



PREHOSPITAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report
09 March 2017
1000 hours
EHSF Conference Room

Attendance

Present:	Scott Buchle	Chair
	Eric Zaney	Adams County EMS Council
	Duane Nieves	Cumberland County EMS Council
	Doug Bitner	Franklin County EMS Council
	Mark Moody	York County EMS Council
	Kelly Altland	Northeastern Area EMS
	Ray Birkmire	JeffStat
	Chris Buchmoyer	Warwick EMS
	Devin Flickinger	Holy Spirit EMS
	Nathan Harig	Cumberland Goodwill EMS
	Matthew Hauck	Silver Spring Ambulance
	Chuck Haynes	Fairfield EMS
	Liz Heller	Fayetteville Fire Department EMS
	Darryl Mitchell	Manheim Township EMS
	Ernie Powell	Lancaster General Hospital
	Jerry Schramm	Lancaster EMS
	Denny Shelly	WellSpan York Hospital
	Andrew Snavelly	Holy Spirit EMS
	Joshua Worth	Susquehanna Valley EMS
Staff:	Megan A. Ruby	Director of System Operations
	Michael J. Guerra	Resource Coordinator
	Timothy S. Melton	System Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ruby called the meeting to order at 1005 hours and asked for introductions.

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF regrets to announce the death of Paramedic Gregory Wentzel from First Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon. Paramedic Wentzel became ill while on duty and died at home in the evening. Ms. Ruby provided service arrangements will be shared. Ms. Ruby asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Paramedic Wentzel.

OLD BUSINESS

ePCR Project Update

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF is evaluating alternative funding sources for project sustainability. Based on the current funding and anticipated funding in the future, the EHSF will not be able to absorb all costs of the ePCR program. EMS agencies can anticipate the ePCR project to be fully funded by the EHSF until the end of Fiscal Year 2017-18.

Mr. Bitner expressed concern regarding access for hospitals within ESO's Hospital Link-Up. Ms. Ruby will contact ESO to verify all hospitals have access to the free Hospital Link Up.

Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare (CP/MIH)

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF will be postponing the CP/MIH Summit to later in the summer or early autumn.

Coroner Interaction with EMS

Mr. Melton reported on his progress after meeting with county coroners throughout the EHSF region. He has a full understanding of the legislation and the expectations some local coroners have within the region. Mr. Melton is finalizing a guideline document to provide to EMS agencies.

PA Train

Ms. Ruby reported since the PA Train for online continuing education went live, there continues to be issues. The most recent issue involves the site errors. Users should anticipate unexpected downtime. The EHSF has no control over the downtime or the ability to restore the site.

Proposal for Syringe Epinephrine Kits by EMTs

Ms. Ruby announced discussion at the State MAC provided there are other cost effective options for the epinephrine administration by BLS. The State MAC identified the generic epi-pens for \$100 per piece as an alternative option. Ms. Ruby explained the EHSF MAC identified the alternative option is not cost effective for EMS agencies. Each agency is required to carry two adult and two pediatric pens. Therefore, the generic epi-pens would cost an EMS agency \$400 per unit, and the DOH requires every licensed unit to carry four pens each. The syringe kits proposed to the state MAC would only cost an EMS agency approximately \$80 per unit. The EHSF MAC will present this need to the State MAC at the next meeting.

Left Ventricular Assist Device Education

Mr. Buchle reported the Hershey Medical Center has new personnel for outreach regarding left ventricular assist devices (LVADs). He provided once they are settled in their new position, they will be able to offer materials. Ms. Ruby announced Mr. Caloia from EHSF will take the lead in networking with Hershey Medical Center to create education for EMS providers.

Act 142 Legal Blood Draws

Ms. Ruby announced the DOH will be revising the EMS scope of practice to change the verbiage from venous blood sampling for clinical diagnostic purposes only, not for legal purposes to permit Paramedics to Paramedics to obtain blood legal purposes.

