



Wednesday November 19, 2008

Greetings,

Our conference staff hopes that this letter finds you well. We have started the planning for the 2009 UASI Conference early this year so that we are able to provide the most robust information sharing experience possible. This year we would like to change the process by which speakers are chosen for the conference by requesting proposals for presentations from you the attendee. We want to be able to focus on what you are doing with your program that works, and from the lessons you learned from programs that did not work out as planned.

This year the tracks for the conference are:

- **CBRNE Response:** This track will look at a multi-disciplinary approach to CBRNE responses. This includes IEDs and Radiological/Nuclear Detection, but not limited to these two only. This will be a track where all disciplines can discuss issues such as new technologies in CBRNE response, multi-disciplinary team concepts, and best practice models from training and exercise.
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection:** Focus will be on building, maintaining and sustaining successful critical infrastructure programs based on the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). The goal will be to discuss issues such as port security, transportation security, BZPP implementation, PClI protection, and working in conjunction with private sector partners. Track will also focus on the linkage between fusion centers and CI/KR programs.
- **Emergency Planning, Training and Exercises:** This will be a new track for the UASI conference. Many people requested such a track in the attendee comments from the 2008 conference. This track will focus on issues including, but not limited to, planning requirements as outlined in the 2009 HSGP Grant Guidance, the planning of Training and Exercise Planning Workshops, the development of long term Training and Exercise Plans and best practices and lessons learned from training and exercises held within Urban Areas.
- **Interoperable Communications:** This track will pick up where the 2008 Conference left off: looking at multiple communications mediums including radio, data, video teleconferencing and amateur radio. The goal is to look at how all communications mediums can be successfully integrated into a UASI program in order to provide capabilities across the entire spectrum of planning, prevention, response and recovery.
- **Medical:** The track looks to build on the momentum from the 2008 Conference which was the first time the medical components were broken out for discussion. The track will look at the National Priority of strengthening medical surge and mass prophylaxis with emphasis on medical readiness and preparedness. This will include discussions on issues such as planning for large scale medical emergencies, biological agent detection, MMRS and UASI program integration best practices and lesson learned, and medical surge planning with hospital and private practice providers.
- **Program Management:** Always one of the most attended tracks, the program will again focus on how to manage and administer UASI program. This will include interactions on issues such as continued building of regional relationships and capabilities, capability reviews, measuring performance and status reporting of UASI programs, and grant management issues.



Attendees will see strong tie-ins between this year's conference agenda /presentations and the HSGP and UASI priorities laid out in the 2009 HSGP Grant Guidance.

If you would like to be a presenter in any of the above mentioned tracks, or think you have an idea for a track session that would be beneficial to many we are asking that you provide an abstract of your idea. This way track leaders can work to diversify panels and provide as many ideas, best practices and lessons learned as possible. Each session will run for an hour and a half and approximately half of this time will be reserved for questions and discussion. So please note when putting together an abstract that presentations will range from 10 – 15 minutes depending on if there are three or four speakers on a panel.

When submitting your abstract we ask that the following information be included:

- Your name, title, agency and UASI represented
- An office phone number, a mobile phone number (if applicable), and e-mail address
- The name of the track you would like to present on, or the name of the session you would like to propose
- A quick two to three paragraph description of what the presentation will be about. This should include information on what will be presented (best practice, lesson learned, academic study, etc.) and what medium will be used (PowerPoint®, video, speaking only, etc). If you are submitting an idea for a session please include information on what would be covered, and names and contacts for any possible speakers so that track leaders may reach out to them.

Conference staff is requesting that all abstracts be submitted by **no later than** close of business (5:00 PM EST) Thursday January 8, 2009. Please submit all abstracts to the conference staff at [urbanareas@gmail.com](mailto:urbanareas@gmail.com). This will give time for track leaders to review the abstracts and contact speakers so that all speakers can be in place at least 30 days prior to the conference. Please know that track leaders will attempt to use as many speakers as possible, but that all submissions may not be used.

This year's conference will be a great time of sharing information and growing relationships as the nation experiences a transition in national leadership. As always, this is an opportunity for sharing of information across the UASI community as a whole. Please give great consideration to being a presenter as we always learn the most through peer – to – peer information sharing. If you have any questions on abstracts, or would like the contact information for one of the track leaders to assist them in their planning efforts please contact me at 704.336.3139 or [cparkins@ci.charlotte.nc.us](mailto:cparkins@ci.charlotte.nc.us) . We look forward to seeing you at the 2009 National UASI Conference June 9 – 11, 2009.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina L. Parkins".

Christina Parkins, UASI Coordinator/Charlotte UASI