

MINUTES
Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council
Fayette County Health Center
Uniontown, PA
July 10, 2008

The second meeting of the Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council was held on July 10 in the Fayette County Health Center in Uniontown. The meeting began at 10:17 a.m.

Attendance:

Members Present:

Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler, NIOSH
Judith D. Shabbick, SMRT
Rickie Polke, UMWA, At-Large Member - House
Pam Weeks, PEMA
Thomas Hoffman, PCA
Richard Trinclisti, UMWA

Others Present:

Joseph Sbaffoni, DEP-BMS
Jeff Stanchek, DEP-BMS
Allison Gaida, DEP-BMS

Joseph Sbaffoni, Director of the Bureau of Mine Safety, opened the meeting. All members were in attendance except for Senate Appointment Mike Rothermel or his alternate, Earl Keiffer. Minutes from the first meeting on July 28 in Harrisburg were reviewed. A motion was made by Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler and seconded by both Pam Weeks and Rickie Polke to accept the minutes.

Election of Chairperson

Joe Sbaffoni opened the floor for nominations. Tom Hoffman nominated Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler to serve as chairperson. Rickie Polke nominated Rich Trinclisti, but Rich deferred his nomination to Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler. Rickie Polke seconded Tom Hoffman's nomination, and Kathleen Kowalski-Trakofler was elected to serve as Chairperson of the Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council (MFFAC). Chairwoman Kowalski-Trakofler requested that all members assist her and serve as parliamentarians.

Joe Sbaffoni reiterated that the main charge of the MFFAC is to help the Department develop the Mine Families First Response and Communications plan and the Department's responsibility is to establish a liaison staff and assure they are properly trained.

A discussion among members took place on the purpose of the Mine Families First Response and Communications plan. Judith Shabbick explained the comparison she did on the federal

Miner ACT and House Bill 483 as to the responsibilities of miner operators, the state, and federal agencies with respect to miner families in a mine emergency.

Discussion of the Draft Mine Families First Response and Communications Plan

Joe Sbaffoni distributed Legal Counsel Marc Roda's comments on the draft plan. The council then discussed these comments and edited the remainder of the draft plan. The final draft will be e-mailed to council members and Chairwoman Kowalski-Trakofler requested members provide their comments to Allison Gaida by **July 25**. These comments will be consolidated and forwarded to members for the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Members agreed to hold the next meeting at the Ebensburg Mine Rescue Station on August 22 at 10 a.m.

A motion was made by Tom Hoffman and seconded by Pam Weeks to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m.