meet monthly about it. I think we need to be more aggressive. I think it is not a matter of if it is going to happen but a matter of when.

Q: Senator Ron Rabin- What would it take to give everyone VIPER and be able to talk to each other? Besides money. Better intel, better communication are quintessential to solving the problem.
A: Sprayberry- I do believe there is a study that is ongoing about that.

Q: Senator Ron Rabin- You mentioned Unattended Air Systems capability that we have, are they sufficient to the needs you have for all forms of disaster?
Unmanned Air Vehicles? Yes. We have moved methodically and carefully as the governments regulations have changed. We are not where I would like to be at capability wise but we are certainly moving in the right direction. We have fixed wing and rotored wing right now. It is not just used for search and rescue, and damage assessment but lots of other things.

Senator Ron Rabin- If there is something the committee can do, by way of state legislation capability give us the feedback. In future sessions we will be able to talk about this. We are trying to set baselines and ask a few questions. How do we get better and make us number one all the way around?

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:51 A.M.

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Senator Ron Rabin
Presiding

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Chandra C. Reed, Committee Clerk