



AGENDA
ST. LOUIS AREA REGIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, January 13, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.

*** VIRTUAL MEETING - CALL IN INFORMATION ***

1-605-313-5111
Access Code: 193547

1. CALL TO ORDER BY WARREN ROBINSON
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING
3. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - a. Director's Report
GREGG FAVRE,
STARRS
 - b. 2021 THIRA/SPR Closeout
SAMANTHA PETERSON,
STARRS
 - c. Training & Exercise Survey & Next Steps
SAMANTHA PETERSON
 - d. Subcommittee Reports
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS
4. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Regional Security Expenditures
GREGG FAVRE,
STARRS
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next STARRS Board meeting is currently scheduled for **February 10, 2022.**

Given the fluidity of the regional COVID-19 response and the impact it has on this board, we will continue to evaluate the needs of the organization and our membership and will provide updates to the meeting schedule as needed.

**STARRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2021**

The meeting of the STARRS Board of Directors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. via telephone conference call, with attendance as follows (absent stricken through):

ATTENDANCE:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abe Cook | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Campbell | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Barton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ben Perrin | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff McCreary | <input type="checkbox"/> Michele Ryan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Roche | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Lohr | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Arras |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gettemeier | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Terry | <input type="checkbox"/> Morris Taylor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Hunt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Wild | <input type="checkbox"/> Nick Harper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cody Minks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joann Leykam | <input type="checkbox"/> Nick Kohlberg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Jenkerson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Nowak | <input type="checkbox"/> Roger Smith |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Derek Rieger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Wilderson | <input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Weber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don Feher | <input type="checkbox"/> Justen Hauser | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Russell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Brown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Frisz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shawn Icenhower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gregg Favre | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry O’Toole | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tina Davis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Simmons | <input type="checkbox"/> Lynden Prange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Falconio |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren Robinson |

Also in attendance were STARRS / East-West Gateway Council of Governments staff Staci Alvarez, Leah Watkins, Samantha Peterson, Brad Zoref & Brian Marler.

CALL TO ORDER

Warren Robinson called the meeting to order at 0900 and Staci Alvarez took attendance and confirmed a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warren requested approval of the August 2021 minutes with two reported corrections. A motion was made by Jason Campbell and was seconded by Larry O’Toole. The motion carried and was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

COVID REGIONAL REPORT

Brad Zoref shared that covid numbers in the St. Louis remain high but have remained steady over the last few weeks. Two to three weeks ago rates were in the 500s for hospitalizations but are now in the 400s. Reproductive value in the region is hovering at about one, which shows the steady state the region is in currently. Positivity rates range from 8.5% to 12% across the region. Mortality rate is currently higher than many points of the previous covid waves. The Pandemic Task Force (PTF) continues to monitor the

positivity rate of children, which are significantly higher in the current wave than in previous waves. School based transmissions are occurring both at school and home. Full dosage vaccination rates range from 28% to 50% in the region with some Illinois counties being higher. The region continues to support monoclonal antibody sites in St. Louis City and in Jefferson County. Both sites can support up to 20 patients a day, but they are only seeing ranges of 5-10 per day with lower numbers on Sundays. Hospitals are also increasing internal monoclonal antibody clinics, SSM is opening a major clinic in St. Charles, BJC is increasing capacity at Christian Hospital and other sites, up to 200 treatments per week. A new provider was approved by the state of Missouri which should also increase these treatments in the region. The State Emergency Response Center (ERC) continues to bring health providers together in the mornings to share information across multi-disciplines.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Warren Robinson shared that the Emergency Management committee met on the 20th and shared a brief update on the group's activities, including new siren updates and notifications available to the public. John Nowak shared that the EMS committee met yesterday, they discussed group leadership in advance of the November meeting, and the impact of covid on EMS response and staffing. Shawn Icenhower shared an update on the Healthcare Coalition, stating that a draft version of the Chem-Pack plan was being reviewed. Jason Campbell provided a Healthcare Preparedness report sharing that their group now has 8 different CMS provider types represented thanks to recruitment efforts. They approved their updated 2021 committee charter and they continue to look at options for an HP committee website. They are also looking at additional trainings, drills and exercise opportunities. Derek Rieger shared that the Training & Exercise group met Tuesday and that they will be hosting their TEPW November 9th. They will create documents explaining the training request process, and that 100% of respondents requested whole community exercises. Nina from the SLARCC shared that they have been involved with the Afghan migrant and immigrant resettlement programs.

