

**MINUTES**  
**Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council**  
**Harrisburg, PA**  
**April 24, 2012**

A meeting of the Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council was held on April 24 at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg, PA. The meeting began at 9 a.m.

Attendance:

Members Present:

Thomas Hoffman, PCA, Chairman  
Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler, NIOSH  
Alfred Brown, At-Large Member - Senate  
Judith Shabbick, SMRT (via phone)

Others Present:

Joseph Sbaffoni, DEP-BMS  
Katy Gresh, DEP Communications CRC, CO  
Kevin Sunday, CRC, CO  
Lisa Kasianowitz, CRC, CO  
Daniel Spadoni, CRC, NCRO  
Amanda Witman, CRC, CO  
John Poister, CRC, SWRO  
Colleen Connelly, CRC, NERO  
Deborah Fries, CRC, SE  
Lynda Rebarchak, CRC, SERO  
Glenn Florence, DEP, AAMO  
Michael Dickerson, MSHA District 12  
Katie Dickerson, MSHA District 4

Chairman Tom Hoffman opened the meeting. At Chairman Hoffman's request, DEP Community Relations Coordinators (CRCs) and council members had chance to meet each other prior to the start of meeting. SMRT member Judith Shabbick was unable to attend due to bad weather and participated by phone. UMWA member John Kline and his alternate Richard Fink were not able to attend due to the primary election. PEMA member Pam Weeks had a flat tire the morning of the meeting and was unable to attend.

Minutes from the September 26, 2011, meeting held at the PEMA Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA, were reviewed. A motion was made by Judith Shabbick and seconded by Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler to accept the minutes as submitted.

Addressing Mental Health Issues in a Mine Disaster:

Dr. Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler and Judith Shabbick conducted a PowerPoint presentation on Mine Disaster Mental Health Issues followed by the philosophy they have developed to serve as the underpinnings for the development of a model program for Pennsylvania Mine Families First. They asked, and received, approval from the MFFAC to continue their efforts including identification of disaster mental health professionals in the state districts. They will report to Chairman Hoffman on their progress and determine when it will be appropriate to re-engage in discussion at a future meeting.

Lessons from the Upper Big Branch (UBB):

Michael Dickerson, MSHA District 12, gave a presentation on the lessons learned from the Upper Big Branch mine disaster. The other presenter on the agenda for this topic, Ron Wooten from Walter Energy, Inc., was not able to make the meeting due to dangerous road conditions he encountered in West Virginia.

**New Business:**

There was no new business to discuss.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting date for some time next April was not determined. Discussion was also held about having a meeting in the fall in conjunction with the 2012 PEMA Conference. Pam Weeks will be contacted regarding the possibility.

A motion was made by Judith Shabbick and seconded by Alfred Brown to adjourn meeting at 11:45 a.m.