Hospital Status

Ms. Ruby reminded the Committee of the discussion in January regarding concerns about high hospital census. Ms. Ruby provided since the meeting, the EHSF communicated with the EMS agency leadership of 10,000 or more calls per year for feedback regarding this concern. The high hospital census is occurring at hospitals across the region. EMS agencies expressed concern regarding extended waits to transfer patients from their care to the hospital staff and the number of patients needed discharged from the hospital within short time parameters. Ms. Ruby provided the EHSF contacted the medical command physicians for each hospital to provide a summary of the discussion and ask for a point of contact to bridge the gap between the hospitals and the EMS agencies regarding the discharge planning process. To date only one facility communicated with the EHSF to assist with efforts. The EHSF also inquired about the possibility for EMS agencies transporting patients from the hospital to partner with other EMS agencies with business plans for emergency response only to assist with transports during peak census. There is a need to work with the hospitals and PSAPs to educate them on the EHSF's position regarding divert. There is also a need to educate the providers about informing their patients to make the best decision when hospitals are experiencing high census.

Lengthy discussion pursued regarding some issues regarding high patient census: mental health patients and concerns regarding the availability and effectiveness of Knowledge Center. Additional concerns impacting EMS volume include nursing homes contacting EMS for assistance with lifting patients, home health contacting EMS for patients with chronic conditions not needing immediate care, and extended transports outside the region and state. The committee questioned whether the consideration of the omega response would be implemented in the EHSF region.

NEW BUSINESS

EMSIB 2017-01

Ms. Ruby announced the DOH recently distributed the EMSIB 2017-01 for the county-wide or broader response plan. The EHSF plans to distribute this bulletin to all EMS agencies next week. However, the EHSF first wanted to prepare the County Council Presidents and this Committee prior to dissemination. Ms. Ruby explained the intent of the county-wide response plan is to protect EMS agencies by engaging in proper planning at a county-wide or larger level to provide 24-hours a day EMS response to the community. The EHSF set one of its operational goals for Fiscal Year 2017-18 is to work with each county through the county EMS councils to ensure adequate EMS response and planning.

EMSVO Video Library

Ms. Ruby provided every EMS agency in our region received the EMSVO DVD tool kit for the required EMSVO continuing education. However, there are numerous requests for replacement DVDs. The EHSF does not have the resources to replace lost DVDs. However, the EHSF will maintain a small quantity within the office to offer EMS agencies to borrow when education is needed for their providers. EMS agencies wanting a replacement DVD for their agency should contact VFIS.

Cardiac Arrest Survival Event

Ms. Ruby announced the Heart Rescue Project and DOH are hosting a cardiac arrest survivor event. The event will be held in Lancaster at the Cork Factory Hotel on Saturday, May 20, 2017. The EHSF encourages EMS agencies to contact any cardiac arrest survivors to attend this event along with the providers who treated the survivor. More details will be provided.

Licensure Updates

Mr. Guerra discussed the DOH's requirements regarding the legal name and the doing business as name as filed in the Department of State. Mr. Guerra explained the licensure application requirements as expected by the Bureau of EMS.

Certification by Endorsement

Ms. Ruby provided the DOH is changing the requirements for certification by endorsement. As soon as the requirements are known, the EHSF will share the new process.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

EHSF Staffing

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF hired Raphael Caloia as the Education Specialist, and Mr. Powell resigned from his position as Director of Preparedness to seek employment with Lancaster General Hospital.

DOH Update

Ms. Ruby announced Director Gibbons submitted his resignation as the State EMS Director. Director Gibbons will leave the Bureau of EMS at the end of March.

Ms. Ruby also announced the governor's office released a statement providing the restructuring of the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Aging, and the Department of Drug and Alcohol into one Department.

EMS Protocols 2017

Ms. Ruby announced the 2017 Statewide EMS protocols have not yet been released. The anticipated release date is May 15, 2017. The EHSF will distribute widely once received.

EMS Week 2017

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF EMS Week activities for 2017.

2016-2017 Meeting Dates

Mr. Buchle reminded the committee the last meeting date for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is 11 May 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Buchle adjourned the meeting at 1140 hours.

The next Prehospital Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2017 at 1000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan A. Ruby, Director of System Operations