ACTION ITEMS

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Warren opened discussion on new membership, referencing new proposed committee membership. Joann Leykam motioned for approval which was seconded. The motion carried without opposition.

REGIONAL SECURITY EXPENDITURE

Dale shared information on four expenditures requested this month for a total of \$332,631. The expenditures for the month include the Kaseware case management system, Cobwebs threat identification system, Recorded Future intelligence platform, and Nano X-Ray systems. Joann motioned to approve, Warren seconded, the motion was approved without opposition.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Roche thanked Samantha Peterson and STARRS staff for their work on the two recent THIRA/SPR workshop exercises.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

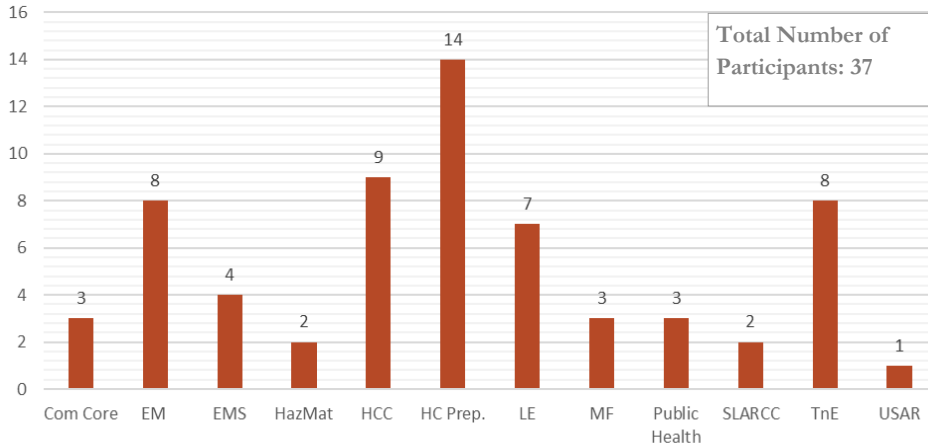
The next meeting of the STARRS Board is scheduled for October 14, 2021. Warren requested a motion to adjourn, which was provided by Tony Falconio and seconded. The motion carried the meeting was adjourned at 9:21AM

Warren Robinson

2021 Training and Exercise Survey

Partners and stakeholders of the St. Louis Area Regional Response System (STARRS) participated in a brief survey analyzing training and exercise needs of the region. The following data was collected with questions surrounding existing opportunities and future training and exercise planning efforts.

Representation by Committee



Do you know the training and exercise liaison within your STARRS Committee?

62% YES

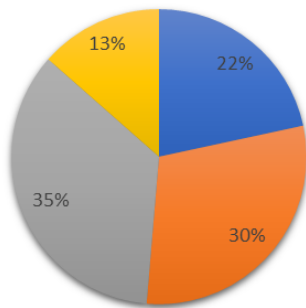
38% NO

Have you served as a voting member of or participated in the T&E Committee?

38% YES

62% NO

Do you know the process for requesting UASI funds for trainings and conferences?

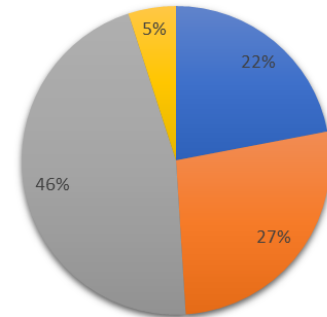


■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Yes- but Requesting an SOP
 ■ Unaware of this Opportunity

Would your organization benefit from more regional, whole-community, exercise opportunities?

