

MINUTES
Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council
Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA
April 24, 2012

COUNCIL 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, Director, DEP, Bureau of Mine Safety
Katy Gresh, DEP, Communications Office
Kevin Sunday, DEP, Communications Office
Amanda Witman, DEP, Communications Office
Lisa Kasianowitz, DEP, CRC, SCRO
Daniel Spadoni, DEP, CRC, NCRO
John Poister, DEP, CRC, SWRO
Colleen Connelly, DEP, CRC, NERO
Deborah Fries, DEP, CRC, SERO
Lynda Rebarchak, DEP, CRC, SERO
Glenn Florence, DEP, AAMO
Michael Dickerson, MSHA District 12
Katie Dickerson, MSHA, District 4

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Hoffman opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. At Chairman Hoffman's request, DEP Community Relations Coordinators (CRCs) and council members met prior to the start of the meeting. SMRT member Judith Shabbick was unable to attend the meeting and participated by phone. UMWA member John Kline and his alternate Richard Fink, as well as PEMA member Pam Weeks were also unable to attend the meeting.

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 approve the minutes as presented. The motion was adopted by council.

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 including 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 council 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 discussions at a future meeting.

LESSONS FROM THE UPPER BIG BRANCH:

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, Rob Wooten from Walter Energy, Inc., was not able to attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The council did not have new business to discuss.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

The next meeting date of the council was discussed but a definitive date was not determined. Discussions were also held about having a council meeting in the fall of 2012 in conjunction with the 2012 PEMA Conference, including contacting Pam Weeks to discuss this possibility.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Judith Shabbick and seconded by Alfred Brown to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by council and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.