

Homeland Security, Oklahoma Office of (74 O.S. § 51.1)

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Mission Statement To develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive statewide strategy to secure the state of Oklahoma from the results of terrorism, from public health emergency, cyberterrorism, from weapons of mass destruction, and perform other duties assigned to it by the governor.

History and Function Recognizing the need for coordinated preparedness and security efforts after 9/11, the Oklahoma Legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution 42 in February 2002 and the Office of Interim Oklahoma Homeland Security Director was created. A staff was assembled and the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) began focusing on homeland security efforts within the state. In January 2004 Governor Brad Henry appointed Kerry Pettingill as the Oklahoma Homeland Security director. That same month, the governor sent a letter to the US Department of Homeland Security designating OKOHS as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for homeland security grant programs in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Legislature passed and the governor signed the Oklahoma Homeland Security Act (HB 2280) in May 2004 and OKOHS was established in Oklahoma statute.

The Oklahoma Homeland Security Act of 2004 outlined OKOHS's strategic objectives which include: 1) prevent a terrorist attack in Oklahoma; 2) reduce Oklahoma's vulnerability to terrorist attacks; and 3) minimize the damage from and respond to a terrorist attack should one occur. The duties of the office include developing and implementing a comprehensive statewide homeland security strategy; planning and implementing a statewide response system; administering the homeland security advisory system; coordinating, applying for and distributing federal homeland security grant funds; and implementing homeland security plans.

Homeland Security, Regional Planning and Coordination Advisory Councils for (74 O.S. § 51.3)