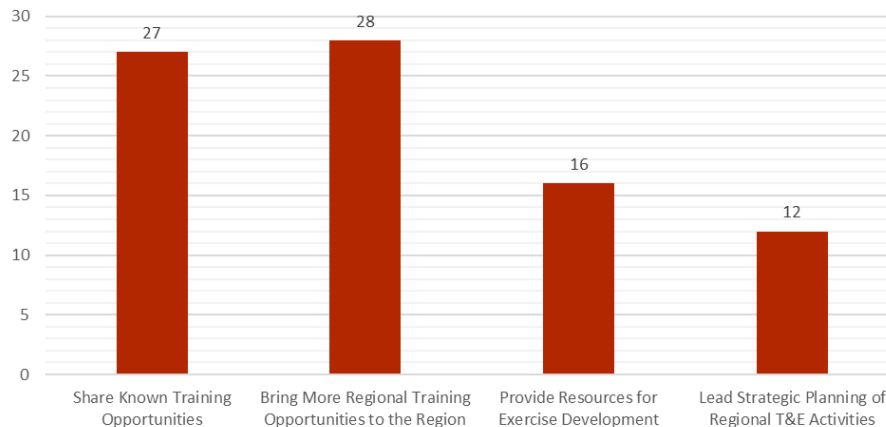
100% YES

Have you ever requested UASI funds for trainings or conferences?

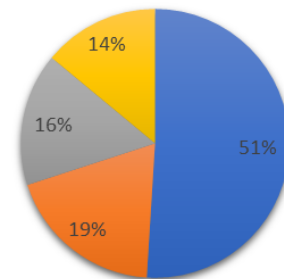


■ Yes ■ No ■ No, but interested in learning more ■ Other

What can the Training & Exercise Committee do to assist T&E capabilities?



Would you be willing to assist in the development and execution of regional exercises?



■ Yes
 ■ Yes, but prefer exercise planning training first
 ■ No, but someone in my organization would
 ■ No

Training and Exercise Improvement Planning

Results from each of the survey questions were reviewed and discussed by the STARRS team to determine the best course of action to improve overall program deliverables. Below each finding is described with a strategic goal and actions to reach that goal.

Do you know the process for requesting UASI funds through your subcommittee for a training or conference?

Survey Results: Responses to this question indicated 57% knew the process, however, 35% of these stakeholders expressed an interest in having a written procedure to guide this process. The remaining 43% of respondents did not know the process or were not aware they could make a request for funding for trainings and conferences.

Improvement Planning:

There are strategies that will be established to improve the number of STARRS stakeholders that are aware of the process to request UASI funding for training opportunities. While a written process does exist, it has not been widely distributed in the past to include new Board members and subcommittee members. A STARRS welcome packet will be created to include this information for new members moving forward. In addition, this information will be distributed to all existing members through the elected training and exercise liaison from each committee. It is also highly recommended the training and exercise committee liaison provides a reminder to their committees about this process on an annual basis during a regularly scheduled meeting.

Do you know your training and exercise liaison within your STARRS subcommittee?

Survey Results: 62% of responders indicated they did know the training and exercise liaison for their subcommittee, while 38% did not know their training & exercise representative.

Improvement Planning: Building off the strategies from the previous question, training and exercise liaisons will identify and reintroduce themselves by their role within their committee. This will be done by sharing information (to include the funding request process) and opportunities from the training and exercise committee. Additionally, it is recommended that the training and exercise liaison requests any training or exercise needs from their subcommittee on a regular basis during committee meetings. The training and exercise liaison then will bring these requests and needs to the next training and exercise committee meeting.

Have you ever requested UASI funding from the Training and Exercise Committee to attend a conference or training?

Survey Results: The results from this question demonstrated 73% have not received funding for a training or conference through the Training and Exercise Committee. Of this 73%, approximately 46% were interested in learning more details about this opportunity.

