



## REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report  
04 November 2016  
1000 Hours  
EHSF Conference Room

### ATTENDANCE

<b>Present:</b>	Eric Fahler	Chair, Lebanon County PSAP
	John Eline	Adams County PSAP
	Jim Shenk	Adams County PSAP
	Shawn Melhorn	Cumberland County PSAP
	John Quirk	Cumberland County PSAP
	Mark Rothermel	Dauphin County PSAP
	David Shade	Dauphin County PSAP
	Bryan Stevenson	Franklin County PSAP
	Tim Baldwin	Lancaster County PSAP
	Kristie Burkett	Lancaster County PSAP
	Jeff Garner	Lancaster County PSAP
	Mike Weaver	Lancaster County PSAP
	Ann Weller	Lancaster County PSAP
	Eddie Orris	Perry County PSAP
	Esther Rowe	Perry County PSAP
	Amy Smith	York County PSAP
	Roxie Tate	York County PSAP
<b>Staff:</b>	Megan A. Ruby	Director of System Operations
	Michael J. Guerra	Resource Coordinator
	Timothy S. Melton	System Coordinator

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fahler called the Regional Communications Committee (RCC) meeting to order at 1000 hours.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Reports on EMS Response Times

Mr. Melton reported on his meeting with Mr. Stevenson from Franklin County PSAP. The EHSF is attempting to gather data from the county PSAPs to assist with the EHSF's annual comprehensive report. The EHSF seeks to evaluate current response times. Mr. Melton will continue to work with Franklin County PSAP, as well as, Dauphin County PSAP to determine if any reports can provide the requested data.

### Communications Manual Review

Ms. Ruby reported Lebanon and York Counties confirmed their tower locations. The manual is now complete based on the committee's recommendations.

**ACTION ITEM:** *Ms. Weller motioned for the EHSF to accept the revised version of Regional Communications Manual. Mr. Stevenson provided a second to Ms. Weller's motion. The motion was carried.*

### EMD Training Needs

Ms. Ruby reported the upcoming EMD training will be held on 14-16 November 2016 at the EHSF office. Ms. Ruby asked if there are needs for the EMD-Q class. Four of the eight counties expressed a need. Mr. Guerra will coordinate scheduling an upcoming EMD-Q course to be held at the EHSF office.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Intermediate ALS

Ms. Ruby reported the topic of Intermediate ALS will remain on the upcoming agendas over the next few meetings because it is a new level of licensure. Currently, there is one EMS agency in the region licensed as an IALS service, Warwick EMS in Lancaster County. Discussion ensued regarding dispatching and unit identification or call signs. Ms. Ruby reported on information gathered by Mr. Guerra from Priority Dispatch. The current structure of EMD does not support a dispatch outside of a BLS or ALS response.

Based on the current discussion and the discussion at the previous Medical Advisory Committee, the EHSF position on IALS is a supplement for a BLS response, and it is not to be considered as a replacement to ALS. The county PSAPs are to dispatch according to the EMD process already approved within the EHSF region. If an ALS service that is also operating as an IALS service wishes to respond with AEMTs on an IALS ambulance or squad unit, the agency must respond based on the dispatch according to the respective county PSAP. This means if the dispatch is a class 1 dispatch, the EMS agency must respond with an ALS ambulance or squad. The EMS agency may not choose to send an IALS ambulance or squad in lieu of the ALS unit. Once the providers are on scene, if the provider's assessment shows the patient can be treated by an AEMT, then the agency may contact medical command to downgrade from ALS to IALS. In addition, if the agency is dispatched class 2 or 3 for a BLS response, the agency may choose to send an IALS ambulance or squad in lieu of BLS to offer a higher level of care than dispatched.

Mr. Garner questioned the status of unit identification or call signs. Ms. Ruby reported the currently licensed IALS agency is seeking specific unit identification from the county PSAP. Understanding the number of certified AEMTs in the region and no IALS agency is in service 24-hours a day, 7-days a week at this point, the EHSF is not requesting the county PSAPs determine new unit identification. Each county PSAP may choose to assign a new call sign if desired. However, the IALS agency can respond under their BLS call sign. Ms. Ruby reported the IALS agency desires a specific call sign so surrounding units know they are operating at a different level of licensure. Ms. Ruby explained the licensed IALS agency is responsible for working with surrounding EMS agencies regarding their response plan for the IALS level of response. A unit identifier is not to be used in lieu of working local relationships.

Ms. Ruby reported when EHSF receives notification from an agency seeking the IALS level of licensure, Mr. Guerra will communicate with the respective county PSAP. Mr. Guerra will also notify the county PSAP once the agency completed the licensure process.

The committee collectively agreed with the EHSF's position on IALS dispatching, response, and unit identification.

Mr. Rothermel questioned what the county PSAP is required to do when an ALS agency is not readily available but an IALS agency is available. Ms. Ruby explained this situation should be handled similar to an ALS dispatch with extended response where the BLS ambulance begins treatment and transport. If the call warrants an ALS dispatch, then the 911 center should dispatch the next available ALS ambulance or squad. An IALS ambulance or squad can begin patient care and transport with the intention to rendezvous with ALS if possible.

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF is not attempting to restrict the use of IALS or AEMTs, but the EHSF is attempting to determine the safety use of the new licensure level within the EHSF's EMS system.

#### Last Call Requests for Provider Deaths

Ms. Ruby questioned if the county PSAPs have a template for last call requests for provider deaths. Mr. Stevenson provided Franklin County PSAP only coordinates last call requests for line of duty deaths. After discussion it was determined each county have their own guidelines and templates for last call requests.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

#### Legislation Update

Mr. Baldwin announced the two-year legislation session is coming to an end.

#### EHSF Future Growth

Ms. Ruby reported the growth of the EHSF region by two additional counties (Chester and Delaware Counties) effective 01 July 2017, is now on hold. Ms. Ruby provided the Pennsylvania Department of Health shared the legislators asked to hold meetings to further discuss the planning prior to any changes.

#### EHSF Staffing Updates

Ms. Ruby announced there is still an open System Coordinator position.

EHSF Website

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF website will be live in the early spring. The website will be robust and offering communication tools to share information with various EMS stakeholders.

9-1-1 Advisory Board

Ms. Weller reported recent activity in the state for the 9-1-1 board. Ms. Weller reported the subcommittee for training and quality assurance met to discuss future standards and provide recommendations to the 9-1-1 Advisory Board. Discussion ensued regarding various changes, concerns, and encouragement for each county PSAP to send comments for the upcoming meetings. The vote for the changes will occur in December.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Fahler adjourned the meeting at 1102 hours.

The next Regional Communication Committee meeting is scheduled for 03 February 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan A. Ruby  
Director of System Operations