Improvement Planning: The results from this question may in some cases, be a direct result of a lack of awareness about funding opportunities (discussed in “*Do you know the process for requesting UASI funds through your subcommittee for a training or conference?*”). In addition to sharing this process in a welcome packet and through the training and exercise liaisons on a regular basis as discussed above, we will also include examples of previously funded opportunities to the STARRS Board and subcommittee members. This will allow our stakeholders an opportunity to consider how similar trainings or conferences that relate to their discipline may be requested for funding.

Would your organization benefit from more regional, whole community, exercise opportunities?

Survey Results: 100% of responders to this question answered that their organizations would benefit from more regional, whole community, exercise opportunities. COVID concerns were also expressed as a potential downfall to the execution of large exercise activities.

Improvement Planning: The results to this question demonstrate a significant amount of support for regional, whole-community exercises. The 2021 STARRS Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) hosted in November included conversations about these same needs. Strategies moving forward will include setting a standard requirement for training and exercise activities. Regional exercises should take place on a minimum of an annual basis. STARRS will begin planning a whole-community full scale in 2022. Additionally, STARRS is developing an application for a whole-community exercise in 2023. An exercise planning team will be established in 1st Quarter of 2022.

Would you be willing to assist in the development and execution of regional exercises?

Survey Results: Just over 70% of responses shared they would be willing to assist in the creation of regional exercises. Of this number, 19% requested more training on exercise planning and execution prior to serving on an exercise planning team. Approximately 16% responded to the survey indicating they would not be able to participate in an exercise planning team however, another person in their organization would assist with development and execution of regional exercises.

Improvement Planning: Having a good exercise planning team is the first and one of the most vital steps in planning a great whole community exercise. It is encouraging that so many partners and stakeholders are willing to collaborate and work together to create exercises that will build a more resilient community. Offering training on exercise development will build more of these skills and more subject matter experts in the region. STARRS will provide these opportunities through independent-studies, virtual trainings, and in-person courses.

What can the training and exercise committee do to assist your subcommittee with training and exercise projects?

Survey Results: Several options were given in this question including sharing known training opportunities (73%), bring more training opportunities to the region (76%), provide more resources for exercise development (43%), and lead strategic planning of regional trainings and exercises based on annual gap analysis (THIRA/SPR) (32%). Challenges around having the opportunity to participate due to short-staffing and travel were also expressed.

Improvement Planning: In an effort to share known training opportunities more efficiently, STARRS is pursuing the creation of a region monthly training and exercise newsletter. This tool will provide the most up-to-date training opportunities occurring in the region as well as any other information related to training and exercise projects/programs (such as THIRA/SPR, IPPW, etc.). While scheduling certain training opportunities is the responsibility of the Missouri/Illinois State Emergency Management Agencies, STARRS will continue to advocate for and coordinate opportunities being brought to the region. STARRS is also exploring the potential to bring other trainings to the region through existing regional funds. STARRS will also conduct quarterly regional updates on topics such as THIRA/SPR, IPPW updates, and other relevant topics. Taking the regional response to COVID into consideration, STARRS will continue to include as many virtual opportunities as possible.

Are there any other comments you have regarding trainings and exercises in the STARRS region?

Survey Results: Comments reiterated several topics discussed in the questions above to include better communication during the training funds request process and more training and exercise opportunities in the region. Another comment expressed a desire to have better collaboration across partners in the region on these types of activities.

Improvement Planning: Communication was found to be an area for improvement during this survey. Moving forward, not only will STARRS better explain the training funds request process, but also better communicate status of the request, any issues that are being addressed, and in any unfortunate situations where the training can not be funded STARRS will provide details as to why the training was ineligible. As addressed in a previous question, the creation of a training newsletter and development of more regional activities will increase overall training and exercise opportunities for the region. Continued community outreach through STARRS subcommittees and regional activities will provide for more collaboration across the region.

Closing Statements

We extend our gratitude to all of the stakeholders and regional partners that participated in the training and exercise survey. We also thank those that have taken the time to review the results and improvement planning items located in this documents. We look forward to the collaboration opportunities in the STARRS region and to the continuation of building a more resilient St. Louis community. Please send any additional training and exercise questions or comments to STARRS Public Safety Manager, Samantha Peterson, at Samantha.Peterson@ewgateway.org.

Timeline of Improvement Activities



Memo to: Board of Directors
From: Staff
Subject: Regional Security Expenditures
Date: January 10, 2022

Staff is requesting authorization to expend funds in support of regional security that will improve the region's disaster preparedness and response capabilities. Funding will come from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program. Attachment A summarizes the purchases, totaling \$310,000.00.

REGIONAL CYBERSECURITY:

RECORDED FUTURE EXPANSION – In September 2021, the Board of Directors approved the procurement of Recorded Future cybersecurity intelligence software for use by the Regional Cybersecurity Coordinator, investigators and analysts. The software provides cybersecurity related intelligence and analysis of a unique nature to include threat, brand and vulnerability intelligence. In the brief time that personnel have had access to the software, valuable intelligence information has been obtained during the course of investigations. An additional module is available from Recorded Future that will enhance the capabilities of the regional cybersecurity personnel in conducting threat investigations across the geopolitical spectrum. Staff is requesting approval to purchase one (1) Geopolitical Intelligence User License for a period of one (1) year. Total cost will not exceed \$40,000.

REGIONAL CYBERSECURITY COORDINATOR POSITION - The St. Louis Regional Cybersecurity Coordinator position addresses gaps and deficiencies in St. Louis regional cybersecurity, reducing the region's threat landscape, enhancing the overall security posture, and improving response, mitigation, recovery, and resiliency to cyber-attack. Additionally, the Coordinator works closely with cybersecurity specialists within the Missouri Office of Homeland Security, FEMA cybersecurity advisors, the United States Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Therefore, staff is requesting approval to enter into an agreement with the City of St. Louis to provide funding from the UASI FY 2020 grant to support the St. Louis Regional Cybersecurity Coordinator position within the St. Louis Fusion Center for the period of April 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023. Total cost for the salary and benefits for the Cybersecurity Coordinator position will not exceed \$160,000.

ST. LOUIS FUSION CENTER:

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING / INTELLIGENCE LIAISON OFFICER (SAR/ILO) POSITION -

A critical gap has been identified in the regional Fusion Center operations regarding suspicious activity reporting and outreach capabilities. A SAR/ILO position is being added to address the need for a more complete regional intelligence platform, and enhance the communications between federal, state and local public safety agencies as well as private sector entities. The SAR/ILO will be responsible for collection, analysis and dissemination of information obtained through suspicious activity reporting, increasing the Fusion Center's outreach capabilities, and directly leading to the prevention of terrorist, criminal, and domestic violent extremist activities on a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary level. Staff is requesting approval to enter into an agreement with Jefferson County to provide funding to support the SAR/ILO position in the St. Louis Fusion Center for the period of May 2, 2022 to April 28, 2023. The total cost for salary and benefits for the SAR/ILO position will not exceed \$110,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the expenditure of funds as follows:

- for the purchase of one Geopolitical Intelligence User License from Recorded Future of Somerville, MA for an amount not to exceed \$40,000;
- for a sub-award to the City of St. Louis for the Regional Cybersecurity position in an amount not to exceed \$160,000;
- for a sub-award to Jefferson County for the Suspicious Activity Reporting / Intelligence Liaison Officer position in an amount not to exceed \$110,000;

for a total amount not to exceed \$310,000.

ATTACHMENT A

**Expenditures for Equipment and Services
January 10, 2022**

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Jurisdiction/Agency</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Emergency Response Equipment (UASI)				
Recorded Future (Somerville, MA)	Software Subscription Licenses	St. Louis County	1	\$40,000
City of St. Louis, MO	Sub-award for Regional Cybersecurity Coordinator position	City of St. Louis	1	\$160,000
Jefferson County, MO	Sub-award for Suspicious Activity Reporting / Intelligence Liaison Officer position	Jefferson County	1	\$110,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				\$ 310,000

Total UASI Expenditures: \$310,000